

Chapter 7

Organisations and clubs



The Rational Association near Eastways in Bradworthy circa 1920.

W.I.

Founded on 27th January 1925 as a result of a meeting in the Hotel Room in December 1924 when 34 interested ladies were present. The first President was Mrs. Corlett of West Down, Vice



Founder members of the WI at their 25th (silver Jubilee) anniversary in 1950. Back Row: Mrs. W. Seldon, Mrs. W. Bromell, Mrs. E. Wade, Mrs. G. Elliot. Front Row: Mrs. Kitto, Mrs. J. Jennings, Mrs. W. Short.

Presidents: Mrs. Farewell from Little Silworthy and Mrs. Spread, Berridon Hall, Secretaries Mrs. F. Slee and Miss G. Ashton. Treasurers were Mrs. J.L. Martin and Miss Roberts. They met on 9th February for the first time and proposed a free tea for intended members. A tea committee was given £2

to purchase a kettle for 5 shillings and to hire the Hotel Room, (3 shillings in the Winter and 2/6d in the summer for meetings). A Games and Amusements committee was elected and 32 members joined at 2 shillings each, WI badges 1 shilling. Membership quickly rose to 59.

Crafts such as raffia work, baking, cane slatting chairs, loose cushions, leather buttonholes and glove making were popular as were travel talks and lantern slides. Sports and picnics were held at West Down in the summer and the first fund raising event was a Christmas Fair, all members being in fancy dress. £49 profit was shared with the Bradworthy Nursing Association, Bideford Hospital and St. Dunstons. Jerusalem, sung to open meetings, was accompanied by Miss G. Ashton, Miss Ham and Miss F. Martin on violins and accompanied on the piano by Miss Furse. They also played for

community singing, folk dancing and to accompany the jazz band founded by Mrs. Spread, who was given £3 to buy instruments.

The first local good deed was to have an electric light fitted by Mr. Wickett and maintenance for one year costing a total of £7 during 1928.

They celebrated their tenth birthday in 1935 with a penny contest for a decorated head dress, fortune telling, dips, penny bazaar, bagatelle, a whist drive and the usual stalls of today making a profit of £9.15s.4d.

Also in 1935 Mrs. Corlett left the district for Ceylon, and was presented with a pair of leather gloves made by Miss G. Ashton and presented by Mrs. Betts. The cured skin being paid for by members of the glove making class. Miss G. Ashton also presented the bell which is available for meetings.

Diary of WI events 1925 to 1993

- 1925 WI founded, President Mrs. Corlett
- 1928 First electric light installed
- 1947 First Carnival for local charities
- 1942 War time jam making commenced
- 1944 Carnival for welcome home fund
- 1952 First woman Parish Councillor elected
- 1953 Queen's Coronation year, Village party
- 1955 Bus shelter constructed, memento of above event
- 1961 Memorial Hall opened
- 1962 Mains water programme begun
- 1975 50th Birthday Party
- 1977 Queen's Silver Jubilee Square Party, presentation of mugs
- 1985 Diamond Jubilee dinner
- 1995 70 years an Institute

In 1937 the Men's Institute and the WI, who frequently met to hold Whist Drives as fund raising events, decided to form a carnival committee and the first carnival was held in that year for funds for

local groups and charities, profit being £12. 18s. 0d. The Queen and attendants were chosen from WI members under the age of 20. Six committee members were elected but details of the great day are sparse.

In July 1937 the coming of age of the National Federation was celebrated at Alserly when 30 members had tea and a cake with 21 candles, given by Miss Ashton and cut by Mrs. H. Cory, the oldest member. An entertainment was broadcast by Lady Denman. Mrs. Burns gave a monologue and Mrs. Dobson a banjo solo. An ankle competition was judged by Mr. R. Ashton, Mr. Dobson. Dr. N. Betts and Mr. Alan Tee. Mrs. Smythe won and Miss Chubb was second (no more entrants?). Mrs. Bolitho made and gave ices and a happy time was had by all.

