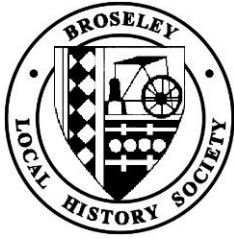


NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



Feb – 2023

Issue: 56

MEETINGS

Meetings of the Broseley Local History Society are normally held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Broseley Social Club, High Street, unless otherwise announced.

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BLHS Programme

PLEASE NOTE: To avoid any inconvenience, check the BLHS website to confirm prior to attending, to ensure that the event is still going ahead.

Programme of talks

March 1 – *John Wilkinson revisited*, Richard Sells (Annual Wilkinson Lecture)

April 5 - *Oral History (from Ken Jones Archive)*, Janet Doody

May 3 – *Bridges in the Gorge*, Steve Dewhirst

June 7 – Early summer walk (to be arranged)

July 2 – Annual outing (to be arranged).

Talks from other local groups:

Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum

Feb. 15 – *What can dialectologists learn from oral history archives? The case of Ironbridge*, Esther Asprey

Mar.15 – *The Smithemans of Little Wenlock, joint landlords of the Darbys*, Neil Clarke.

Wellington History Group

Jan.19 – *The Closure of Our Local Monasteries*, Neil Clarke.

Mar.16 – *The Cinderloo Riot*, Pete Jackson.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Doreen Pollard	(Broseley)
Pat Howells	(Broseley)
Lesley Parker	(Broseley)
Charlie & Ann Garratt	(Broseley)
Stephen Walton	(Broseley)
Eric & Gill Tranter	(Broseley)
Michael Instone	(Hollinswood)
Ian & Wendy Palin	(Wellington)
Penny Beckett	(West Kirby)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to the Society can be paid either in cash or by cheque.

What's On Elsewhere?

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Broseley /Local History Society is affiliated to the British Association for Local History and receives every quarter their newsletter and Journal, both of which are available at our meetings (the Local History News is also available online at the BALH website)

News from the British Association for Local History

The Association now has a new address:
BALH Office, c/o Moore Insight, St. James House, Vicar Lane, Sheffield S1 2EY

The BALH has partnered the National Archives on the 20sStreets project to raise awareness of local history through the 1921 census for England & Wales; 2 digital competitions have been organised, 1 for individuals and 1 for groups to find the best local history stories in England and Wales. Full details are available on either website. *The 1921 census is available on 'unlimited access' through FindMyPast, unfortunately this is only on*

their premium subscription, however I assume local libraries and Shropshire Archives will have free access.

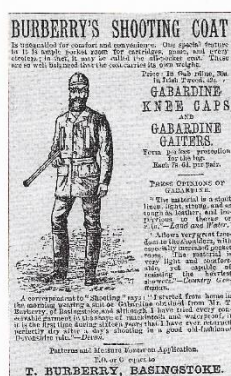
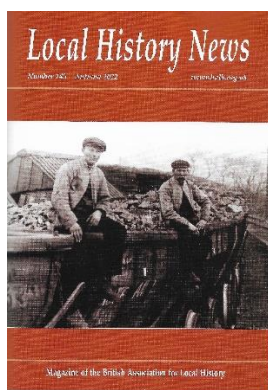
The BALH Local History Day for 2023 was to be held on the 6th May; due to the coronation of King Charles III this will be re-arranged.

Book Review: *Masters & Matrons of Llanfyllin Union Workhouse 1839-1982*, a new book documenting the history of this Union workhouse in Montgomeryshire.

Railway employees in your family? Have a look at the Railway, Work, Life & Death database project **THE LOCAL HISTORIAN** – articles ‘Slips, trips and tumbles in public places, accidental falls in Wolverhampton 1850-1910’; the story of draper Thomas Burberry (1835-1926); also, with history catching me up (!), Cornish Male voice choirs 1939-1945 and the construction of Trawsfynydd Power Station 1955-1965.

Book Reviews: ‘Birmingham’s First Canal 1730-1772’ by Ron Dawson & ‘**The Industrious Child Worker (Birmingham & the West Midlands) 1750-1900’.**

Finally don’t forget the BALH website, do take a look at the 10 minute talks on many and varied subjects are excellent, besides other news to help in local history.



