

Chairman's Welcome

The year has been a very difficult and worrying time for everyone, completely changing our usual way of life. Government Legislation was passed during the first lockdown early this year which enabled the Parish Council to hold remote meetings via laptop and tablet.

We have been able to start a few projects during the year and have been working on existing ones to continue to try to involve the whole Parish. One of these projects being the 'bus stop project' Starting with an idea from Loxley School, who completely redesigned one of our bus stops outside their school. Key workers' children, who were still attending school, painted murals, transforming the bus stop into a celebration with the 'NHS rainbow' over a mural of rolling Loxley countryside. So successful was this that we spread the idea out throughout the Parish, inviting other schools to decorate their own murals on our bus stops. Further artwork will be appearing in the Spring.

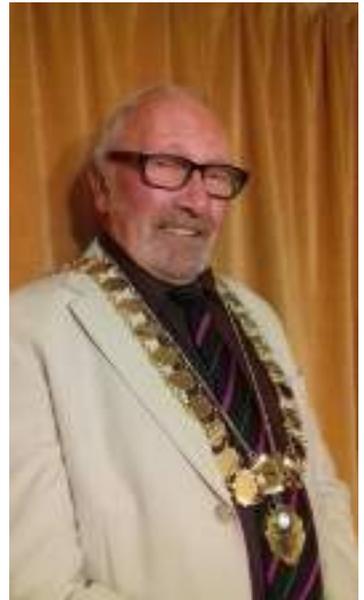
One of the best ways of keeping our parishioners informed of what is happening is through our newsletter, Facebook pages and our website. We strive to keep these up to date with pertinent messages and information, realising years ago that these informative pages don't work unless you design them to be interesting. Subsequently we inserted many photographs within the various sections to try to lift the pages of informative text. Now we have gone further and are to introduce videos of our Parish, the largest in area in the country. The videos will soon be on our web home page and are being edited by Felix Wright.

An ongoing issue everywhere is housing development—where do you build houses? Recently Sheffield Council began formal

consultation for their Sheffield Plan, proposing options for the building of an extra 40,000 dwellings in the next 18 years. All Parish and Town councils were consulted by zoom briefings, the public were then invited to comment via questionnaires on the council website. Similar planning issues affect The Peak Park, here there is ongoing consultation between all stakeholders to current government guidelines on future planning policy – 'Planning for the Future' This is crucial for the continuity of thriving and sustainable communities throughout the park. Taken together, these 'plans' should reflect the community involvement on sympathetic development throughout the whole area including our Parish.

The derelict Paper Mill site between Wharnccliffe Side and Oughtibridge is now ready to begin the building development of 300+ dwellings. The Paper Mill ceased production in 2013, its rich history tied into the development of the nearby villages. I have asked our archivist Malcolm Nunn and fellow Councillor and historian Nigel Clark to put a short article together regarding the old Mill for our 'items of interest' you will find the article over the page.

The year has had so many problems because of the pandemic, but despite the loss of so many annual festivals, galas and garden parties throughout the Parish there are certain events where we should, if at all possible, try to have a presence. One of these being Remembrance Sunday on 8th November. Although restricted to simple outside wreath laying ceremonies, we did have a presence. I represented the Parish Council at St. Nicholas' Church Bradfield, Vice Chair Vickie Priestley at Stannington and Councillor and MP Miriam Cates at



Oughtibridge, photographs over the page.

Another annual event we were able to hold, albeit in a strictly controlled and remote way, was our annual School Christmas Card competition. After a lengthy, arduous selection process on 18th November, we eventually had our short list, our winner Matilda Holt from Loxley School, many congratulations to all our schools and their super card designs.

I would like to wish all our parishioners the compliments of the season and hope that during 2021 we return to a more normal way of life.

Chairman Councillor Stephen Bennett

OUGHTIBRIDGE PAPER MILL

Oughtibridge Paper Mill, or to give it its official name, Spring Grove Paper Mill, first opened in 1834 and was operated by Marsh Brothers for a number of years. Papermaking was an important local industry. Of 16 mills in Sheffield, six were in Bradfield Parish.

