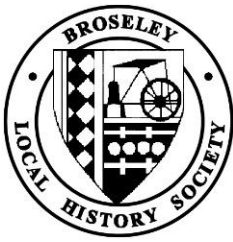


NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



November – 2022

Issue: 55

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.

Dec. 7th. – Christmas Dinner 7:00 for 7:30 pm,
Lion Hotel, Broseley. See Booking form
Included with this Newsletter.

Jan.4 – *The Friendly Midland Red*, Neil Clarke

Feb.1 – *Postcards of the Broseley area*, Ray Farlow

Mar.1 – *John Wilkinson Revisited*, Richard Sells.

Talks from other local groups:

Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum

Jan.18 – *The LTC Rolt Collection*, **Chris Pickford**

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**.

May 18 – *The Walker Legacy*, **Wendy Palin**.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Bill and Ann Jerney (Broseley)

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 received 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)

Local History News has a round-up of the Award winners at Local History Day held at Conway Hall, London in June:

Outstanding Individual Contribution: Cecil Amor, Dorset; Stephen Cove, Cumbria; Martin Green, Warwickshire & Melvyn Thompson, Worcestershire; Melvyn Thompson is from Kidderminster and is involved in the Museum of Carpet in 'Kidder' – has anyone been? I keep meaning to go but haven't managed it yet.

www.museumofcarpet.org. open Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday & Saturday 10.00am-1.30pm

Society Newsletter Award: Chadderton Historical Society

Local History Photographer of the year 2022:

David Moore with his photograph of 'Sandfields Pumping Station', Lichfield

Runner-up: Carol Langford with 'The Posada Pub', Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton

Young photographer:

Madeline Davies, age 14 with 'Druid on the ruins', Shugborough Hall

Runner-up Sophie Poore, age 11, 'Culmstock, Beacon', Devon.



CULMSTOCK BEACON

All photographs are available to view on the BALH website (click on news and scroll down) – though three of the sites are reasonably close enough for a visit!

The Local Historian: once again has a number of interesting articles including 'The Penrith Workhouse, local children, fostering & boarding out 1820-1930'; Investigating the small ads from 19th century newspapers.

There are also a number of book reviews, 'Quakers and their meeting houses' by Chris Skidmore and local to us 'Herefordshire farming through time' by Katherine Lack.

Janet Doody 28th. October 2022

PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND EVENTS

AGM and 50th Anniversary

At our AGM on October 5th, Gillian Pope stepped down as chairman after 17 years in the post. She was warmly thanked for her long service to the society. Neil Clarke was elected as her successor. Joint presidents for the next two years will be Jim Cooper and Margaret Hazeldine. Membership of the committee is given on the back page of the Newsletter.

The AGM was followed by drinks and nibbles to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of our society (as the Wilkinson Society) in 1972, and a presentation was given by Neil of our activities (as the BLHS) over the last 25 years.

BROSELEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY...



... IS CELEBRATING ITS
50TH ANNIVERSARY!

Come and join us at the
Broseley Social Club
(downstairs) on
Wednesday 5th of
October at 7.30pm



IMAGE COURTESY OF Janet Robinson

Neil Clarke 22nd. October 2022

Broseley Local History Society - OPEN DAY –

Saturday 17th of September 2022 at the Victoria Hall in Broseley.

Despite the veil of sadness that covered the whole country that week, BLHS went ahead with the Open Day because it was not only a respectful event to attend but a homage to her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who was such an important part of British history herself. Her portrait was displayed with a lovely bouquet of flowers thanks to Gillian Pope.

All the stalls were displaying historical facts and figures about a part of either Broseley or its vicinities. Around the main room, was a display of James Hurdley's artefacts related to the oldest shop in Broseley with ledgers filled in with a beautiful handwritten scripture, pictures of the shop's displays over the last 70 years, it got people talking and remembering anecdotes. A big success.

Next to it was a beautiful display of All Saints Church artefacts (thanks to Gillian Pope) with a representation of the infamous Kempe window, some framed documents, and many pictures about the church over the years.

Then at the other end of the room, Steve Dewhirst had organised a slideshow about Broseley, and its surroundings and many folks enjoyed sitting down looking and commenting on how things had changed. Next to Steve was a display of pictures belonging to some Broseley families involved with their local history.