Janet

Janet Doody 28th. November 2022

PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Benthall Railways Talk

The November talk was a joint meeting with the Friends of the IGMT held at Coalbrookdale. Steve Dewhurst gave a presentation on the history of the railways at Benthall. The first railways, known as the Benthall Rails were in the valley of the Benthall Brook approximately following the route of Bridge Bank. They ran from the coal mines around the Deerleap to wharves on the river. The first reference of these was in 1683 when Lawrence Benthall, the owner of the estate is

recorded as laying wooden rails. By 1730 George Weld of the Willey Estate was also using the railway and in 1750 thirty wagons of coal per day were being brought down to the Severn. The railway had largely gone out of use by the end of the 18th century.

Around 1800 a new plateway had been constructed to connect limestone quarries on Benthall Edge to kilns in Workhouse coppice. The line continued down Spout Lane to Benthall Furnaces on Bridge Bank, and then down to the wharf on river at the terminus of the Benthall Rails. Sections of this continued in use until the 1850s when the lime concern and the foundry, on the site of the furnaces, were closed.

There was a short plateway and steep incline from the quarries at Patton's Rock to kilns opposite the Museum of the Gorge. Operating from the 18th century the quarries closed in 1864. There was a short revival of the quarries in the 1930s when conventional narrow gauge lines were used. There are several tracks along the escarpment of Benthall Edge some of which are now used as footpaths. Using Lidar it has been possible to identify six possible railway routes and four inclined planes. These ran from the many limestone quarries which produced stone for use as flux in the iron furnaces as well as for burning into lime. By the 1850s the Coalbrookdale company were obtaining fluxing stone for their furnaces at Coalbrookdale, Horsehay and Ketley and they may have constructed wooden railways to bring the stone to the Severn. In the 1770s John Wilkinson of the Willey ironworks and George Matthews of Calcutts ironworks set up a company to quarry stone. They used wooden rails with iron strips on top to improve the wear life of the rails. This concern closed around 1778 and although there was still limestone quarrying little is known about this. The last documented working was in the 1830s when James Thomson of the Lightmoor ironworks constructed a plateway to bring the stone to the river. Broken sections of these rails have recently been discovered and are now in the care of the National Trust.

In April 2022 there was a small archaeological excavation sponsored by the Local History Society, the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust and the IGMT. This was supervised by Will Logan of the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust and involved volunteers from all three sponsors. Two tracks and a section of one of the inclined planes were excavated and although manmade features were uncovered no remains of the railways were found. A video has been produced outlining the history of the railways and the dig. The link to the video is <https://vimeo.com/780665947>

Christmas Dinner 7th. Dec. 2022

It was amongst a very festive atmosphere that 40 or so members of BLHS enjoyed a tasty 3 course-meal at The Lion.

We were greeted by a lovely room decoration with tables dressed sympathetically, people got themselves a drink at the bar and soon enough engaged into joyous banter, everyone loved it! Neil Clarke, the new Chairman made a short speech and Jocelyne Barbier organised the Quiz which was won by the Freeman's family. Here are a selection of the photos taken on the evening:



THE WARRENS



DAVID & PAT DE HAAN



GILLIAN POPE



HAROLD GRICE & STEPHANIE BOND



JANET DOODY % THE LOWES



MARILYN NIXON, TONY RODEN, MO SMITH,
SHEILA WHITTLES



MR & MRS FREEMAN



MRS. RODEN, MARILYN & PETER NIXON



NEIL, MARY & JIM COOPER



STEPHANIE, RICHARD, ROS & MICHAEL

Janet Doody 21st. Dec 2022

'The Friendly Midland Red'

In our first talk of the New Year (January 4th), Neil Clarke outlined how the distinctively coloured vehicles that many of us remember provided most of the local bus services in East Shropshire for some 60 years, from the 1920s to the 1980s. He looked at how Midland Red (*the Birmingham & Midland Motor Omnibus Company Ltd.*) from its base in Wellington expanded into the surrounding area, how it competed with local railway services, how it coexisted with other local bus operators and how it was eventually privatised.

The following images were included in the illustrated talk: the first shows one of the early services into Broseley in the late 1920s; the second, a Midland Red bus heading for Broseley

crossing the swollen River Severn at Jackfield in 1946; and the third, a Bridgnorth-bound service at Broseley in the 1970s.

At the end of the talk, members shared their memories of *'The Friendly Midland Red'*.



