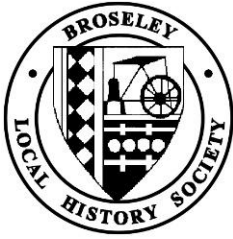


NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



Nov – 2023

Issue: 59

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 following new Members are welcomed to BLHS:

Carl & Robyn Giles
Jenny Baker
Lisa Denholm
Angela Adderley
Simon & Arthur Rees
Malcolm Watkins

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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)

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

News from the British Association for Local History:

The Local History News (148):

Editor Alan Crosby writes a delightful article on opened-topped bus tours, I too enjoy them; they give an overall view of places that may require further exploration. Like Alan, on a visit to Belfast the guide was brilliant in his descriptions. So, when visiting, especially somewhere new, if there's a bus tour do take it; it's almost always worth it.

Newport & District History society has recently celebrated its 40th anniversary and Ludlow History Hub is a new website created to support the town's local history. However, on a less encouraging note Chirk History Society has folded and much nearer home so too has the Wrekin Historical Society that used to meet in St. Georges, both citing a lack of new members. Shropshire Archives has an index to its Salop Fire Office policy books which can be searched via their on-line catalogue. Newtown Textile Museum had an exhibition on Amelia Ray, described as a Victorian 'drapery magnate'; unfortunately, the

BLHS Programme

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

Programme of talks

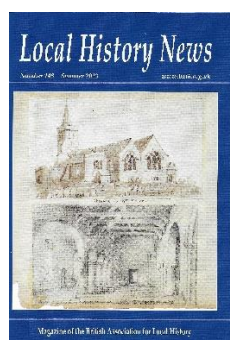
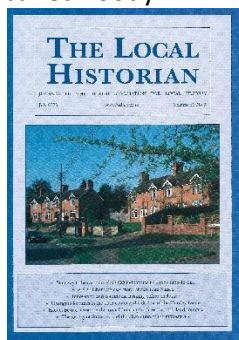
Nov. 1 – *The Adventurous History of Sabrina Sidney*, Kate Croft (joint with IGM Friends, Coalbrookdale)
Dec.6 - Annual Dinner
Jan.3 - *Broseley Church Bells*, Ginette Pardoe
Feb.7 - *The Closure of our Local Monasteries*, Neil Clarke
Mar.6 – *John Wilkinson, part 2*, Richard Sells (Annual Wilkinson Lecture)
Apr.3 - *Old Maps of Shropshire, part 1*, Pat de Haan
May 1 - *Buildwas Abbey*, Jenny Edwards.

Neil Clarke 30th. September 2023

exhibition finished on 30 September with the museum itself closing until May 2024. BUT from their website it looks well worth a visit. The Local Historian (53/3): Once again the academic articles cover a wide range of ages and locations; including the development of council housing, especially during the inter-war years and using three East Midland counties examples. A topic of research in Broseley for someone perhaps?

Reviews of recent publications include: Worfield in the 14th century, translations of the Manor court Rolls in 2 volumes, part 1 covering 1327-1375 and part 2 from 1375 to 1399. And finally in a profile of himself, BALH Trustee Tim Hamilton, describes himself as 'a white male' and his pronouns he/him and they/them – refreshing eh? He is part of the Collections Care & Management Team at the Black Country Living Museum where part of his role is as 'an advocate and activist for underrepresented groups in museum collections'. It's been ages since I went to the Black Country Museum this is now an incentive.

Janet Doody



Janet Doody 6th. October 2023

PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The Red Church – Finding the Stories

The following is a brief summary of the update by Graham Hollox which kicked off the 2023-24 season of talks on 6th September.

He started by explaining that 600+ persons had been baptised and 1200+ persons buried, but no marriages were held there. One burial - of Thomas Booth (bur 1808) - explains the reason, as he had married at the Fleet Prison in London in 1734, a place notorious for clandestine uncontrolled marriages. Such marriages were stopped by the Hardwick marriage act of 1753 which prescribed that they could only be held in a main parish church. Hence, the Red Church, completed in 1767, could not celebrate marriages, the parish church then being St Leonard's Church.

The first burial at the Red Church was of Francis Oaks in 1770. His ancestors include the More

family from Lardon Hall in South Shropshire who were associated with the unsavoury incident in British history when four children in that family were despatched to North America on "The Mayflower" as summarised by Phil Revell (February 2020). A living descendant links to his sister Cornelia, but we have yet to find a link to him. Unfortunately, his grave and any memorial has been destroyed.

The last recorded baptism at the church was George Ball (bap 1839), who became a brickmaker. The Ball family, originally watermen, feature in 16 baptisms and 42 burials at the Red Church. George was the father of Edward Oakes Ball (E.O). He and his cousin Edward William Ball (E.W) are arguably two of the most important influential artists in the local clay-based industries, E.O associated with landscape designs on plates, vases etc for Coalport China, while E.W designs mainly but not exclusively were for tile manufacture in Craven Dunnill and Maws. This painting of the Red Church was a wedding gift in 1931 given by E.W to Alice Anderson who ran the sweetshop opposite his home at the "Tumbling Sailor" in Coalford.