On the back wall was the stall manned by Kate Cadman and Adèle Rawlinson. Kate is the curator of the Broseley Pipework's Museum and with the help of a short movie on how clay pipes were traditionally made, people were able to enjoy learning about that craft and its legacy. Around the main room you could find on entrance, the tea/coffee and biscuits station manned by three volunteers who worked

relentlessly all day long to provide refreshments to the visitors, then you would find the Haycop Reserve stall manned by Val Harrison and a friend, with pictures of what was there before the existence of that wild life haven and how it had been transformed over the years; next to it were some board displays of the town of Broseley with its social history (thanks to Janet Doody): cost of life, criminals, shops, manufactories etc. It was well illustrated and very informative. Marcus, a Broseley resident even found his great grandfather on one of the pictures of the fire brigade!

Walking on further, were two stalls: the John Wilkinson stall (manned by Richard Sellers) with lots of interesting and useful documentation about J. Wilkinson, his life and work. Next to it, the History books stall (manned by Neil Clarke) with the presence of Phil Swainson who wrote that fascinating book called "When Europe came to Shropshire / 1942-1950" and many other books about Shropshire, Broseley and its neighbours. On the other side of the room, one could find The Anstice stall (manned by Rita Mannering) with many illustrations about how the building became a hub for Madeley, a truly fascinating story of what is now a roaring success for the Madeley community.

Then you would meet with the stall (manned by Jim Clarke) of Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, this year the display was about the "new bridge known as free bridge" linking Jackfield to the other side of the river. Many plans were available to consult, and it generated a fair amount of interest.

Next to it some Friends of the Red Church were displaying what Graham Hollox and his team had been up to for the last 2-3 years. The Red Church site had been undergoing some transformation in order to make the tombstones visible to the visitors, some conservation work was also undertaken to protect the wildlife within the church yard.

The last of the main stalls was dedicated to the Coalbrookdale & Broseley Bellringers and manned by Darren Swancroft. It raised awareness about the Bellringing activity and allowed people to ask many questions about this ancient skill.

In the middle of the room, several displays were very popular: first Philip Thomas who was representing the Caughley pottery society, his knowledge was just amazing, and many people were trying to get his attention to ask questions. On some tables, photo albums (graciously lent by Gillian Pope for the occasion) were displayed with old pictures of sport or school groups, of various events and happenings in Broseley, it was very

popular with all generations. There was also a table with a small board display of the Shropshire archives and a table full of Broseley real artefacts, amongst which a canon ball from the Civil War. Some people came with personal archives or documentation to be scanned by Steve Dewhirst, all the people manning the stalls felt it was a very busy day but a very enjoyable one because there was enough space to have some one-to-one meaningful conversations and immerse oneself into Broseley's past.



J. CLARKE



J. HURDLEY DISPLAY



JOHN WILKINSON STALL



MARCUS & HIS GREAT GRANDAD



N. CLARKE & S. DEWHIRST



PHIL SWAINSON



PIPEWORKS STALL



R. SELLERS, J. DOODY, G. POPE, & N. CLARKE



RED CHURCH STALL



HISTORICAL SCHOOL PICTURES



ALL SAINTS DISPLAY



BELLRINGERS



BLHS's OWN ARTEFACTS



BROSELEY PAST CRIMES



CAUGHLEY EXPERT P. THOMAS (RIGHT)



HAYCOP DISPLAY

Jocelyne Barbier 30th. October 2022

ARTICLES

1972 ANNIVERSARY MEDAL CELEBRATING 150 YEARS SINCE THE LAUNCH OF THE PS AARON MANBY IN 1822 STRUCK BY THE BLACK COUNTRY SOCIETY PADDLE STEAMSHIP AARON MANBY

The Society's recent 'Open Day & Exhibition' presented the opportunity of reviewing its artefacts; amongst which was this medal, and I couldn't resist finding out more!

PS AARON MANBY was a landmark vessel in the science of shipbuilding being the first iron steamship to go to sea. She was built at the Horseley Iron works, Tipton and was the brainchild of the eccentric but far-seeing naval officer Capt. Napier, who had conceived the idea of a fleet of steamships for service on the River Seine. The ship was named after the master of the Horseley Ironworks, Tipton, Aaron Manby, where she was fabricated to a design jointly formulated by Capt. Napier (1786-1860), Aaron Manby (1776-1850) and his son Charles Manby (1804-1884).

The ship was 120 feet long; her flat-bottomed hull was made of ¼ inch thick iron plate fastened to angle-iron ribs; there was one deck of wood, and a bowsprit and the ship's distinctive profile boasted a single 47-foot-high funnel. The engine was of the oscillating type, designed and patented (British Patent 4558 of 1821) by Aaron Manby. The paddles were of 6 feet radius, but only 2.5 feet wide, because the vessel's maximum beam

was limited to 23 feet for service on the Seine. Defying the prevailing wisdom of the day, the iron hulled vessel not only floated but made 9 knots and drew one foot less water than any other steamboat then operating.