EARLY SERVICE INTO BROSELEY 1920's



MIDLAND RED BUS CROSSING THE SWOLLEN SEVERN



BRIDGNORTH BOUND SERVICE 1970's

Neil Clarke 22nd. January 2023

ARTICLES

Les (Samuel Edwin Leslie) Pugh

15.5.1926 - 14.9.2014

Les Pugh, was born in Broseley in Shropshire on 15th May 1926. He was the youngest of the three children (eldest Margery, then Harry) of Albert

Pugh and Mary ne Hughes. Albert was killed in a factory explosion in Dudley where he was working, when Les was 4. Although his mother was awarded full compensation this was not much and his childhood was one of relative poverty - this situation is reflected in his brother Harry having TB stomach and spending some time in Prees Heath Sanatorium and in Les being treated at the Orthopaedic hospital at Gobowen for rickets.

He went to school at Broseley Wood Infants and Broseley C of E schools, leaving at 14 to commence full time work. The opportunity for a carpentry apprenticeship with Bert Meredith (Funeral Director and carpenter) had to be turned down as he needed to earn money to support the family finances. He worked in various jobs, including Coalbrookdale Iron works and with the St John Ambulance during the early years of WW2.

He received his call up papers days after his 18th birthday and he joined the army on 1st June 1944. He did his general training at Copthorne barracks and later in Wales. He was assigned to the Kings Salopian Light Infantry from October 1944 to January 1947. With them he travelled to Europe, following the line of retreat. The KSLI was disbanded and initially he was reassigned to the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry from January - July 1947. Following that he served from July 1947 - February 1948 with the Royal Engineers. He was moved to the Army reserve in February 1948 and sometime after this he was finally a civilian again.

My mum (Joyce Quilter) along with her extended family, had travelled from London to Broseley in late 1940. Her brother (George Quilter) worked for the St John's ambulance and was stationed at Willey Hall. She met my dad through church youth clubs and corresponded with him whilst he was away. Les and Joyce planned to marry in the summer of 1949, but an accident led to major spinal fusion surgery which delayed their wedding until 5th November 1949.

After the war he worked as a gardener at the Lady Forrester cottage hospital and for a while, for his brother-in-law. He started work at Maws tile factory around 1959 and he remained until the closure in 1970. After Maws closed, he moved to Victor Cabs in Broseley, until it too closed. Once redundant, in his 50s, he continued to take work when it was available and worked voluntarily for the Broseley Methodist Church and Youth Club.

Les and Joyce continued to live an active life. They moved to Shrewsbury in their 70s and again to Huddersfield to be closer to family in their 80s. After a short illness with an aggressive lung cancer Les died at home with the support of family and hospice on the 14th of September 2014. He was 89. Joyce died peacefully at home on 21st June 2020.

Les was a natural archivist and collected and kept many things. As well as items donated to the Broseley Historical Society there is a collection at Maws tile museum and with the Shropshire Soldiers collection at Shrewsbury Castle

His paternal grandmother was a Ukrainian woman Olga, who married Les's grandfather when he was a civil engineer in what was then Hughesville (now Donetsk) they returned to England before the revolution. Materials related to this are planned to be deposited with the Russian collection at the Brotherton Library, university of Leeds.

Steve Dewhirst 12th. Jan 2023

Photographic Donations

Last year we received two donations of photographic collections: Caroline Coulman donated some photographs taken during the building of the new Jackfield Bridge taken by her father-in-law who was Clerk of Works on the Bridge.



THE NEW BRIDGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION
(COURTESY CAROLINE COULMAN)

Janet Hargreaves donated the collection of photographs from her father, the late Les Pugh. These include numerous photographs associated with the Wesleyan Church of which he was a prominent member. Some of these came from the late Mrs Jones and date from the early 1900s through to the 1970s. Les also took photographs during the 1970s 80s and 90s of buildings which

he thought were going to disappear which are now a record of lost Broseley. Please see the preceding article "Les Pugh Biography". We are very grateful for the donation of these photographs which will be scanned and made available to our members.



THE METHODIST CHURCH OUTING TO GUERNSEY 1948
(COURTESY JANET HARGREAVES)

Steve Dewhirst 12th. Jan. 2023

RADDLE HALL – 20-22 CHURCH STREET



RADDLE HALL

The BLHS plaque presented to the owners of Raddle Hall in 2008 commemorates it being the birthplace of John Randall, author, local historian, painter of china, printer, bookseller, stationer and postmaster! Although born in Broseley, Randall lived most of his life in Madeley where he worked for nearly 50 years at Coalport China, his 'speciality' being the painting of birds, said to be derived in style from Sevres; he later ran a printers, stationers and the post office. Born on 1st September 1810, he died on 16 November 1910; achieving the age of 100, receiving acknowledgement from the King and earning him the title the 'Grand Old Man of Shropshire'; he is buried in St. Michael's churchyard, Madeley. The red brick 2 story building itself needs recognition too; built around 1663 it is probably

the earliest brick built house in Broseley. Described by Historic England in 1974 as formerly a house of some importance now much altered and divided into 3 cottages, it is now once again one residence and its importance recognised with Grade II listing.