The demand for paper came from the local metal trades which needed tissue paper for wrapping plate and silverware. Toolmakers needed oiled paper, and both had the need for coarse brown paper. The rivers Loxley, Rivelin and Upper Don all had clean, soft water for paper making. But the industry was fragile; bankruptcy and change of ownership were a frequent occurrence. Between 1834 and the arrival of the Dixons in 1871, there were at least four changes in ownership and two bankruptcies at Oughtibridge Paper Mill.

In 1870 an alarming explosion destroyed machinery installed only 18 months earlier and paper making ceased at the site. Peter and Joseph Dixon bought the mill for a moderate price in 1871, with the mill being in a state of complete disrepair. They were established papermakers and adapted the mill to focus on newsprint, this being the only product until 1936.

Their timing was good. The education act of 1870 was beginning to increase the

level of literacy in the country and the cost of books and periodicals was falling. The 1890s would see circulation wars between new popular newspapers such as Daily Mail and Daily News.

Another attraction for the Dixons was the railway line across the river. In 1888 a branch line was constructed into the works from Oughty Bridge Station. This gave a double advantage, enabling newsprint to be shipped out but also bringing wood pulp in. The Dixons were one of the first papermakers to recognise the potential of wood pulp for papermaking.

The workforce had geographically dispersed origins. Skilled workers were widely travelled and some worked at more than one of the local mills, but even the unskilled workers, men and women, came from all corners of the country, plus Ireland and Scotland.

In 1967 a new company was formed between Dixons, Inveresk and Associated Tissues under the new trading name of British Tissues. The company went through a succession of name changes and ownership changes before finally closing in 2013. The following year, the site was put up for sale and purchased by a property developer who submitted

a planning application to build housing on the site.

In the Parish Council Offices in Low Bradfield is a large photograph of all the employees who served the company, including all the staff from their works at West Marsh Paper Mills, Grimsby and Head Office at 56/57 Fleet Street, London. It is estimated that there are around 400 people on the photo, which was taken at an event at Hampton Court, London on Monday June 22nd 1936.

The picture is inscribed Peter Dixon & Son Ltd Mills Outing and General Holiday – with it is a souvenir programme detailing the day's events to mark the forthcoming marriage on July 1st 1936 of William Bernard Dixon, Director and son of Mr W H Dixon plus the coming of age on June 26th 1936 of Peter John Dixon the eldest son of Cuthbert Dixon.

It goes on to say, "The directors of Peter Dixon & Son Ltd have decided to grant a general holiday to all the staff and workpeople together with an outing to London entirely at the expense of the company, wages will be paid for ordinary working time lost during the time the mills are closed."

The Dixon family home was at Spring Grove House, Wharnccliffe Side. This was demolished a number of years ago and now has a housing estate on the site.





Bradfield Parish Council



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BRADFIELD PARISH COUNCIL CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2020

OVERALL WINNER

Matilda Holt – Loxley Primary School

LOXLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Matilda Holt
Gracie Green
Annabella Underhay
Esther Abramiuk

BRADFELD DUNGWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thomas Belk
Finlay Green
Blake Cattell
Evie Guest

WHARNCLIFFE SIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Orla Clay
Gretchen Carden
Amelie Higgins
Leela Burtles

OUGHTIBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nyall Overend
William Morgan
Hazel Formby
Beth Crooks



2020/21 COUNCILLORS

Stannington Ward



Penny Baker



Mavis Butler



Peter Butler

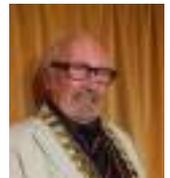


Matthew Gray



Chris Carter

Wharncliffe Side Ward



Stephen Bennett

Oughtibridge Ward



Miriam Cates



Terry Barrow



Nigel Clark



Peter Shaw



Keven Habeshaw



Vickie Priestley



Karen Southwood

Worrall Ward