After completion the ship was dismantled in Tipton and sent to London in sections by canal to be reassembled in the Surrey Canal Dock. Following river trials in May 1822, the Aaron Manby crossed the English Channel under Captain Napier's command with Charles Manby on board as engineer and carrying passengers and freighted with a cargo of linseed and iron castings. She reached Boulogne 18 May 1822 and steamed via Le Havre and Rouen reaching Paris on 10 June 1822.

PS Aaron Manby was used for pleasure trips up and down the Seine then on the failure of Napier's enterprise through bankruptcy in 1827 she was sold to a French consortium "Compagnie des bateaux a vapeur en fer", who operated her on the River Loire until she was broken up in 1855.

The use of iron plates for the hull, in place of wood, was widely copied in shipbuilding during the following decades. Napier had conceived the ship as a first step towards an iron warship, and in this sense PS Aaron Manby could be considered a direct ancestor of the Royal Navy's first iron frigate HMS Warrior, that was built in the year of Napier's death.

There is an Historic England Blue Plaque to Charles Manby at 60 Westbourne Terrace, Paddington



PS AARON MANBY MEDAL

Source: www.gracesguide.co.uk

Janet Doody 21st. September 2022

MORRIS DANCING

Members will no doubt be familiar with the various revived groups of Morris dancers in the area but might be interested in the item below that I have recently come across regarding the carryings on of a group of Broseley Morris Dancers at the time of the Commonwealth [1649-

1660] that were detailed in the session records of Much Wenlock. See below:

August 9th, 1652

To the Wor^tfull the Baylife and Justices of the Town and Lyberte of Much Wenlock certifying 'That all we whose names are subscribed Inhabitants of the parish of Astley Abbots doe certifie that upon Munday in Whitsunday week being the 17th of June last past there came a Morris dance forth of the Parish of Broseley with six sword bearers and a rude companye of followers throwe ye whole bodie of this our said Parish being uninvited or desired by anyone within the said Parish that wee doe know of. And coming to Nordley unto the house of Richard Pensham a lycensced ale seller calling for what drinke they pleased left most parte thereof unpaid and nott onely insulted the people of the house butt also all the rest of the neighbors and people there present with som that were absent that have bine approved frendes and servants to ye Parliament of England as likewise Mr. Crowther who desireing them to pay the poore woman for their drinke they there upon presently called her bad names many tymes and in this way misbehaveing themselves in letting their tongues run at large that if there had bine a considerable partye to have mashed them ye is believed ther would have bine a greate fray and blood shed if nott murder committed many of those rude persons haveing borne armes against ye Parliament as will be mad to apeare to your worships.'

Subscribed with our hands ye day and yeare above written

Signed Ams x Crowther
 Geo x Feltom
 Kathleen x Powell

Many other witnesses might be presented butt conceive these to be sufficient.

The leader of them or lord of misrule was William Homes junior; the vice called the lord's son was John Johnson junior.

The most abusive were Thomas Lee sword bearer who formerly and also in ye last service att Worcester bore armes against ye Parliament: John Eavens badger of flanen a revolted Parliament souldier as he confesseth and sayes hee will continue a cavelleire as long as he lives, and William Neve a trayned souldier being upon the states service upon the 7th of October last past was fore-laid upon the high way by the said John Eavens being armed with a very large pike.

Charlotte Sophia Burne (ed)
Shropshire Folk-Lore: A sheaf of gleanings
[London, Trübner & Co 1883]

Alan Tyler 21st. October 2022

BROSELEY 'OLD' BAPTIST CHAPEL

In September I gave a talk on the 'old' Baptist Chapel in Broseley which afterwards generated a lot of, I hope, productive discussion. I tried to show its origins, its founders, some notable and interesting pastors, touching on the community's clashes and controversies, and taking it to the early 20th century.

The building, opened on 21 February 1742 is the oldest continuously used place of worship in Broseley and possibly in Shropshire. Besides the chapel there is an adjoining manse (house), vestry and Sunday School, these buildings, and the land on which they stand was funded by Mr Isaac Wyke. He was born about 1677 at Wacton Court in Herefordshire and arrived in Broseley, with his family probably around 1710, and founded not only the Chapel but a dynasty of local surgeons!