Reproduced with permission of Brian Stamper, Alice's nephew.

One of George's brothers Marcus Ball (b 1855) was a labourer in a brickworks during the recession of the late 1800's and emigrated to the USA in 1881. We doubt whether he could have predicted his subsequent life as a successful businessman in Manhattan. He visited the UK with his wife for the wedding of his niece in 1900 at which time he was presented with a Coalport vase.

A further unexpected story arises from the life of Sarah Love (b1847) the granddaughter of Samuel Love (bur 1827) born in the Jitties, and we are in contact with a relative in Ironbridge. Sarah married John Binks, a fisherman, and their son John William (b1874) became a ship's master with the White Star Line. He avoided the tragedy of the "Titanic" in his postings, but in 1934 was Captain of her sister ship, the "Olympic" involved in a

collision in thick fog outside New York in which eleven of the crew of the Nantucket lightship lost their lives.

It is particularly rewarding when we are able to link a living person to a previously unknown ancestor. Edward Poole was a brickmaker at John Doughty & Son, the company that manufactured the bricks for St Mary's Church. He was interviewed during an inspection of the brickyard by the Children's Employment Commission in 1862. A living ancestor now realises that Edward was her Gt Gt Grandfather and that she can admire his handiwork as well as realise that he contributed in a small way to the reform of child employment. Edward's son John, also a brickmaker, was baptised at the church in 1840. The Beard and Lloyd families contributed nearly 200 baptisms or burials during the history of the church with several intermarriages and stories which can be linked together. Elizabeth Lloyd (nee Beard) buried in 1815 is remembered on a magnificent cast iron vault. TA nephew and niece of hers, William, and Elizabeth Beard, buried at the church in 1799 were victims of Coalport Ferry Disaster. Had they lived, they would have been aunt and uncle to William Beard (bur 1904) who is buried alongside his two wives, Ann (bur 1871) and Elizabeth Lloyd (bur 1899), all being commemorated together in a stone vault. This William (bur 1904) is acknowledged as the builder of the last trow, appropriately named "William." His burial was allowed at a pre-existing family vault in the old churchyard after its formal closure in 1885.

Just east along the riverbank from William's boatyard was the hamlet of "The Werps" between "the Boat" and "Woodbridge" inns, where Joseph Oswell (bur 1831), a china painter, lived with his wife Elizabeth a china burnisher. The Oswell family comprised about 25% of the population in the hamlet. Their son George, baptised at the Red Church in 1825, moved away to East Anglia and his daughter Katherine received the Royal Red Cross for nursing in the Boer War. George's cousin Thomas skippered the last commercial trow on the river, hitting the bridge in Bridgnorth and losing his cargo.

Finally, Charles Davies (bur 1829) has the best-preserved memorial in the churchyard, stating that he "was suddenly snatched away from the arms of a loving wife and seven children." The coroner's report and Alderman Jones' diary tell us that "he fell dead on the parlour floor at the Fox Inn." He was a maltster and his widow and some of the children continued in that business or became butchers and an innkeeper. Later generations moved into a whole variety of trades

- grocers, hauliers, nurse, painters and more. This demonstrates that while Broseley and district had bargemen, iron workers, china artists, brickmakers, all these front-line businesses needed the support from a range of trades. The Davies family is an example of one such family. As is well known, the churchyard has been sadly neglected, but diseased and damaged trees have now been felled and we are grateful to our teams of volunteers working to make safe, clear, and perhaps even find more memorials or graves and to cap the church foundations to make the site more understandable.

Any reader is welcome to contact us if they are interested in more details of these stories or can add to them. We would welcome comments on our plans, help in one of our working groups to improve the site or any stories you would be prepared to share about your ancestors.

The author would like to acknowledge use of Census records from Ancestry, Parish records from FindMyPast, "Alderman Jones' Diary" from IGMT, "Inns and Ale Houses" by B.D.Shinton and "Barges and Bargemen" by B Trinder.

Author: G.Hollox (Summary N. Clarke) 30th. Sept. 2023

The Coalport Ferry Disaster 23rd October 1799 at 9.15pm

A hidden history. Hidden by being book-ended by two larger naval disasters, totalling 589 deaths. Newspaper reports were scant containing 100 to 150 words and hidden in a single column usually in the middle pages, never a headline. The disaster was not discussed in Parliament or included in prominent history books.

The ferry was probably unique in the method used to harness the river's flow to move it from bank to bank. It scribed an arc around an anchor point in the middle of the river by use of a cable or rope anchored on the riverbed and attached at the top of the ferry's mast.

The sequence of events is a matter of speculation. What is known is the river was in spate, the ferry was overloaded, the weather was poor and the operation of taking workers across the river was only eleven days old. The ferry capsized due to an error in steerage.

