

From Ann Tempest July 2011

BUBNELL

Today Bubnell is a backwater to be found somewhat elevated on the west bank of the **River Derwent**. Probably the ancient centre was Cross Farm where a cluster of houses on both sides of the road must have been located close to the ancient Butter Cross where trading took place. These smaller dwellings have now gone, almost without trace. The old **pinfold** can still be located at the top of the Lane.

Bramley Farm

a mile up the road was built in 1614 and Cross Farm in 1633, whilst Bubnell House, probably of similar age, boasts both a Saxon coffin lid as a lintel stone and a vaulted cellar. Bubnell Hall dates back to Norman times, and at the Bridgefoot there was a small group of cottages around the Bridgefoot Farm. The **Old Bridge** was built in 1603. Farming was the way of life.

Bubnell Farm

In the 1870's an extensive exchange of land at Bubnell took place. The **Duke of Devonshire** acquired a parcel from the river to the Bakewell Road from the **Duke of Rutland**. By 1890 he had completed Bubnell Farm and Bubnell Cliff Farm to generous specifications and design. In 1925 **Tregenna** was built, and by 1950 **Wheatlands** was built for the Chatsworth tennis coach **Geoff Ellis** who gave tennis lessons until he left in 1963.

A change in policy was noted in the 1960's. Bubnell Hall, Bubnell House, and Cross Farm were sold by the Devonshire's who were experiencing hard times. The stables at Cross Farm were disposed of as a separate lot, and were later converted to **Bubnell Grange**. A building plot was sold to Dr Evans who built **Bubnell Hill** in a secluded back water.

Bubnell Hill

EDWARD MASON WRENCH. Surgeon Lieut. Colonel, Park Lodge, Baslow. Son of the Rev. T. W. Wrench, Rector of St. Michael's, Cornhill, London. Born at London, July 1st, 1833 ; educated at the Merchant Taylors' School, and St. Thomas's Hospital ; Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons ; served in the 34th Regiment in the Crimea, 1854-56 ; present at the storming of the Redan ; mentioned in despatches ; received medal and clasp and Turkish medal ; served in the 12th Lancers through the whole of the Indian Mutiny, received campaign medal and clasp ; services brought to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief, the Duke of Cambridge ; joined the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters in 1864, and retired in 1900 with the Volunteer Decoration and retention of rank ; surgeon to the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth since 1862 ; J.P. for the county of Derby ; Consulting Surgeon, Lady Whitworth's Hospital, Darley Dale ; hon. member, St. John's Ambulance Association ; President of the Bakewell Naturalists' Field Club ; ex-President, Midland Branch British Medical Association ; Liveryman of the Drapers' Company, London ; Liveryman of the Society of Apothecaries, London.

Bubnell Hall

'Along the whole course of the Derwent there is no edifice, not excepting glorious Haddon, that has the historic associations of Bubnell Hall from the reign of the Conqueror till the overthrow of feudalism at the Battle of Bosworth'

This lovely house is probably the oldest surviving in Baslow today. Bubnell in 1086 was held under William Avenell, but through a favourable marriage the Bassett family acquired this estate.

The Bassett family accumulated wealth in the time of Henry I when Ralph was Chief Justiciar. When Richard I came to the throne, the Bassetts acquired Bubnell, and the Vernon s Haddon through marriage with Avenell heiresses, both holding their estates for the same period until the reign of Elizabeth, when Bubnell went to the Copwoods and Haddon to the Manners.

A Bassett also accompanied the King on a crusade to the Holy Land and later, when Henry III went to France such was his trust that he left the kingdom in charge of a Bassett. A century later a Bassett was recognised for services at Dunbar and Cressy (1346), becoming one of the first Knights of the Garter. In 1583 Margaret was the last Bassett to live in the Hall when she married Richard Copwood.

The Hall was extended particularly in the 18th and 19th centuries. By 1871, about the time of the Devonshire acquisition it was a boarding school for young ladies, although a young Mr '**Pinny** Coates' is thought to have been a pupil there.

