

BRADFIELD COMBUST
IN THE PARISH OF BRADFIELD COMBUST WITH STANNINGFIELD
SUFFOLK LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL END OF YEAR REPORT – 31ST DEC 2016

Introduction. Our small rural village is situated on the A134 old Roman road 5 miles south of Bury St Edmunds. In 1978 boundaries were redrawn to combine Bradfield Combust and Stanningfield into the one parish of 'Bradfield Combust With Stanningfield' and falls within the Rougham ward of St Edmundsbury Borough Council. A small village green is marked with a village sign that was manufactured by the prison community at HMP Highpoint and erected in December 2011. The sign depicts the fire which possibly gave the village its name and also refers to Arthur Young who lived at Bradfield Hall.



Village Sign



Bradfield Hall

The village developed around Bradfield Hall and before the Conquest the manor belonged to Ulfketel, Earl of all the East Angles. During the reign of Edward III the Crown's property was managed by the Abbott of Bury St Edmunds and in 1327 the Abbott's power was resented so much that one challenged theory is that not only did an angry mob plunder the

Abbey but they also set fire to Bradfield Hall, hence the name 'Combust' derived from the Latin 'Combusta' meaning 'burnt'.

In 1620 the Hall became the seat of the Young family and Arthur Young (1741-1820) was an eminent agriculturist who corresponded with many notable people including George Washington. The present Grade II Listed Hall was built of brick and flint in 1857 alongside the original moated site from where the original tree-lined avenue runs down to the village All Saints Church where Arthur Young's tomb, a national monument, can be found.



Arthur Young

In Remembrance. We remember Rose Bailey who left us in January 2016. Rose was the niece of WW1 Private Gault. Remembered on the Bradfield Combust War Memorial Private Gault was born in Bradfield Combust in 1890 and served with the Royal Sussex Regiment, dying at the age of 27. We were honoured with Rose's presence at the unveiling of the new village war memorial on 2nd August 2014 when,



**Rose & family remembering
Private Harry Gault – 2nd Aug 2014**

aged 98, she laid a wreath in remembrance of her uncle. Rose, who served as a kitchen maid in Bradfield Hall as a young teenager, always had a picture of Private Gault hanging with pride on her bedroom wall. A lovely lady.

In Support of our Mayor. Good people from the village joined others from Bury St Edmunds and 7 other villages from across West Suffolk when they came together on Saturday 20th February for a fundraising dinner and raffle at the Horseshoes Inn, Cockfield to raise money for the Mayor of St Edmundsbury's four adopted local charities. The 40 diners, including the Mayor Councillor Patrick Chung and Madam Mayor, enjoyed a great evening and the event raised an amazing £657 for the four charities – East Anglian Children's Hospices, West Suffolk Hospital's Rainbow Ward, Bury Women's Refuge and the St Edmund's branch of Samaritans. The organiser Cllr. Andy Tucker from Bradfield Combust said 'I am truly grateful to so many good and like-minded friends for their wholehearted support of the event, and to Jessica, Lloyd and staff of the Horseshoes Inn for being such fantastic hosts.' Mayor Patrick Chung was delighted with the success of the evening.



Fundraising Diners



Cheque Presented to the Mayor

Local Government Funding. Following cuts in Government funding, St Edmundsbury Borough Council voted on 23rd February to pass a 1.95 per cent increase in its portion of council tax, the first increase in 6 years. The Borough Council's tax increase equates to £3.42 (7p a week) for the average household, and was combined with rises in the county council, police and town council precepts to add up to an increase of more than £30 in the average family's tax. Borough Council cuts to Parish Council funding resulted in an increase to the Parish precept with a Property Band D attracting a charge of £59.16, an increase of 6.8%.

Furthermore, when faced with an additional £500,000 cost for continuing the brown bins garden waste service councils had to take a hard decision to discontinue the service from Saturday 2 April 2016. A new optional garden waste collection service started on Monday 4 April 2016 at a cost of £40 a year for a bin.

Emergency Plan. Parish Cllrs agreed to undertake a review of the Parish Emergency Plan at the July 2016 meeting and nominated Cllr Tucker to undertake prior research and to bring appropriate recommendations. The review was completed with the Plan increasing awareness of potential challenges the Parish

villages of Bradfield Combust and Stanningfield might one day, hopefully unlikely, face and ranged from exceptionally severe weather conditions and long term loss of utilities to a pandemic or aviation accident.

Village Orchard New Products.



Clive Williamson

The award-winning Maynard House Orchards launched a new label design and range of bottles for its 10 juices. The brand also launched two brand new products, Vine Tomato juice and Orange & Clementine juice. The Company teamed up with The Tomato Stall on the Isle of Wight and a citrus fruit grower in Valencia to produce Vine Tomato juice and Orange & Clementine juice. Company owner Clive Williamson, ***pictured***, said the business had

responded to feedback, offering its juices in three easy pour bottle sizes including a carafe-style, single serve and a mini-bar size.