Amongst the early documentary evidence for Raddle Hall is in an 1802 valuation of Broseley when James Griffiths, the younger is named as owner and John Onions the occupier. James Griffiths, was born in Broseley about 1772; to James, who was possibly a solicitor, and Frances; he became a timber merchant, marrying Fanny Faulkner in 1820 and moving to Coalport. His son Thomas continued the timber-merchant concern; James died on 5 Oct 1825 and Fanny on 4 Jan 1831 both are buried in a family tomb in St. Michaels churchyard.

The next mention of Raddle Hall is in the Broseley Tithe and Apportionments of 1838; John Onions now owns the property and it is occupied by a Richard Turton. Richard and his wife, Hannah were living at Raddle Hall on the 1841 census, his occupation is engineer and he was born about 1770 in London. Their 2 sons, Richard and George had moved to Kidderminster by this time and were iron-founders, George employing 40 men; sadly Richard junior died in 1848. George prospered serving as Mayor of Kidderminster and acquiring Caldwell Hall in Castle Street. His father Richard moved to Park Lane, Kidderminster by 1851, stating he was a retired iron-founder and proprietor of houses; Richard died on 11 November 1858 and the Worcester Chronicle stated that that he had worked for nearly 40 years as foreman to John Onions.



IAN BAKER & NUALA O'KANE (CURRENT OCCUPIERS)
WITH GILL POPE AT PLAQUE PRESENTATION

Raddle Hall as a name then disappears from official documents until after WW2, however the name is mentioned in the following newspaper reports:

Wellington Journal 2 April 1898: Girl (strong & respectable) wanted, thoroughly domesticated, for Rhyl: Apply Mrs F. Davies Raddle Hall Broseley
Mrs F. Davies was the wife of Francis Davies brick & tile manufacturer, by 1901 they were indeed living in Rhyl

Wellington Journal 16 September 1899: a report of an inquest held on Stanley Davies, aged 4 years, who died after being badly burned. His parents were John, a tile-fixer and Sophia Davies; the report names Mr Lane & Mr Rowe as neighbours, intimating the building is now 3 cottages

Following the death of their son John and Sophia returned to Leicestershire the home county of Sophia.

Caldwall Hall in Castle Street, Kidderminster was eventually taken over by the council and demolished in 1961, except for the tower, which was taken into private hands, restored and is now a house.

Janet Doody 29th. November 2022

THE PARISH OF LINLEY in 1885 – taken from Kelly's Trade Directory

Linley parish is 2½ miles south of Broseley and 4 miles north-west from Bridgnorth; it lies in the Wenlock municipal borough, the Madeley union; the county court district of Wenlock and the Hereford diocese. The Severn Valley Railway passes along the borders with Linley station in the adjacent Astley Abbots parish. The church of St. Leonard is a building of sandstone, in the early Norman style, and consists of chancel, nave and west tower containing 2 bells; the entrance is on the south side through an old Norman doorway; the font is very old; The living is a rectory annexed to that of Broseley and held since 1873 by the Rev. George Fleming Lamb M.A. of Oriel College, Oxford. Linley Hall, the former seat of the ancient family of Lacon, is a plain brick and stone structure situated near the church, and in the occupation of Hugh Ker Colville Esq; Lord Forester is both the lord of the manor and the principle landowner. The soil is red marl and clay; the chief crops are wheat and beans. The area extends to 509 acres and the population in 1881 was 83. Letters are received through Broseley, which is the nearest money order & telegraph office, and arrive at 8.00am. The children of the parish attend the schools at Broseley.