The outbreak of war brought immediate changes to Bradworthy as it did world wide. Fund raising for the local boys commences with 30 shillings being raised for the cigarette fund during a whip round at the November 1939 meeting. Whist Drives and Dances (combined) provided cash for the Devon Regiment Wool Fund to knit comforts for the troops. Local bands (Miss M. Slee and Mr. C. Cholwill) raised £15 for comforts and in 1941 £1 was raised by members for each of the 58 service personnel. No more picnics at Berridon, members prepared emergency centres for evacuees, happily not needed.

A carnival was held in 1944 for the Welcome Home Fund, £115 being collected. Miss W. Collier was elected Queen and Miss M. Trewin and Miss E.

Dayman attendants. Mr. F. Balsdon and Mr. G. Elliott being tellers.

That WI speciality, *jam*, was a wartime necessity. Rose Hip picnics were organised. As they must be processed immediately to conserve Vitamin C, jam making kitchens were set up on large farms and the WI would process fruit available locally into jam to be distributed nation-wide.

Mrs. C. Short deserves a special mention here. She worked on tea stalls, bring and buy, jumble, whist, skittles and dances for 45 years. Later she arranged village outings for many years.

In the early 50's the first woman to serve on Bradworthy Parish Council was Mrs. W. Seldon, a founder member of the WI.

Parties with neighbouring Institutes and outings became popular, members paying into an outing fund in January to visit Sidmouth, Dartmouth, a family outing to Westward Ho! and an outing to Lands End costing 18/6d and leaving at 7.15 am, a real day out!

Competitions - best cooked article made from ½lb flour and 6d worth of ingredients (cook's choice), painted jam jar, best handy made from a flour bag.

Speakers were chosen for talks on their war experiences in Norway and Palestine and travel talks on Madeira and America. Drama and music, concert parties, play-reading sessions and playlets, community singing, folk dancing and a WI choir was formed by Mrs. W. Worthy. Cash was raised for a piano in 1946.

Topics for debate were 'that wireless does not encourage the cultivation of amateur talent'. 'Should women participate in politics' and 'Should men expect women to wait up for them?'

During the fifties, the Carnival had become such a large event that three organisations were needed to arrange the evening. The Football Club and British legion together with the WI each elected 12 members to serve on a committee to select the Queen and Attendants and share one third of the profits. The WI had a fair in the Autumn to raise funds for the carnival.

In 1953 Bradworthy celebrated the Queens Coronation Year. In March a flowering cherry tree was planted in the Square by Mrs. W.J. Cory to commemorate this event. It was suggested that a bus shelter would be a more tangible memento of this occasion to benefit the community and a pageant, concert and Autumn Fair raised £125 which enabled Mr. A. Roberts to construct the bus shelter and in May 1955 Mr. and Mrs Hilton officiated at the ceremony and Miss S. Petherick presented buttonholes. A brass plate costing 40/- commemorated this event. Waste paper was collected for two years to keep it in good repair.

Competition:- Group Meeting 1956. A packed lunch and hand knitted shawl.

During the 60's members protested to their MP about the state of the water supplied to the village. A promise of mains water during 1962 as capital became available. Later in the 60's the water board attempted to dispense with the local pumps at each

end of the Square and the voice of the WI resulted in a reprieve.

Members visited Westward TV for a recording of *Treasure Hunt* and held an *Any Questions?* evening in the Assembly Rooms. Question master was Mr. Fair, team:- Mrs. George, Mrs Somerton, Mr. I. Quance and Mr. E. Lott. This raised £2 2s 0d for the Memorial Hall Funds in 1959. Bazaars and Jumble Sales were held for this new cause and in 1961 the Memorial Hall was opened and the WI lent their piano for hall use.

50 old people attended a Jubilee Party in 1965 in the Church Room. Tea entertainment and a slide show of local interest given by Mr. Burrow was



The Rev. A.E. Dobson with the Red Cross around 1958. Iris Cheese, Mrs. Fraser, Pat Hart, Janet Plummer, Ann Wright, Rev. A.E. Dobson, Jean Birch, Christine Bond, Sam Tedman, Sheila Brown, Shirley Brown.

followed by community singing and this became an annual event.

