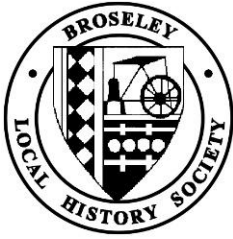


NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



May – 2023

Issue: 57

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.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Mike and Joan Banks (Broseley)
Bob Herrick (Ironbridge)

CONTENTS

	Page 1
BLHS Programme	Page 1
New Members	Page 1
Subscriptions	Pages 1-2
What's On Elsewhere	Page 2-5
Previous Meetings & Events	Pages 5-6
The Parish of Willey	Page 6
Mailbox	
Summer Outing (Shrewsbury Flax Mill)	Page 7
Application Form for Summer Outing	Page 8
Information on Flax Mill Visit	

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

What's On Elsewhere?

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)

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

June 7 – *Guided tour of Newport (Shrops.)*

[Contact Neil Clarke tel. 504135 for further details].

July 1 – *Visit to the Flax Mill, Shrewsbury* (booking form at rear of Newsletter)

Sept. 6 – *Red Church update*, Graham Hollox

Oct. 4 – *The Coalport Ferry Disaster*, Bob Herrick

Dec. 6 – *Annual Dinner*.

Talks from other local groups:

Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum

Nov. 1 – *The Adventurous History of Sabrina Sidney, Kate Croft* (joint meeting with IGMT Friends, Coalbrookdale)

Neil Clarke 24th. April

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Local History News (No146): I always enjoy Alan Crosby's 'front & back' notes, his description of transport in Italy was memorable as Chris & I had a 'great adventure' travelling by train to Venice (from Telford). His comments on the Italian trains that (a) weren't cancelled, (b) ran to time, (c) were clean & comfortable and (d) were remarkably cheap.

I mentioned in the last issue of the Railway Work, Life & Accidents project and looked up any Shropshire references. On Friday 24 March 1922, Edward Sherwood, a GWR platelayer was killed along with 3 others whilst repairing the line at Wilmcote, Warwickshire. Edward was born in Astley Abbots in 1879 and married Ellen Sargent in 1901, the couple lived in Lower Church Street, Broseley before moving to Wilmcote. Edward was in charge of the men when they were hit by a light engine, Edward left Ellen with 8 children. Last year on the centenary the project held an event to remember the men and their families, sadly no-one was traced for Edward. Does anyone have a connection with Edward Sherwood?



GWR Route: North Warwickshire Line - Wilmore Station.
Ex-GWR 4-6-0 No 7926 Willey Hall of the Modified Hall class starts a north bound freight towards Bearley junction from the refuge siding, 15th May 1964

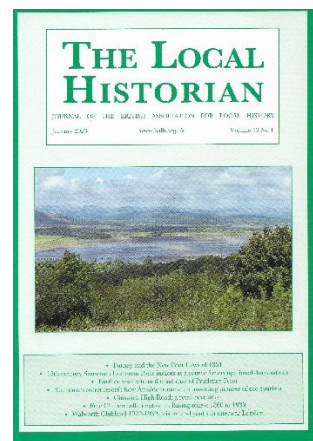
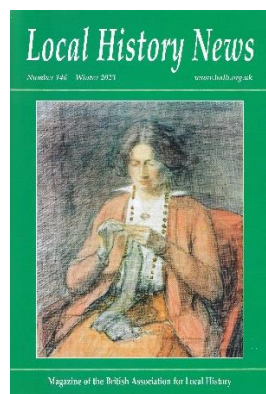
How to write history: posing an interesting debate as to whether a serious or 'jokey/amusing' slant be given to any writing. Depends on the content I suppose, but anyone who reads my own 'stuff' probably guesses that in general, I prefer the latter!

BALH AGM and annual presentation & lecture is via zoom Thursday 18 May 2023, check the website.

The Local History Day for 2023 is to be held in September with a day of talks on 1920's & interwar years; check website for details.

The Local Historian (Vol.53 No.1): amongst the articles is one on Arnside on the river Kent, "Cumbria's secret resort", this was also featured recently on Ben Robinson's 'Villages by the Sea' TV series and a place I intend to visit (sometime!). A comparison of the Chiswick High Street 1936 & 2020 makes interesting reading – perhaps worth considering for Broseley? Just jot down your early memories of the shops in the town then and now! Another is of Walworth, a district of London, and examination of youth leisure/culture between the wars (I said last week history is getting younger!); again, perhaps the same can be done for Broseley?