At some stage the **Hall Farm** came under separate occupation from the Hall. In the 1920's the Tomlinson's were there whilst the **Peels** were in the Hall. In the 1930's a retired Dr **Wykham** moved into the Hall to be outlived by his widow. The Sorby's were also there many years. Mrs Sorby eventually moved to the **Thatches**.

On one occasion when Dr **Evans** visited Mr Tomlinson, he was found sitting up in bed wearing a bowler hat to keep warm. The Tomlinson's were followed, after the war, by Mr **Cyril Smedley**.

By the 1960's the property had become very run down, and was sold in 1962 to **Sir Basil Rhodes**, who moved in after substantial renovation works. Sir Basil who is a practising solicitor was knighted in 1987 and was High Sheriff of South Yorkshire in 1982.

Bubnell Cottage

James Furness remembers the **Misses Helliwell** living there before the last war. They were followed by **Mr Batty Langly** who had a timber business and owned the Mill. The **Slater** family moved to Edensor in 1998 having lived there for many years.

Bubnell House

There are stories of monastic connections and a passage down to the river. The monks were reputed to move their bees down to the hives at Beehive Cottage at Bridge End for the summer months. The vaulted cellar and Saxon stone lintel indicate interesting origins.

In 1885 the **Froggatt** family moved from Cross Farm to **Bubnell House** which was then a farm. Mrs Froggatt was transported the 100 yards on a horse and cart as her baby was overdue. **Tom Froggatt** was born, and he and his sister Alice were brought up there. Tom lived for 90 years in the house. Alice, later **Alice Lyle**, played as a small child in the foundations of Bubnell Farm.

Like many others living in Baslow, Tom worked for Chatsworth and did deliveries from the Chatsworth kitchen gardens.

In recent times, **Mrs Mary Bater**, a Froggatt by birth ran a successful nursery school in the house. More recently the property has been divided into two, and occupied separately, although the present ownership is now within one family.

Bramley Farm

The farm is almost at the head of Bramley Dale. Bramley was a separate parish at one time. There is evidence of old lead smelting workings in the area. **Mr Jim Watts** informs:

'Bramley lies on an ancient Packhorse route from Manchester to Sheffield. The track came from Tideswell, via Longstone Edge down the lane above the farm which was probably a staging post for the mules and pack-horses on the hazardous journey.

It then proceeded to Stanton Ford, up to Curbar Gap and on to Sheffield.

Robert Kitchen was at Bramley in 1614 and his descendants lived there for over 300 years until 1935 when the Watts family moved in.

The present farmhouse was rebuilt in 1802 by **William A Kitchen** as dated over the door. A bedroom mantelpiece has a date 1677 chiselled in the stone. It is a typical farmhouse originally having 5 bedrooms, attic and cellars. It still relies on a spring for its water supply.' This spring supplied the whole of Bubnell until a 2 inch water pipe was constructed in 1925.

Cross Farm

The base of a medieval cross located[^] Cross Farm was moved to the church yard by Dr Wrench and can be seen there today.

In 1885 the **Froggatts** left Cross Farm for Bubnell House. **Mr Joseph Eades** was tenant until 1922. **Mr Cyril Smedley** was tenant from 1929 to 32. **Maria Smedley**, who was formerly a Tomlinson had grown up at the **Bubnell Hall Farm**.

The **Holdings** followed the **Mycocks** in about 1935. **Alice**, formerly a White, was a farmer's daughter, and with no children of her own she and John were much loved by all who knew them. The stock was sold in 1962 when **John Holding** sold the 47 home-bred Ayrshires and 40 sheep. This was the end of the farm. In 1963, the **Richardsons** purchased the freehold for £6,000, and **Mr Anson** bought the stables for £5,500 and built Bubnell Grange.

Marie Green was born at Cross Farm in 1912. Her father kept **The Peacock Hotel**.