The Memorial Hall extension was opened in 1972 - we participated in the local concert and used the extension for our meetings at 50p a session.

In July 1975 the 50th birthday was celebrated with a meal for 110 guests and friends. The celebration cake was cut by Mrs. W. Seldon and Mrs. W. Short, two of our founder members.

The children's tea party for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 was held in the Square and the WI served food for more than 100 children in the parish. This was followed by the presentation of mugs, the youngest child being Hannah Downing who was just a few weeks old.

With the revival of the carnival in the late 1970's we have provided a tableau or walking group until the present day winning many first prizes.

The WI has raised funds



Local members of the Red Cross in the late 1950's. Janet Plummer, Carol Jordan, Janet Balsdon, Joan Birch.

continuously for the Red Cross, Cancer Campaign, Doctor's Surgery, Northam Lodge, the Church Clock, and the numerous good causes mentioned.

Red Cross

Miss Dean & Red Cross at West Down House - formation of Bradworthy Junior Cadet Branch in July 1955. Again in June 1956 and July 1957 (from the cuttings)

A branch of the British Red Cross Society was formed in the early 1950's at West Down House, and inaugurated by Mrs. Fraser with the expertise of Nurse Russell and Sam Tedman.

Some meetings were held in a room at the Bradworthy Inn and an annual fête was held at West Down during the summer. Mothers with young children were encouraged to attend. This event gradually petered out towards the end of the decade.

There is currently a medical loan centre where items of equipment may be borrowed. The biennial collection held for the Red Cross donates part of the funds collected for the maintenance of this equipment.

Social Club

The idea of a village Social Club was first mooted in the late 1970's. More than ten years later the wheels were eventually put into motion. The project involved the creation of a Club Room and a Youth Room by altering and extending the existing Hall Extension. Representatives appointed by the Hall and Football Club met regularly from March 1989 to organise matters such as finance, planning, alterations, and the constitution.

In October 1989 the original Social Club committee comprised B. Kinsman, P. Furse, A. Haynes, K. Haynes, J. Catchpole, A. Balsdon, R. Harris, M. Wright, P. Jennings, P. Wade, B. Dunn, and R. Radmore.

Their first task was to organise the opening of the club. A trial opening was arranged for 18th November, and the Youth Room was officially opened by Ivor Potter on 9th December. The 'trial opening' was so successful that the club did not

close again! Originally the club opened three nights a week, but this was quickly extended to seven nights a week and Sunday lunchtimes.

The facilities available to members have increased over the years to include pool, skittles and darts, with teams entered in various local leagues, as well as being the 'watering hole' for the village football teams.

Twinning Association

The idea of Bradworthy twinning with a French village arose in the early 1980's. Enquiries made with the Local Government International Bureau and Devon County Council produced a suitable 'twin' - the village of Audrieu in

Calvados, Normandy. After initial enthusiasm and an inaugural visit by some Bradworthy residents to Audrieu the project lost momentum, and it was not until 1989 that enthusiasm was rekindled and contacts were re-established.

Audrieu is a rural village near Bessin and the open country of Caen and Bayeux. The population is approximately 800 and the principal economic activity is agriculture - arable and dairy farming.

The Twinning Association aims to foster friendship and understanding between the two villages. The

Association is mainly self-financing, relying upon fund raising activities and subscriptions, apart from some grants from the Carnival Committee, and the Parish and District councils.



Signing the charter with Audrieu in 1991.

The Charter officially twinning the two villages was signed in 1991, and the Association's activities have now settled into the routine of alternate annual visits.

Young Farmers Club

The Bradworthy branch of the Young Farmers Club was formed in 1933 and John Cann was the first chairman. There were 55 members - making it the largest YFC in Devon at the time - 47 of whom raised calves for the club.