At first the family may have travelled to Bridgnorth to worship but gradually a Baptist community was established in Broseley. Meetings were organised and eventually the decision to build their own meeting house was taken when Isaac purchased several acres of land together with a house. John Waine was appointed the first pastor in 1749 and was said to have been a respected and popular minister with the Chapel becoming a thriving place of worship.

In 1792 Pastor Abraham Webster came to Broseley, little is known of him before his arrival but by the time he left in 1802 he had certainly left his mark. His ministry began well but he became influenced by an itinerant preacher and began to veer away from strict Baptist teachings. A large part of the congregation became dissatisfied and petitioned for Pastor Wester's removal, with the situation coming to a head towards the end of 1801, when, during a service a member stood and announced, "I shall have no more of this trash". In 1803 a new Baptist Chapel at Birch Meadow opened and many of the disaffected congregation moved.

Rev. John Thomas took up his appointment in about 1802 and stayed for 39 years to become the longest serving minister at the chapel. He took over what had now become a very 'dis-united' church; but it was said both John and his wife Sarah were 'truly pious and died servants of Christ'.

Unfortunately, by the 1850's both the Baptist community and its buildings were in a poor state when the Rev. Frederick Hemus, from Donnington Wood arrived. He was well known as a visiting preacher, and he set about raising funds for the renovations and uniting the members. Following refurbishment, the Chapel was re-opened on 10 September 1871 and for a short time the chapel prospered, but by the mid 1870's things once again began to slip. Rev Hemus then resigned and left the district leaving no record and a bit of a mystery!

There is some evidence that he changed his name to Hartshorne, moving to the Bristol area with a new family and where he died in 1903.

The Rev James Gilpin took up his duties on Boxing Day 26th December 1909, originally from Buckfastleigh Devon, he had more recently been a bookseller and stationer in Ironbridge. The community not only gained a new minister, but Gilpin's son Sydney also became the new organist replacing Mr Richard Tonkiss, there is no record of what Mr Tonkiss thought!)

Under Pastor Gilpin attendances grew, both at Church and Sunday School, the first marriage in the Chapel, took place on 3 April 1911 when Sydney Gilpin married Eleanor Atkins. However, all was not well and eventually after long discussions, in January 1912, members asked Pastor Gilpin to finish his ministry. The committee also accepted a proposal to erase the Gilpin family from the church rolls and not allow them to attend services and he was also told to terminate his Baptist Ministry. James Gilpin emigrated to Canada 28 June 1913 followed by his son Sydney and his wife.

Despite, over the centuries, the times of disaffection, disunity, and disagreements with both the Salop Baptist Committee and amongst themselves, the community and its buildings are still here! Whatever faith or none every effort must be made to support this, dare I say it, unique, and beautiful chapel in Broseley.

Janet Doody 28th. October 2022

BROSELEY TILES



TAKEN FROM THE TRADE CATALOGUE

The recent Open Day has given the Society the opportunity to assess its archives and artefacts; the following article is a photocopy that we hold: **BROSELEY TILES: SENTIMENT – AND THE ROOF**
Sentiment plays a leading role in the fashioning of the home. Who does not carry in his mind a picture of a cosy little mossy-roofed house nestling in the deep green foliage of the English countryside? It spells “home”, a warm nook of the world which contains all that is dear. For those whose ambition it is to imitate that old-world mossy roof, the tile is ideal. It vegetates quickly and gives that personal touch, that look of friendliness to a roof. Whether your dwelling be a mansion or a cottage, tiles will give it that air of distinction and restfulness so inseparable from the British home. Exposed as the roof is to the fierce heat of the noon-day sun and the disintegrating frosts of winter, tiles are extremely durable, and will last the lifetime of the home, with comparatively little repair. And it is in the case of repairing, that tiling proves its superiority over other forms of roofing.

Tiles have been a favourite form of roofing for the British home for generations. Their homely and picturesque appearance, their hard-wearing qualities, their winter warmth, and summer coolness, all these qualities have endeared them to the British home-lover.

For hundreds of years our ancestors have recognised these outstanding advantages. Throughout the length and breadth of Britain they built stately old edifices, lasting monuments to their skill, and covered them with tiles. These tiles remain in as good, weather-resisting condition as when they were first laid. They knew the value of tiles, those builders of old. They built not for a generation but for all time.

In many cases these old mansions have been dismantled to give place to more modern structures, but the tiles have been removed and employed in the roofing of the new building to shelter the generations to come. Good tiles last for all time. In a recent repair case at BROSELEY where the roof had to be re-timbered, the tiles have been laid for a third time.