Book reviews: The Medieval Stained glass of Herefordshire & Shropshire by Robert Walker, (Logaston Press); Researching Local History: your guide to the sources by Stuart A Raymond, (Pen & Sword), reasonably priced at £16.99; Teach Yourself Palaeography: a guide for genealogists & local historians by Claire Jarvis, (History Press), again reasonably priced at £17.99 and could be useful to anyone who has attempted to translate old wills and documents!



Janet Doody 24th. April 2023

PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Part 1 of John 'Iron Mad' Wilkinson

by Richard Sells for the **BLHS Wilkinson Memorial Presentation** 1 March 2023

As a metallurgist I feel that discovering the history of Wilkinson at the BLHS, is rather like discovering a Thomas Telford, Isambard Brunel, George Stephenson, Abraham Darby or even a Lord Nelson or Duke of Wellington for that matter, who has passed under the historian's radar and now deserves his profile, achievements and consequences of his activities raising, so that the full and true history of **benefits** can be recognised. Having said that the Staffordshire Iron and Steel Institute recognised the importance of Wilkinson by presenting a Gold Wilkinson medal yearly from 1966, which was their centenary year.

Anyone who has watched the war documentaries will have seen that battles are not just won on the battlefields with clever tactics but also in our factories which need to out-produce the enemy's factories with more and better goods. A modern example can be seen in the Ukraine being able to defend itself against Russia, because they are supported by the West, otherwise the Ukraine would have been defeated long ago.

After defeating Napoleon at Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington said that winning at Waterloo was a very close-run thing, **so without the benefits JW brought to British industry**, Britain could have lost and we might be 'speaking French' again like after losing to William the Conqueror. Also, Nelson actually said that having copper bottoms on his ships helped them win their battles and of course they had better cannon as result of Wilkinson's improvements. Copper was very expensive, but Wilkinson invested in the copper industry and supplied the first B&W engines to the copper miners and because of their greater efficiency, the

price of copper was reduced, which made copper bottoms more affordable.

This is where Wilkinson comes in, not just to defend Britain but also to increase the wealth and benefits of the country, so that it can also pay for the goods and have the infrastructure to produce what is required. At the same time, it improved the lot of the people, especially with the industry and trade created by the non-conformists of the time. Wilkinson was a Presbyterian and non-conformist, the same as the Quakers, Methodists, Unitarians, Baptists and more.

Non-conformists were a force for good, **that treated business as part of their religion and developed a reputation for fair trading, also they had strong feelings of social responsibility to improve the lives of the ordinary people – ref Dr Chris Upton, Newman University, Birmingham.**

Effectively non-conformists were like the beginning of the Welfare State as well as them creating many successful companies.

Wilkinson is described by Simon Winchester OBE, in his book Exactly, as ‘Father of the Machine Tool Industry that made the Modern World’, which includes the Boulton and Watt LOW pressure engines as well the HIGH pressure steam engines of Richard Trevithick and George Stephenson that revolutionised industry, and the railways that superseded the canals, which had been so successful in their time.

Mathew Boulton said he sold what all men wanted, POWER. By that he meant the power from the B&W engines but of course Wilkinson’s precision tools also enabled Richard Trevithick and George Stephenson’s HIGH pressure steam engines, which were an enormous step improvement due to their greater power, efficiency and being much lighter so that they could be used for locomotives as well as to power factories

Part 1 of the talk also describes:

- how JW rose from quite humble beginnings
- How the non-conformists such as Presbyterians, Quakers, Unitarians, Methodists and others turned the disadvantage not being allowed to attend state schools, universities, study law, be in Government or the Army into the benefit of themselves and Britain.
- Many geniuses are expert in one field, but JW was a three times genius rolled into one as a
- Great leader of men, because he was able to run and administer so many interests

around the country and abroad, including seven ironworks in Britain.

- Great industrialists and entrepreneurs are able to develop factories and products etc. profitably.
- Great inventor of such things as
 - o his machine tools, that revolutionised the making of cannon and engine cylinders, including those of Trevithick and George Stephenson that were to power the World to mention just two benefits. So, he is described as the **‘Father of the Precision Tool’ Industry that made the Modern World. Ref Simon Winchester OBE, author of Exactly**
 - o patenting of the cupola furnace that was widely used all over the World until it came to be challenged by electric furnaces etc. because they were more environmentally friendly.
 - o Steam powered factory plant that overcame the lack of water power, for furnaces, forges, rolling mills machine tools and so on.
 - o hydraulic accumulators to give a steady flow of air to his furnaces or use to store gases, such as coal gas in gasometers from Victorian times.
 - o first iron boat in the World, that led to sea going vessels with greater safety.
 - o even invented humble things such as 10-inch platens to go on horses rear hooves to enable them to drain and cultivate 500 acres of boggy land recovered from the sea by his retirement home Castlehead, Morecambe Bay. It was said he could have bought good land for the same cost, but it also was said Wilkinson must have got great satisfaction from providing work for men and their families.
 - o He farmed 2000 acres of land and had a threshing machine in 1798.
 - o iron water tanks