Young Farmers in the 1960's. Back Row: Devon County representative, D. Risdon, J. Daniel, Mrs. G. Ley, M. Harris, C. Grills, D. Hearn, B. Heard, K. Cobbedick, ? Risdon. Front Row: Ann Boundy, M. Hearn, A. Ley, G. Ley, R. Harris, J. Harris, C. Manning, H. Greenaway, S. Harris, R. Greenaway.

The earliest records of a Young Farmers Club branch at Bradworthy are of a visit to a pig farm at Camborne in 1936 and in 1937 it is reported that John Cann (Worden), chairman, and Alan Bray (South Hill), secretary, proved themselves able and intelligent thinkers during a debate under the control of Major E. Spread OBE. JP.

The role of the club was clearly to improve the members knowledge

of farming and provide a competitive venue for stock rearing and judging at an annual show and sale held at Bradworthy Auctions when the fruits of their labours are displayed.

1940 prices which stand well in comparison with 1995.

Best heifer for beef purposes
Mary Beckley (Sutcombe), sold for £21.5s.0d.

Best Heifer for dairy purposes
Owen Banbury (Sutcombe), sold for £18.7s.6d.

After the monthly market farmers were able to watch with pride as their sons and daughters led their stock, both cattle and sheep, into the ring to be judged by the appointed adjudicators and the farming community in general.

In 1939 prizes were awarded as follows:-

Best Heifer

- 1st Miss Banbury
- 2nd C. Moase

Best Heifer for dairy

- 1st L. Gifford
- 2nd J. Cann

Best Steer

- 1st C. Bailey
- 2nd Miss M. Stevens

Bibby's Prize

Fred Bailey and W. Wickett

Lever's Prize

Martin Jenkins, Emily Stevens

WD & NC

John Cann and Gwen Banbury

Prices realised for Show Stock include

John Cann (Steer)	£21
George Trewin	£21
Fred Balsdon	£20

In 1940 the last meetings to be held before the club closed during the war years decided to hold a Dance and Social on the evening of the show and sale. On this occasion Martin Jenkins won the President's Prize for Champion Beast and topped the market with a price of £27.15s.0d. with a steer.



Young Farmers in 1936. Emily Stevens, William Wickett, Mary Beckley.

Men's Memorial Institute

Just after the end of the 1914-18 war it was decided to build a Men's Institute in memory of those local men who had lost their lives. This was built at the entrance of the village on the Holsworthy road (where the house 'Janaleen' now stands).



The Men's Memorial Institute in 1924.

The Men's Memorial Institute was opened in 1923. It boasted a good skittle alley, a billiards table, and a table tennis table. Draughts were very popular. There was also a

reading room which had its own library and daily papers - a coal fire made this a popular place on a cold winter's evening. It had a large membership between the two wars, and during the last war.

Teams won many skittle trophies and some draughts cups in competitions throughout North

Devon. Many of these are still on display in the present day Social Club.

With the advent of television in the 1950's membership declined. In 1968 it was decided that the Institute should be closed and the premises be sold. Skittles, billiards and snooker moved to the Bradworthy Inn.

Over 60's Club

There has been an Over 60's Club since 1973. During the Winter they meet every fortnight in the Memorial Hall. Often a speaker comes along, at other times they amuse themselves with card games, scrabble, skittles... and the usual cup of tea and refreshments. In the summer, once a month, an



The Men's Memorial Institute skittle teams in the mid 1920's. Back Row: W. Seldon, J. Wade, D. Boundy, C. Jenkins, J. Chidley, S. Trewin, T. Turner. Middle Row: C. Gloyn, T. Trewin, S. Bromell, S. Cory, W. Trewin, C. Johns. Front Row: J. Grant, T. Jenkins, W. Wickett, J. Jennings, W. Gloyn, C. Cory, W. Slade.



The opening of the Men's Memorial Institute in 1923. Mr. H.E. Dunstan, Mr. R.L. Ashton, Miss G. Ashton, Mr. W.H. Cory.



