

## Obituary; Brian Bradbury

Brian Bradbury a founder member of YCCCART died on January 24th 2019; he was 86.

### **Family and Working Life**

Brian was born in King's Heath, Birmingham in 1932 and brought up in and around the same area. He attended King's Norton Grammar School and on leaving there took up an apprenticeship in structural engineering and draughtsmanship with a company in Walsall.

He undertook National Service in 1953 and was attached to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (R.E.M.E.)

In December 1956 he married Beryl Handy in Sheldon Parish Church in Birmingham and they went on to have four children, Jill, Peter, Andrew and Jane,

Brian's working life encompassed roles as a draughtsman and engineer in Swindon, Northampton and moving to Yatton in 1963. He worked for a number of small engineering companies.

He was involved in work on some of the first shopping malls in the UK; a Cornish tin mine, Llanwern Steelworks and the M5 Avonmouth Bridge.

He was a founder member of Yatton Ramblers and a member of the show committee of Yatton Horticultural Society where he was always an active exhibitor and winner with his rhubarb and sweet peas!

In recognition of his involvement in so much of village life in Yatton was the very first recipient of the Yatton Parish Council Volunteer of the Year award in 2004. He was also awarded this in 2005 and 2014.

Brian Bradbury had been a stalwart of Yatton Local History Society for many years and contributed to Yatton Yesterdays from 1987 with initially an article on the Prince of Orange. He was chairman then president for over 20 years retiring in 2009.

A founder member from 1982 with Marian B and Tony Coe, he joined the committee in 1984. His early research was on buildings in Yatton,

He was chairman from 1991 to 2000, and led the committee on updating the Constitution, Charitable status, exhibitions in the village, Video '92, and started the More Yatton Yesterdays book series. He became interested in archaeological surveys.

Also he was elected President 2001, led walks around Yatton, and encouraged Arthur Langley's CDROM of Yatton. He resigned as President and from Committee in 2009.

Yatton, Claverham, Cleeve and Congresbury Archaeological Research Group (YCCCART) were formed following a number of local history studies. Mary Campbell, Marian Barraclough and others had been instrumental in doing first a Parish Survey for Cleeve 1988 and then Yatton and Claverham. In 1985 Commander Williams was commissioned to survey older buildings in Yatton. This included Claverham Court Farm and outbuildings.

Brian was involved with these latter surveys and in 2004 discussed with the late John Atwell how his " tithe barn" at Claverham Court Farm could be surveyed with a view to making an application for a grant to contribute to its restoration.

At this point Vince Russett North Somerset Archaeologist was involved and some members of Yatton Local History Society in the Research subgroup including Mary Campbell formed a working party meeting on Thursday mornings. It was clear that additional skills were needed. Mature students working for archaeological qualifications at Bristol University and members of Congresbury Local History Society joined in. Brian with Vince and Chris Short spearheaded these developments, which led to the development of YCCCART in 2008.

Brian was YCCCART's chairman for the early years and was active in the field until ill health brought this to an end in 2017. However his interest in YCCCART's work continued.

His considerable skills in encouraging members and others to concentrate their skills to a common purpose were key to the success of the many projects in which he was involved.