- Indirectly Wilkinson supported the abolition of slavery through his bother-in-law Joseph Priestly, who was a scientist, Unitarian and member of the Lunar Society with more non-conformists such as the Quaker, Josiah Wedgewood, who printed anti-slavery leaflets and made anti-slavery cameos.
- Wilkinson was an early pension provider for some of his faithful long-term employees, perhaps something unknown then.
- He ensured that Britain had the first iron bridge in the World, when **Abraham Darby III's commitment to build the bridge out of iron was rescinded in a Committee Meeting on 15 May 1776 because they wanted the bridge built out of stone, brick or timber**, then on 24 July 1776, the committee decided to pursue the bridge being made of iron. On 1 October 1776, **Wilkinson and Leonard Jennings sold their shares to ADIII on condition that the bridge would be made out of iron within two years, which tied ADIII into building the bridge out iron and quickly, that's genius. – ref Barrie Trinder Industrial Archaeology Review, Spring 1979.** This left JW free to pursue his many other projects knowing he was going to get 'his' iron bridge that he and Pritchard wanted.
- Having an iron bridge not only advertised the iron industry in the area in the 18th. century but was probably the catalyst that enabled the IGMT to be formed **and Ironbridge to change from a run-down industrial area to an attractive residential area that still brings in an income to the area through tourism 250 years later, after the industry has gone, that's genius!**
- Part 2 of my talk will overlap a little but basically cover the period from 1775 to 1808.

Richard Sells 21st. April 2023

THE ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION OF KEN JONES "LET'S TALK" PRESENTATION on 5th April.

Oral history is the oldest form of recording past events, think Viking sagas and traditional folk ballads, but came to prominence as an academic discipline during the 1950's and 1960's. Ken Jones, founder member of the Friends of Ironbridge Gorge took up the baton at the beginning of the 1970's recording the workers of the Coalport China works. This gradually spread to include other industries of the Severn Gorge together with living and social conditions. This now vast collection is held by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, currently both the tapes and the transcriptions are being digitised, making this valuable resource easier to use and store.

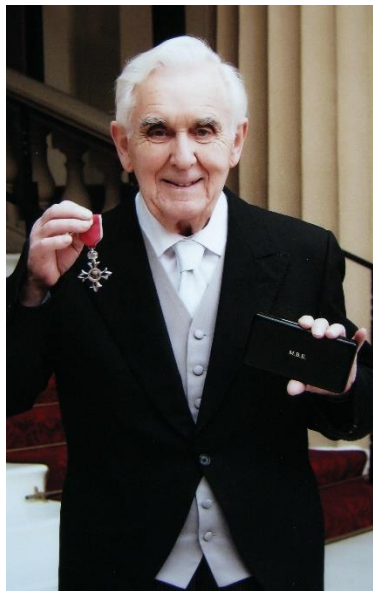
Using a number of the recordings I was able to illustrate both the delight and difficulties of their use, the dialect and often (now) archaic words and phrases together with long lost names can be hard to recognise, even to locals! Joe Pitchford, from Heath Hill was a delight with his wonderful stories and peals of laughter, but with a strong dialect often difficult to understand and transcribe. Eusty Rogers, the famous Ironbridge coracle maker, has many tales of local characters and brought them to life again with tales of poaching.

The Hudson brothers, Norman and Cis from Jackfield, described their grandparent's cottage (Norman) and working at Craven Dunnill (Cis), but my favourite will always be Annie Payne, the last pit bank girl. The hard work of the pit banks carrying boxes on her head, despite which both she and her sister preferred to going into service. Finally, Ivor Southorn told tales of Broseley, living at the Kings Head and working at the clay pipe works, with Ida Bennett explaining the process of tobacco pipe making; and we finished with the video of Clara Bagley making the 'Churchwarden' pipe. This is shown together with a Pathe newsreel narrated by Eamon Andrews (remember him?) at the Pipe Works Museum and I encourage everyone to visit if you can.

Ken Jones' collection is a priceless resource; not only describing the life and times but telling it using a dialect and words that have all but disappeared. The Red Church group is continuing to record but we can all do our bit, we just don't think anyone will be interested in our lives; but think what has disappeared even in the last 50 years, remember the Pools man collecting for Littlewoods, the man from the 'Pru' collecting insurance, the 'Betterware' man!. It is hard to believe for anyone under 25 that during the

1960's very few homes had a telephone, let alone one attached to you like an extra limb!!