'My father **Mr Joseph Eades** took Cross Farm for the stables. He bred Hunters and had 20 to 30 at one time. People regularly called to look at horses. There was also a 'house cow' for home milk, which gave enough for mother to have a creamery. She

put it out in bowls and did orders to larger houses. Part of the piggery was used for their own pig, and the remainder rented out. Hams hung in the salting room.

There was extensive stabling, a carriage house with a granary over and a storage place for carts.' There was a well at the rear of the property.

Marie remembers **Emily Brightmore** helping in the home. **Joe Froggatt** was a full time farm worker but was sadly killed at the end of the first war. The **Baldwins** lived at **Keepers Cottage**. Her friend **Gladys Baldwin** married a Sheldon. The **Panders** lived nearby at **Ivy Cottage** (now **Moorland View**). **Arthur and Alfred Ford** lived in a now demolished property, where their spring never dried up in the hot summers.

When the **Devonshire Bridge** was being built, Marie recalls with horror that there was a makeshift bridge erected for use of workers with a warning 'Children not to use this bridge' but of course they used to play there and dare each other to cross.'

Bill (Bungalow) Noton, later lived in a house between Cross Farm and Tregenna.

Bridgefoot Farm (now a house) The **Tomlinsons** tenanted this farm, and in the early part of the century ran a butcher's shop from the premises. A large mounting block stood outside. Mr **Frank Flint** worked in the slaughterhouse there.

By 1993 Mr and Mrs Tomlinson had both died, and their daughter **Janet** was married. Chatsworth divided the land between the adjoining farms at Bubnell and Bubnell Cliff. Mr and Mrs **David Wales** rent about 30 acres for grazing.

Bubnell Farm

The first Chatsworth tenant of this newly built farm was a **Mr Hattersley**. In 1895 the **Furness family** took the tenancy. **Sam** was there until his death in 1908 when his son **Gladstone** took over.

As there was no son, a nephew **James senior** took over in 1928, and on his death was succeeded by his son **James** (the first child to be born at Bubnell Farm) in 1961, who has recently been succeeded by his son **James junior**.

The Furness family are direct descendants of the famous 17th century Eym poet **Richard Furness**, James and **Catherine** live in his lovely old family home in Eym, since James 'retirement', whilst James and **Rosemary** keep the farm.

James, who lived in Bubnell over 60 years recollects: 'We all walked to school and home for lunch until we were big enough to ride bikes. School finished half an hour early in winter so we were home in the day light. There was a concession of 6 days off school to help with the harvest as part of the War Effort. There was always work to be done and no spare time.

Harvesting was done by a team of Irish men who slept in the cowshed loft at Cross Farm, and stayed for 2 or 3 weeks at the end of June. It was my job to take a jug of beer into the fields after morning school. Barrels of beer were specially kept in the cellar. They came back again in March for singling the swedes and marrows.

Mechanisation came gradually and Mr Morgan came in March from Barlow with Dolly, his steam powered threshing drum which worked on the cone shaped stacks, which had been artistically made and then thatched for winter protection. Oats, wheat and barley were grown.

In 1938 we bought our first Fordson tractor. The small fields were suited to a horse and cart, and over the years have

been doubled in size and gates widened. Hydraulics were the biggest boon to farm work, easing the heavy jobs. In 1962 we bought a Combine with a pick up baler!

Ancient Water Trough

A cattle trough to be found in the Bubnell fields is beautifully shaped, and is reputed to have been used to mix dough for bread to take to Eyam at the time of the Plague.

Old Bridgefoot

Bridgefoot Cottage

This was originally three cottages, which have been joined together. The roofs were thatched, probably until the 1920's.

The Mason's Arms

This inn must have catered for the early traveller, and a sign dated 1696 now can be seen at the Old Forge where it probably went for repair. Chatsworth acquired the property and it became Bridgefoot Farm.

The Duke of Rutland opened a new inn over the bridge named the Rutland Arms.

New buildings

In 1848 the area was known as Factory Close, and a weaving shed produced cloth there, and later felt hats. It was originally a 3 storey building, and rumour has it that the top floor was removed to improve the view from Chatsworth. Subsequently it became six cottages, and now three.