

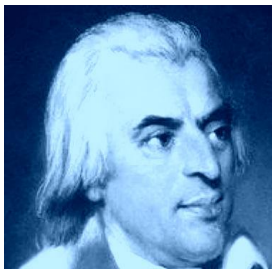
BRADFIELD COMBUST
IN THE PARISH OF BRADFIELD COMBUST WITH STANNINGFIELD
SUFFOLK LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL END OF YEAR REPORT – 31ST DEC 2017

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

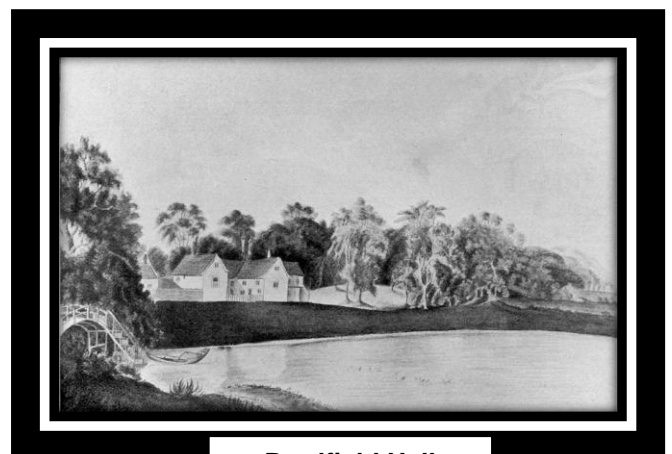
The village developed around Bradfield Hall and before the Conquest the manor belonged to Ulfketel, Earl of all the East Angles. During the reign of Edward III the Crown's property was managed by the Abbott of Bury St Edmunds and in 1327 the Abbott's power was resented so much that one challenged theory 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'.



Arthur Young

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.

In 1785 Arthur Young inherited Bradfield Hall, at Bradfield Combust, from his mother, who had just died. His elder brother, who was unmarried, agreed that Arthur should take on the property, paying him a sum by way of compensation, less than its full value. Arthur Young then decided to add a number of fish ponds to the property. His fishing parties would become well known, and are described in Fanny Burney's "Camilla".



Bradfield Hall



Bradfield Hall Today

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.

Speed Review. In early February, the Parish Council submitted a case for a parish speed review to the County Council. The case called for a speed limit reduction to 30mph on the A134 through the centre of the village. The Highways Engineer Mr Keith Sampson kindly visited the village on 10th February and submitted a report for presentation to the Speed Panel who sat on 16th October.

Although the Panel reported that 'the request met sufficient criteria' they still refused to sanction a reduction in the speed limit. The Parish Council is appealing against the decision.



On 28th March four cars were involved in a collision on the A134 just north of the Ixer lane junction at approx 8.20am. The road was partially blocked about 200 yards north of the Ixer Lane junction. Police and an ambulance attended with one person reported suffering neck pains. The road was fully opened again at 10am.

Otter Watch – Jan 2017. At dusk on a cold January day a village resident photographed what looked like an otter dining on a carp on a small frozen lake. The otter is a large member of the weasel family (mustelids), it has managed to swim back from the brink of extinction in the 1960s into every county in England. In the wild they are elusive, secretive animals usually living in undisturbed rivers, streams and estuaries yet for a second year running an otter



has been spotted in our village waters! Or is our village otter actually the more brazen mink?

Local Council. Following the local County Council elections on 4th May Councillor Karen Soons took post vice Councillor Terry Clements as Conservative Councillor for Thingoe South which includes Bradfield Combust.

On 18th May The Worshipful the Mayor and Members of St Edmundsbury Borough Council held the Annual and Special Meeting of the Council and Mayor Making Ceremony in The Apex, Charter Square; at the Ceremony The Worshipful the Mayor Terry Clements (of Stanningfield) took office vice Councillor Julia Wakelam. Music for the occasion was kindly provided by the excellent King Edward VI School Music Department.

Parish Councillor Julia Smith tendered her resignation in September and the vacant seat was filled by Councillor Sam Jordan who was co-opted at the Parish Council meeting on 27th November.

At the Parish Council meeting in January 2017 Councillors considered the 2017/2018 budget and it was unanimously agreed there will be no increase in this year's precept.

Storm Doris. On Thursday 23rd February storm Doris hit the UK. The high winds resulted in the uprooting of one of the few trees on the small village green; the fallen tree was soon removed by a few dedicated Parish good people. The northbound lane of the A134 just south of the village was blocked mid-morning with a fallen branch though emergency services soon cleared the road.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW). At the 7th April Suffolk Safer Neighbourhood Watch Association Annual General Meeting there was a strong view by attendees that Suffolk Police support to NHW following a reallocation of Police resources continued to be poor. Specific concerns included:



1. The lack of details about crimes that had been committed.
2. The Police UK website being constantly at least 2 months out of date and of no use to Coordinators.
3. The lack of Police requests for public support following a crime.
4. Poor response times by the Police when the public use the 101 system.

Despite the lack of information, 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. A TV, laptop, cameras and a quantity of cash were stolen during a burglary of a cottage in The Street in the village on 7th November.

Throughout the year local (5 miles radius) reported crime fell mainly into the categories of burglaries, theft, criminal damage and violence.

Scout Site Conservation and Maintenance. A huge amount of hard work goes into the maintenance of the scout campsite and tree planting has



been high on the agenda. Since 2012, hundreds of saplings have been planted and, in 'partnership' with the Woodland Trust, another 345 mixed saplings were planted late this year. The exemplary maintenance of the parkland is providing a great site for the County's scouts as



well as establishing a wooded haven for our local wildlife; Bradfield Combust agriculturist and tree planter Arthur Young (1741-1820) would approve!

Village Property Report. Properties for rent or sale during the reporting period include three 2 & 3 bedroomed semi-detached Victorian flinted cottages on The Street at guide prices ranging between £240 000 - £255 000¹. A two bedroomed terraced house at Bradfield Combust was also marketed to rent at £895 pcm².



Villagers Remember

Remembrance Sunday. On Sunday 12th 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 2 of those Remembered including the granddaughter of WW1 Private A. J. Smith and the sister-in-law of WW2 Private W. Middleditch. The occasion was marked with a bugler playing The Last Post and Reveille.

'We Will Remember Them'

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

¹ Zoopla dated 3rd Feb 2017

² Rightmove dated Sep 2017