The Men's Memorial Institute skittle teams in the late 1920's. Back Row: H. Turner, G. Bond, J. Wilson, S. Trewin, F. Vanstone. Middle Row: S. Bond, F. Slee, T. Trewin, W. Cleave, R. Prouse, S. Cory, E. Bryant, A. Turner. Front Row: A. Stanton, C. Gloyn, W. Wickett, C. Jenkins, J. Jennings, W. Gloyn, W. Wickett.

Abbots Bickington. The branch flourished for several years. The decline set in as the men of the First World War passed on and there was not enough interest among younger members to keep the



The severe winter of 1978 - in some places snow completely covered the telephone poles.

The total raised for British Legion Appeals in Bradworthy and district this year amounted to £129.66, which was £14 up on the previous year. (January 1977)

outing is arranged to various parts of Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and

Dorset. At Christmas time a luncheon is very popular with as many as seventy people attending.

British Legion

Bradworthy and District Branch of what is today the Royal British Legion, was registered on 11th October 1924. It's area included Bradworthy, Sutcombe, Putford, Pancrasweek, Bulkworthy, and

Devon and the West Country was visited by a blizzard of an intensity comparable to the snowstorms of 1908 and the Great Blizzard of the 1890's. A week later a high wind swept the snow from the fields into immense drifts. Sleet came with the wind and frost followed. On Sunday morning one was surprised to find it possible to walk quite comfortably in places, over solid snow six or seven feet in depth. To remove it from doorways and paths one had to split it out like blocks of salt. (January 1947)

At least two members of the farming community (of Bradworthy) have been overcome by cold during their outdoor duties. Fortunately, both recovered. (March 1947)

branch going. In the mid 1970's the branch was suspended and eventually wound up. The laying-up of the Standard took place at a service and ceremony at the Parish Church on 29th February 1976.

Bradworthy continued as a Poppy Appeal District and now covers Bradworthy, Abbots Bickington, Bulkworthy, Putford, and Sutcombe. There have only been

Sheep and Poultry Frozen

During last week's exceptional weather, farmers had an anxious time, and there were cases where sheep and poultry were frozen where they stood.

Nearly all telegraph wires were down and trailing across roads, hedges and fields, and the poles and large limbs of trees also snapped under the weight of ice. Electricity was cut off and householders had to resort to paraffin lamps and candles for light. Hammers were needed to open gates and doors, and some locks and fasteners would only respond to boiling water. The countryside presented an amazing spectacle and Thursday's bright sunlight lent an unsurpassed brilliance to the landscape. (March 1947)



W.L. Wickett's shop, now the surgery, during the big freeze of 1947.

three Organisers since the inception of the Appeal in the 1920s; Lt.Col. E.J.W. Spread, Messrs. A.F. Balsdon and C.T. Collacott.

Meteorological Station

Since the early 1960's the Meteorological Station at Bradworthy has supplied records, principally of rainfall, to the Meteorological Office. In addition, other weather

events have been recorded for future study by the Rev. C.G. Greathead Montgomery.

Due to its position with an average height above sea level of 500 feet, Bradworthy enjoys very special weather patterns. As the moisture laden Atlantic winds are lifted up they

The wonderful display of the Aurora Borealis, or 'Northern Lights' on Tuesday evening was watched with great interest by villagers. To the residents on the west and north of the parish where the land is very high a remarkable sight was afforded. The western sky was curtained in a deep rosy glow, and on the east the colour was only a little less brilliant. On the northern horizon sheets of light, like that shed by the moon, surged upwards, and were shot through by shafts of

white, pale green and pink piercing the heavens like the beams of a searchlight. The rare phenomenon lasted for two hours, and throughout the greater part of the night afterwards, the sky seemed to be illuminated, as though the sun or the moon were just rising. I spoke to several people of the older generation in Bradworthy and they were unanimous in declaring that they had never seen such a grand display of the 'Northern Lights' before. (February 1938)

become cooled and deposit rain upon the area, giving it a yearly average of 53.2 inches.