All Saints Church Reroofed.

In recent years, All Saints Church has risked closure due to the lack of funds to cover running and maintenance costs yet a small army of friends, fundraisers, parishioners and donors have always come to the rescue to save the village church. Importantly, thanks to a grant from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund from the Department for Culture Media & Sport and the Church's own fabric Account, 2016 saw the long awaited retiling of much of the South roof; the repairs were delayed until March to protect the bats residing in All Saints. Some recycled roof tiles were also used to retiling the entrance porch roof.



All Saints Church

Mayor Making and Local Council.

On Thursday 19th May the Bury St Edmunds Mayor Making Ceremony was conducted and The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Julia Wakelam took office vice Councillor Patrick Chung. Conservative councillor for



Worshipful Mayor Councillor Julia Wakelam

Thingoe South (including Bradfield Combust) Terry Clements was also elected Deputy Mayor for the coming year. Following the resignation of Parish Councillor Ray McKenna, at the March meeting of the Council Mr Mark Hinde and Mr Mike Grimmer, both of Stanningfield, were co-opted and welcomed onto the Parish Council. At the Annual Parish Council meeting in May, Cllr. Julia Smith was also co-opted onto the Council filling the last vacant position. In August, the Parish Council clerk, Mr Paul MacLachlan resigned

and replaced by Mrs Amanda Hinde.

Local Crime. It is believed that the village and local area continues to enjoy a low rate of crime with incidents occurring within 5 miles of the village on average every 2 weeks. That said, sadly it has been almost impossible to track since Suffolk Police re-allocated Police resources resulting in a dramatic reduction in crime information to our Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) scheme. This information vacuum is unfortunate considering the Parish NHW scheme had grown from strength to strength with over 70 local residents joining the scheme hoping to receive e-mail crime alerts as soon as Suffolk Police had released details. It is hoped that information flow from the Police will improve again.



Bradfield Park Scout Campsite. With the completion of the external refurbishment of the old accommodation building, on Saturday 8th October the refurbished building was named 'Lunney Lodge' in memory of a former Scouts County Chaplain – The Reverend Canon Henry Lunney. Guests attending the ceremony included Henry Lunney's wife and daughter, and the Mayor of St Edmundsbury - Councillor Julia Wakelam.



Lunney Lodge Ceremony Guests

Bradfield Combust Community First Responders. The Bradfield Combust Community First Responder group launched in August 2015 and continues to work with the East of England Ambulance Service responding to very local life threatening emergency calls and in the first few vital minutes can make the difference between life and death. Andy Tucker handed over the role of Group Coordinator to Debbie Lamond in June, and the trained and equipped group of volunteers are from Bradfield Combust, Cockfield, Great Whelnetham and Lawshall. If you feel you could become a Community First Responder or a supporter, and would like more information, please contact Debbie Lamond on 07810 353426. The Group is a registered charity and donations are welcomed. Charity Number: 1047987.

Village Property Report. At the time of writing village property for rent or sale include a Bradfield Hall studio flat for sale at £99 950¹ which successfully sold. Also, a 3 bedroomed semi-detached Victorian cottage on The Street is on the market at a guide price of £265 000².

¹ 26 March 2016 – rightmove website.

² 10 December 2016 – zoopla website

Abbots Bridge Reclamation Support Air Ambulance. In August, Abbots Bridge Reclamation based in the village assisted, alongside a Lawshall based transport company, with the dismantling of a large iron weathervane, a 36 year old landmark in King's Road, Bury St Edmunds. Recently widowed 82 year old Mrs Daphne Pike



Reclamation Team & Weathervane

decided it was time for the weathervane to go to auction to raise funds for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Adrian Burrows, owner of Abbots Bridge said: 'It's a wonderful piece' while Mrs Pike said the auction is what her husband Richard would have wanted. At the time of writing, an auction (by Manders of Newton Green) date was yet to be set.

Remembrance Sunday. On Sunday 13th November our village Remembered the 9 who nobly served and were lost in the 2 World Wars. We were honoured to be joined by relatives of 4 of those Remembered including the nephew of our 2 RAF brothers, Sgts Derrick & Gerald Savoy; one flew Lancasters and the other Hastings, both gave their lives aged 21.

***Our village RAF brothers two.
They left home and flew & flew.
Each lost his life? Not true!
Each gave his life, for me and you & you.***

'We Will Remember Them'



Villagers Remember



Sgt. G. Savoy RAF

Cllr. Andrew Tucker
Wing Commander RAF (Ret'd)
Village Recorder