Of all the tiles, those emanating from BROSELEY in Shropshire, are perhaps the oldest and widest known. The success of “BROSELEY” Tiles has not, unnaturally, brought forth a number of imitations, and today we find so called “Broseley” Tiles made elsewhere, but the original old place in Shropshire is still the only place where “BROSELEY” Tiles are made.

While speaking of “Broseley” Tiles we might add that the original makers of “Broseley” Tiles at Broseley, Shropshire is the firm of Messrs. THE

PRESTAGE & BROSELEY TILERIES CO. LTD. Who were established in 1760, and who have for upwards of a century and a half been continuously engaged upon the production of roofing tiles. This firm's hand-made and machine-made "Broseley" Tiles are ideal for the purpose we have just been considering.

Manufactured in the best possible qualities from clay mined from a great depth, carefully selected, weathered, of dense and adamant character "Broseley" Tiles will resist all chemical action of atmosphere, indeed tiles made in these works over a century ago are on buildings today and in perfect condition.

The superiority of the "Broseley" Roofing Tiles is due to their hardness and strength. This is apparent from their ring, which is sharp and clear, fat different to the muffled note given on striking the ordinary tile.

Mention has been made of the durability of these Roofing Tiles. Owing to their hardness, which renders them non-absorbent, these do not laminate or disintegrate with use. Neither time nor frost affect them. They weather well. In fact, the older the tiles grow, the more beautiful they become. They mellow with age and harmonize perfectly with their surroundings. Made in several shades and every taste, the "Broseley" Tiles are much in demand for their picturesque appearance, while the fine quality of the materials used in its composition, the skill employed in its manufacture, all these points render it the ideal roofing material for the British home.

With regard to the Prestage & Broseley Tileries Co. Ltd., it is a very difficult matter, more particularly where one is limited to space, to convey adequately to the reader an idea of the size and importance of this firm, or of the facilities at their disposal. A visit to their works is not only most impressive and interesting, but instructive even to the lay mind. They are old established but essentially modern in every respect, consistent with their principle of moulding clay by hand, being equipped throughout with all the most up-to-date machinery and plant for carrying on the various processes of the industry. They are also well laid out with a view to reducing the internal handling of goods and materials to a minimum. One factor of considerable importance has helped enhance the firm's reputation, is the uniformly high standard of quality which is thoroughly characteristic of all their products. Their tiles and other commodities are known and appreciated everywhere by a large and steadily increasing circle of buyers in every market.

If, however, we carefully analyse the reasons for the development and extension of this concern,

we will probably find the main cause of the success of the undertaking rests principally upon the fact that the management personally supervise every department. This careful and constant supervision and attention to detail eliminates any fear of unsatisfactory work, with the consequence that complaints are reduced to a minimum.

Briefly and somewhat sketchy as this short review is, it will serve to indicate the importance of this long-standing concern, and also give some idea of the scope of the work undertaken.

Taken from "The Country House and Estate"
September 1924

Janet Doody 25th. October 2022

MAILBOX

No letters for this quarter.

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
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Janet Robinson 26 Coalport Road Broseley TF12 5AZ 01952 882495
<i>Programme Secretary and Journal Editor</i>	Neil Clarke
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Mike Wallage
<i>Publicity</i>	Gillian Pope Jocelyne Barbier Janet Doody Richard Sells Kathryn Warren Steve Dewhirst
<i>Website</i>	www.broseley.org.uk
<i>Email</i>	steve@broseley.org.uk

To see this Newsletter in full colour, visit the

website at www.broseley.org.uk.

Christmas Dinner
At
The Lion Hotel, Broseley
Wednesday 7th December 2022
7.00pm for 7.30pm

Please reserve me _____ place/places at a cost of £24.95 per head

Name/s _____	I enclose cheque/payment for £ _____
Address _____	payable to Broseley Local History Society
_____	<u>Please return to Janet Robinson</u>
_____	26, Coalport Road, Broseley, TF12 5AZ
Tele _____	by Saturday 26 th November 2022

Please indicate your choice of starter and main course from the menu below.
Give one tick for each person.

STARTER

MAIN COURSE

Home made cream of vegetable soup with crusty bread _____	Roast Turkey, stuffing & pigs in blankets _____
King Prawn and smoked salmon platter _____	Pork tenderloin, pan fried with blue cheese and Brandy sauce _____
Garlic mushrooms and salad _____	
Deep fried Brie and cranberry _____	Fillet of salmon with cranberry and port glaze _____
Breaded white bait and tartare sauce _____	Three cheese and broccoli bake _____
Melon and fruits _____	Vegetable lasagne _____

A selection of desserts

Coffee with mints