The driest year recorded was 1976 with 40.38 inches only, while the wettest was 1974 with an all time record for this area of 64.80 inches (the next wettest was 1994 with 64.5 inches). Thunderstorms are comparatively rare.

Sleigh Transport at Bradworthy

The isolation of Bradworthy and neighbouring villages and hamlets called for some unique improvisation in transport at the week-end. Cut off by miles of snow-blocked roads from the towns, sleighs big and small were resorted to. Farmers faced with great difficulties for days, regarding the hold-up of their milk, were transporting their churns by sleigh on Saturday, to a central place for collection.

A bulldozer worked in the neighbourhood throughout Friday night, and cleared a number of roads. With the aid of a lorry, three days mail was delivered to Bradworthy

Post Office on Saturday. Even then, some outlying sub-post offices could not be reached by wheeled vehicle, and the mail bags were carried to them on foot over the last stages of the journey. Postmen were trudging round to remote farms and cottages until dark, and the older men declared they had never seen the lanes so snow-logged in all their experience of carrying H.M. mails.

On Saturday night a high wind swept the snow from the fields into immense drifts. Sleet came with the wind and frost followed. On Sunday morning one was surprised to find it possible to walk quite com-

fortably in places, over solid snow six or seven feet in depth. To remove it from doorways and paths, one had to split it out like blocks of salt. We have heard old people recount stories of days when they walked over snow on a level with the tops of the hedges. This year we have again had that same rare experience. (February 1947)

Holsworthy awoke to a scene of fantastic beauty. Rain, for a day and night previously, had frozen as it fell, and had encased every twig of every tree, every lovely shrub and blade of grass in a coating of ice, so that all looked as if made of glass. (March 1947)

Strong gales occurred on St. Paul's day, January 25th 1990 when winds of over 70 miles per hour were recorded.

The winters of 1947, 1963 and 1978 were extremely severe with either exceptional snowfalls or very low temperatures.

History Society

Bradworthy History Society was inaugurated on 1st October 1978 and attracted a number of interested people, but the organisation was not as well supported as was expected.

It continued for approximately eight years and virtually ceased to exist after 1986, although it was not actually closed down until August 1990.

Whilst the society functioned some well known speakers were obtained and visits made to historic homes, churches and prehistoric sites in the area.



A class at the Dairy School in the 1920's. Back Row: Mr. J. Piper, Mr. T. Bartlett, Miss A. Wickett. Middle Row: Miss E. Mitchell, Miss E. Griffin, Miss J. Piper, B. Nancekivell, Miss A. Vanstone. Front Row: Miss M. Brown, Miss E. Cann, Miss Bray (Instructor), Mr. J.L. Martin, Miss E. Johns, Miss L. Jennings.

Wednesday Club

The Wednesday Club for the elderly residents of the parish meets every Wednesday in the Methodist Sunday School Room. Many helpers provide a lunch at midday, after which exercises and games are played.

Many volunteers fetch and take home all members who are unable to walk.

Cubs, Scouts, Guides and Brownies

Lieut. C. Critchley-Salmonson settled at West Down around 1910 inaugurated the Boy Scout movement in Bradworthy. The scout group was reformed in June 1948 and the Rev. E.W. Rowbotham of Putford was appointed scoutmaster, who left shortly after. The scout group resumed its activities in 1950 with Mr. G. Lyle as scoutmaster.

Mrs. Fraser ran a Brownie group from the Vicarage during her stay there during the Second World War. Some of the girls became Guides when they reached the right age. The 1st Bradworthy Brownie Guides was started in May 1989, with numbers quickly rising from 12 to 20. They currently meet every Wednesday evening.

Playgroup

In 1970 a playgroup was started, two mornings a week, in the Memorial Hall. The group was started with the help of Mrs. S. Granger and Mrs. M. Cowan-Dickie. In 1985 the playgroup moved to its current location - a classroom at the back of the School - and opens three mornings a week.