Notable residents:

Hugh Ker Colville resided at Linley Hall for only a short time; he was born on 17 January 1847 in Stirlingshire, he married Agnes Davenport of Mear, Staffordshire on 7th December 1876 at St. James Westminster when he stated he was a

barrister. In 1881 they were living at Newhall, Cheshire, he was now a barrister but not in practice and in 1891 the family were living at Bellaport Hall in Norton-in-Hales, a J.P. living on his own means. However, a son Henry George Coulson Colville was born at Linley Hall and baptised at the church of St. Leonard on 29th April 1886; sadly as Capt. Henry G.C. Colville of the KSLI he was killed in action on 22 September 1915 at La Bugne in France. Hugh Ker Colville died on 22 February 1930 at Bowden Hall Upton, Gloucestershire

Charles Broom, farmed at Linley Villa and was born in Stottesdon about 1830, he married Charlotte Trow on 19 February at Broseley and they moved to Linley during the 1870's; Charles died in 1909 Their daughter Caroline, Cassie, was a schoolmistress for a number of years but on the death of her parents took over the small holding, in 1918 she married Frank Davies, Caroline died on 5 November 1925 when they were living at 69 Shirlett.

Benjamin Gwilliam, a farmer, was born in 1833 at Chetton and married Ann Tong/Tongue in 1878; they lived at the Hem Farm, which in 1881 was 135 acres and they employed 1 lad; Benjamin died 16 November 1897; they had no children.

Edward Harper, jobbing gardener: was born in 1820 at Morville to John and Ann; he married Caroline Payne at Willey on 15 July 1844. They lived at Linley Green where they raised their family and Edward worked as a gardener; Edward died in 1900 and Caroline in 1911.

John Norgrove, a farmer of Linley Farm; was born Henry John on 19 July 1860 at Stottesdon; he married Mary Elizabeth Oakley (1865-1930) on 30 January 1887 in Bromsgrove and soon after moved to Linley Farm. John died at Orchard View, Nordley on 29 November 1949

Jabez Rushton, wheelwright & blacksmith was born in August 1842 to James and Sarah at Oakengates; in 1851, aged 8 he had moved to Linley to live with his uncle, Joseph Longmore, the Master Wheelwright and Blacksmith. On the death of his uncle in March 1875, Jabez took over as the wheelwright and blacksmith. He married Emily Martin (1851-1916) on 15 February 1876 at Worfield and the couple raised four children at Linley, Chrissey (1876), Edith Jane (1877), Sarah Blanche (1879) and Joseph Abel (1886). Jabez died in 1914.



LINLEY CHURCH APRIL 2019

Janet Doody 29th. November 2022.

DO YOU KNOW THESE FACES?



BROSELEY SCHOOL c1960

Since the Open Day a number of photographs of Broseley School teachers and pupils have come to light, thankfully a number have all the names on the reverse, as well as the date and occasion. However, there are still quite a few unknowns, and many not going back too far either so help is needed to try and put a few names to these faces. This is the first photograph the children are obviously winners of something, probably, looking at the clothing a sports day c1960, the teacher in the wonderful striped blazer is Mr Miles, can you name anymore?

Please reply to me, Janet Doody at janet.doody27@googlemail.com even if you only recognise yourself or just one name it all helps!

Janet Doody 14TH. Jan 2023

MAILBOX

BLHS Facebook Presence

Broseley Local History Society has now opened its own public Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BroseleyLocalHistorySociety>

Jocelyne Barbier 21st. Dec. 2022

Coalport Ferry Disaster 1799

Hello All,

I'm forwarding a communication to Steve from Mr Bob Herrick who is interested in the Coalport ferry disaster. As you will see he has offered to speak to the society and Neil is following this up. He has also been asked to write a short piece for the newsletter.

"Hi Steve

A group including myself have the aim of providing a Memorial to those drowned in the Coalport Ferry Disaster 1799 (Many of whom are buried in the Broseley Area) We are attempting to regain the momentum we achieved at the 220 anniversary which was lost during Covid.

We are a small group and wish to widen our membership by involving people from other groups within the local community.

Can you suggest anyone from the Broseley Local History Society who would be interested in the subject and wish to join. It should not require any great commitment.

We are currently working our way to finding a location and memorial design before we apply for a Lottery grant.

In an attempt to raise awareness of the disaster I am keen to talk/present to as many local groups as possible. Do you think there may be an opportunity to present to the Broseley group?

Cheers
Bob Herrick"

Contact details for Mr. Herrick can be obtained from Neil Clarke

DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to those members who have indicated they would be happy to have electronic copies of the Newsletter. If there are any other members who would prefer it this way please contact the membership secretary, Janet Robinson, email:

janetc46.jr.jr@gmail.com

Those of you would prefer to have it in its printed form can continue to look forward to receiving it through the post. Many thanks

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<i>Chairman</i>	Neil Clarke
<i>Secretary</i>	Dot Cox
<i>Treasurer</i>	Reha Derici
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