A plea, even if you don't want to record anything, then jot down your memories, start with a photo, note the names and relationships or describe your childhood home and friends and games you played! It may bring back events and places you had forgotten.



Ken Jones MBE

Janet Doody 14th. April 2023

ARTICLES

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

Willey is both a township and parish about 2 miles south from Broseley, 4 miles from Much Wenlock and is served by the Great Western Railway from Linley Station. The stone-built parish church of St. John has a tower containing 5 bells and a clock and is located within the grounds of Willey Hall.



Lord Forester of Willey Hall is lord of the manor and chief landowner; the Hall itself is 'a handsome mansion of freestone, in the classic style', in a richly wooded park of 150 acres with a series of fine pools. The population in 1881 was 148; the

children attend school at Barrow. Letters are delivered from Broseley, by foot at 7.15am & 6.45pm and it is also the nearest money order and telegraph office.

Notable residents:

Lord Forester D.L., J.P., Willey Park, 3 Carlton Gardens and White's & Carlton clubs: in 1881 he was the 3rd Baronet, George Cecil Weld-Forester; born in London on 10 May 1807, the Prince of Wales, later King George IV was his godfather. He served both as an Army Officer (Royal Horse Guards) and a Conservative MP. In 1852 and again in 1858/59 he served as Comptroller of the (Royal) Household. George was elected MP for Wenlock in 1828 and served for 46 years and in 1873 was Father of the House. On 8 November 1862 he married Mary Ann Dyce Sombre nee Jervis at Westminster and in 1877 on the death of his brother he became Baron Forester and entered the House of Lords. Lord Forester died on 14 Feb 1886 and is buried at Willey Parish church.

Rev William Henry Wayne B.A. was born in 1832 in Derbyshire; on 18 Nov 1856 he married Eliza Foscett (1832-28 Nov 1891) at Much Wenlock. As Vicar of Benthall the couple were living at Tickwood Hall 1861/1871 and moved to Willey Rectory following William's appointment as Rector in 1878. On 25 July 1898 married Harrietta Amy/Aimee du Venoix Dawson (1863-12 Jan 1949) at Weston-Super-Mare. Rev. Wayne died at Willey Rectory on 17 July 1920; he and Eliza's eldest son, William Henry Foscett Wayne was also a clergyman.

John Brown, farm bailiff to Lord Forester, was born in around 1820 in Fife, Scotland; he married Alison and by 1851 he and his family were living in Lillington, Warwickshire. They moved to Willey around 1857, after the birth of James in 1859 Alison was admitted where she remained until her death on 2 Feb 1903. In 1881 John was living in Bould Lane where he died in 1904.

George Fisher, herdsman to Lord Forester was born in 1849 near Nantwich in Cheshire, where he married Martha Wright in 1869. By 1881 they were living at Willey Dairy where Martha was dairy maid; in 1901 they had moved to Stepside, Stokesay, where George was a farm bailiff and he died 1907.

Edward Goff, farmer at Bould Farm of 165 acres (1881); he was born in 1825 at Wistanstow, and married widow, Mary Callum nee Meeson in 1870. Edward died at Bould Farm on 7 October 1898 and was buried at Rushbury.

John Hinsley was born in 1836 at Neenton in 1867 he married Emma Osborne. In 1881 John and Emma were licensees of the Foresters Arms

(Broseley) but by 1891 had moved to farm Dean Corner Farm and by 1911 had retired to Nordley Bank. John died in 1921.

Herbert (Edward) Monk, farmer of Dean Farm being 65 acres and employing 3 labourers (1881), was born in 1849 at Alvely. He married Susan Bradshaw 11 Nov 1886 at Boningale; he retired to 'Yewhurst', Aveley and died on 5 February 1937 at Acocks Green, the home of his daughter.

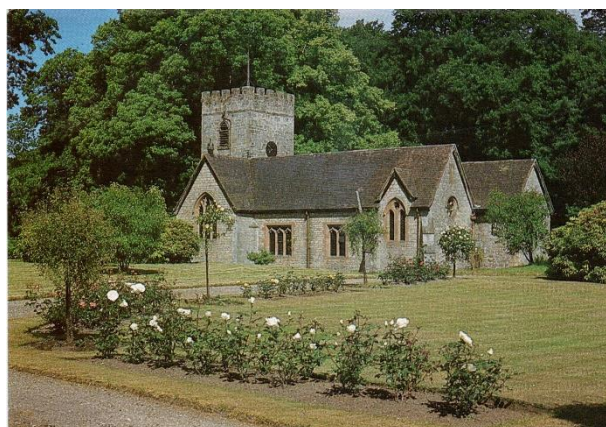
William Morris, farmer, Dean Farm (1891) was born 1851 at Norbury, on 12th. Sept 1876 he married Emily Gwilliam at Cardington and initially farmed near Church Stretton, before moving to Dean Farm he retired to Morville and died there on 10 Sept 1902.