Toddlers Group

The Toddlers Group was formed in 1988 with half a dozen mums and their babies and toddlers meeting each week in the Chapel Sunday School Room. When the numbers increased dramatically the group moved to the Memorial Hall, which gives more room for the children to move around in, and now meet twice a week. The meetings are very informal and give mums the chance to meet others for a chat over a cup of coffee. The group draws together babies and toddlers from a large rural area who will eventually spend their school years together.

Workers' Educational Association

From 1930 through to the early 1950's there was an active group of the Workers' Educational Association. Many speakers were engaged and there were lectures and discussions on a great variety of subjects.

Other organisations

Bradworthy Habitation of the Primrose League, which supported the Conservative Party, flourished for a number of years. The annual fête was a very smart affair, usually held at Berridon Hall when Lt.Col. C.P.G. and Mrs. Griffin lived there.

A *Young Liberals League* was formed in Bradworthy in the 1930's from which people were recruited for the Liberal Party.

In May 1932 the Bradworthy Lodge of the *Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes* was formed and crowds gathered to see over 100 members parade in their full regalia and then march to the Parish Church led by the Stratton Band. The Rev. A.E. Dobson took the service and the Lord Bishop of Exeter read the lesson.

In the early years of the century there was a *Coal and Blanket Club* here, the funds for which were raised by individual gifts and various events; distribution was made to local needy people.



A class at the Dairy School in the 1920's. Back Row: Mrs. E. Cory, ?, ?, Edith Cory. Middle Row: Mary Vanstone, Verna Cory, Edith Dayman, ?, Mrs. Betts, Mary Bray, Mrs. Griffin, Louisa Jewell. Front Row: ?, ?, ?, ?, Laura Chubb, Annie Piper, Mary Turner.

Temperance enthusiasts waged a concerted battle against the demon drink, particularly in the Methodist Churches. The *Band of Hope*, as it was known, was quite a vigorous body, bent on enrolling young members and persuading them to 'sign the pledge'. They held festivals and parades, with banners borne aloft and bands playing, but they gradually faded away.

For a period a number of village clubs flourished. There was the *Tradesmen's Club*, the *Men's Club* (later becoming the *Rational Association*) and the *Women's Club*.

Often members received medical attention free and some financial assistance in times of sickness. Most of these clubs ceased to exist as national schemes developed, but Bradworthy's Women's Club, officially named 'Female Union Society for Supporting the Sick and Burying the Dead' continued to function until 1947, having served the community for 110 years.

The Men's Club probably staged the most elaborate Annual Day activities. In 1908 it is recorded that their procession was led by the band of 'C' Company, 6th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment and there were 'galloping ponies as well as shows and other attractions'. The big feature was the horse racing and athletic sports held at Berridon Park. This took place every year and competitors came from near and far. The Bond brothers of that time were great athletes, particularly Dick and Elijah, who won many of the prizes in running and jumping. They were great

fighters too, for these were times when the races were not all fun and games. A bar was set up in the park and beer was strong, plentiful and cheap. Arguments after the games could lead to free fights, but this all added to the excitement for most of the spectators. In the evening there would usually be a dance in the Temperance Hotel Long Room.

Annual 'Club Days' were big events that combined business with pleasure. Mr. C.T. Collacott wrote the following about these events in his book 'Memories of Old Bradworthy'.

In the morning the members formed up and marched to church, usually headed by a band, having at first answered to a roll call in the Inn yard. After the service there would be lunch at the Inn, with toasts and light-hearted speeches by the president of the Club, the doctor and the parson. As the doctor had agreed to take a chance on each member's health for an annual fee from the Club, the less sickness he had to contend with during the year, the more jovial his

mood would be. In any case it was always good hearted banter between members and their doctor and parson. This would be followed by the serious business of the annual meeting in the Club Room.

The dramatic effect was not lacking either. The late Mr. Tape of Coombe Mill told me how John Cholwill, the famous local bandmaster and his Morwenstow bandmen would alight from their horse-drawn brake on Mill Hill and, resplendent in their gold-braided uniforms, with well-shone brass instruments gleaming, parade into the village, their martial music echoing afar.