

During the past 180 years, nearly every aspect of village life has changed, mostly bringing improvements in health, housing, education, work, transport, leisure, and sanitation.

For our study of the historic village in the mid-19th century, the year 1841 is critical with the making of the Tithe Map which recorded every field, orchard, garden, house, and cottage (extract overleaf – a full size copy is on display in the Church, along with our interpretation of the village timeline); and also the first census which recorded the name, age, gender, occupation, and birthplace of every person in every household.

The census was repeated every ten years afterwards and these provide a unique insight into the changes that took place in the village.

As expected, the parish depended primarily on agriculture; most of the land being owned and occupied by independent yeoman farmers. These, with some of the tradesmen e.g. blacksmith, wheelwright, and mason, made up the village 'elite', a class apart from their labourers and servants. This

was a social structure that seemed to survive up to the Great War, and maybe even the Second World War.

In the mid-19th century, alongside farming were tanning, shoe making, and weaving; cottage industries which had gone within twenty years as they were unable to compete with production in new factories in the towns.

To illustrate conditions at the time, between 1841 and 1901, we are transcribing the various census data and plan to extract details of families who lived in identifiable houses and cottages.

We have a developing website:

broadhempstonlocalhistory.wordpress.com

and a Facebook page:

[Broadhempston Local History](#)

Please visit these to see more information and to provide feedback. We welcome all comments and ideas for content.

The Archive contains a wide range of historic documents: including the 1841 Tithe Map and Apportionment, Church and School Records, and personal accounts and oral histories. We are always keen to review and, where suitable, incorporate any old photographs and documents.

The following **publications** are available to buy in the village shop and through our website:

“Broadhempston” is a reprint in book form of a paper on early village and church history, which was originally published in 1958 in Volume 90, Transactions of the Devonshire Association, by Rev. H R Evans.

“Looking Back – People and Places in Broadhempston” is an illustrated book written by Moira Mellor and published by the Broadhempston Society in 2006.

“Broadhempston in the 20th Century: a social and economic history” is a brief pamphlet written by Ray Green for the History Group.