Robert Palmer: steward to Lord Forester, Old Hall
George Powner, wood ranger to Lord Forester, was born in 1823 Trentham on 4 October 1842 he married Ellen Boulton in Staffordshire and they moved to Willey in 1857. In 1881 the family were living at the Mill House, adjoining mill, George died on 15 March 1893

Mrs Esther Maria Price, Lodge Farm of 28 acres (1881), was born Esther Maria Trow in 1806 at Monkhopton, she married Richard Price on 11 November 1834 at Monkhopton. Esther had died in 1882.

Edmund Raby, farmer of Rudge Wood Farm, born in 1806 at Madeley; married Eliza Davies on 6 Dec 1832 at Madeley; by 1851 had moved to Rudge Wood; Edmund (senior) died in early 1881 and the farm was taken over by 2 sons, Hubert, a castrator (vet) and Edmund junior, a cattle dealer.

Edward Richard Thomas, farmer at Bank Farm of 94 acres employing 1 man (1881); born in 1847 at Ditton Priors and married Mary Leighton on 17 May 1876 at Stottesdon. By 1911 he had moved to Bould Farm; Edward died on 16 May 1928.



Willey Church

Mrs M. Palgrave, Much Wenlock W.I.

Sources:

Kelly's Trade Directory 1885

www.ancestry.co.uk

www.wikipedia.org

Broseley Local History Society

MAILBOX

There are no Mailbox items this quarter.

BLHS Facebook Presence

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

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

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@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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To see this Newsletter in full colour, visit the

website at www.broseley.org.uk.

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BOOKING FORM
SUMMER OUTING TO SHREWSBURY FLAX MILL – SATURDAY 1ST. JULY 2023

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE: _____ TEL. NO: _____

MOBILE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NO: OF PERSONS _____ @ £8.50 PER PERSON

Please return completed forms to: Margaret Hazeldine
Email: margarethazeldine@gmail.com
Telephone Number: 01952510736
Address: School House Farm,
Sheinton,
Nr. Much Wenlock
SY5 6DN

We are going to the Shrewsbury Flaxmill on the 1st July.
The cost will be £8 50 each. We will have a behind the scenes guided tour and be able to visit the exhibition.
We are due at the Mill at 10 30.

PLEASE NOTE: NO TRANSPORT IS PROVIDED THEREFORE PLEASE COMPLETE THE BELOW DETAILS:

I / We need transport: YES / NO No, of Persons:

I/We can help with transport: YES / NO No. of Persons:

INFORMATION ON THE FLAX MILL VISIT

SHREWSBURY FLAXMILL MALTINGS

Behind-The-Scenes Tours

Go behind-the-scenes at this iconic landmark of the Industrial Revolution and dig deeper into the past, present and future of building that changed skylines across the world forever. You will be shown around the wider site by one of our trained volunteer guide and taken into some areas the ordinary visitor does not usually get to see! Hear the stories of the site, its history and its people from a knowledgeable guide. Have the chance to stand in the amazing atrium space of the The Kiln. Follow in the workers footsteps as you walk down the original stairs. Visit the Cross Mill and enter an unrestored floor of the building.

Tours are limited to 12 people maximum at a time, so group tours need to be booked at least two months in advance so we can guarantee our volunteer guides are ready for your visit.

Mill Exhibition

The Mill exhibition on the ground floor of the Main Mill is self-guided and brings to life the story of this iconic landmark of the industrial revolution.

With digital and hands-on activities for all ages, walk one of the floors where spinning machines whirred, flax flew and barley was processed for beer to brew. Discover the lives and stories of workers, engineers, soldiers and entrepreneurs who played their part in one of the greatest heritage transformations and regenerations of all time.

From its pioneering beginnings paving the way for skylines across the world, to the campaign to save and repurpose it for future generations to enjoy, you too can now experience the incredible journey of the grandparent of skyscrapers.

It's not so run-of-the-mill.

Turned Wood Café

Turned Wood Café has a highly reviewed vegetarian & plant-based menu. Please note that they are unable to take table bookings, but we can accommodate groups of 20 or less in the Stables depending on availability.

Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, Spring Gardens, Shrewsbury, SY1 2SZ
www.shrewsburyflaxmillmaltings.org.uk