The following sequence is probably how the capsizing occurred. Some of the passengers (probably the boys and young men) began to rock the boat at the bow end of the boat. The experienced boatman moved forward from the stern to stop the boat rocking, passing responsibility of steering across to a less experienced boatman. This inexperienced boatman allowed the ferry to become broadside to

the flow, the boat was pushed down stream and capsized.

Twenty-eight china workers drowned, thirteen were saved. Nine were under 12 years old, a further eight were between 12 and 18 years. Many were related to others who perished. There were three young girls from the same household, two sisters, a brother and sister and two fathers with daughters.

A group is working towards creating a memorial to the victims in an area close to the disaster site.

Author: Robert Herrick (Submitted by: Neil Clarke)
8th. October 2023

ARTICLES

The Journal's Half-Century

The first issue of our Journal appeared in 1973, a year after the Society (then the Wilkinson Society) was founded. That first issue (seven foolscap-size pages of typescript!) included a 'Notes & News' section, articles on 'King of the Ironmasters' by Wayne Turner and 'The Broseley Home of John Wilkinson' by Ralph Pee, and an extract on the early history of Broseley from J.C. Anderson's 'Shropshire: its Early History and Antiquities' (1864).

We have come a long way since then. We converted to A4 size for No.4 (1976), and I continued as editor up to 1987, the 'Iron Boat Bicentenary Number'(no.15). With my stepping down as a result of a career move, the next two issues of the Journal – No.16 (1988) and, following a gap, No.17 (1995) – were edited respectively by Maurice Hawes and Rex Key, and moved to the present A5 size. I returned to the fold with No.18 in 1996, and have been at the helm since. With the Society being rebranded in 1997, all following issues have been 'The Journal of the Broseley Local History Society' and a new quarterly Newsletter now covered what had originally appeared in the 'Notes and News' section of the Journal.

We have amassed a large body of material over the fifty years since we began. This can be accessed on our web site, where there is also available an index of Journal articles up to No.27 (2005) compiled by Vin Callcut. I have a full set of copies of the Journal and further sets are available in the libraries of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum and Shropshire Archives.

Neil Clarke
(Journal Editor) 30th. September 2023

The Hanging Tree Plaque

Broseley Local History Society has, you may have noticed, placed a number of plaques around the town that identify various buildings and people that have some historical significance to Broseley. Probably the most unusual is the one denoting the Hanging Tree, set in the 'Dead Walls' in Duke Street.

The Hanging Tree Stone was originally on the garden side of the property but around 2013 the owners agreed to re-site it on an outside wall for public view. It depicts a tree together with "rather indecipherable writing" and it seems that its significance has been lost in the mists of time; however, Michael Pope writing in our newsletter of November 2012, stated that trees were used often shown on early maps to indicate boundaries. Some may have also acquired the name 'hanging tree' referring to gallows which were sited on parish boundaries; but it can also describe topographical features, as in a Trade Directory of 1828 referring to Coalbrookdale as 'a winding glen between two vast hills [*poetical license!*] covered with hanging trees.

The plaque, funded by the Broseley Partnership, was cast at Blists Hill by Roger Fewtrell, and unveiled by the Rev. Sue Beverley on a very wintry afternoon in March; accompanied by swirling snow and several inches underfoot; but it didn't stop the party atmosphere and champagne!

Janet Doody



THE HANGING TREE PLAQUE



THE HANGING TREE STONE

Janet Doody 15th. September 2023

Mee's Benthall

'A Church for Charles the Second's Day'

BENTHALL – has a fine viewpoint at Tykes Nest, 400 feet above the Severn; a Tudor hall which was garrisoned in the Civil War but survived with its panelled rooms, carved staircase, and Jacobean ceiling; and a quaint little church built soon after the Restoration. The church is amongst the trees

by the side of the hall, and we come into it by a splendid old door, with long hinges ending in flame-like ornament. There is a Jacobean pulpit with three carved panels, and on the wall is a curious 18th century monument to Ralph Browne with a coat of arm, floral carving urns, and a skull, a small iron grill protecting it all.

Taken from ARTHUR MEE'S SHROPSHIRE – first published in 1939



BENTHALL CHURCH

Janet Doody 24th. September 2023

Random (but interesting) News Bytes

ENGLISH HERITAGE'S LONDON BLUE PLAQUES

English Heritage report that their blue plaque scheme reached an historic landmark in September of this year when its 1000th plaque was installed on Robert Street, Strand. It honours the Women's Freedom League (WFL) form in 1907 with the goal of securing equality for women, starting with the vote.

The Ludlow Advertiser reported on 13 June 1908 that Mrs Emma Sproson, of Wolverhampton, held two 'very successful meetings in the Square, Shrewsbury' on behalf of the WFL. Emma Sproson, herself is an extremely interesting figure in her own right, from poor beginnings to becoming Wolverhampton's first female councillor

NATIONAL TRUST

In April of this year the National Trust purchased MUNSTEAD WOOD, the home of garden designer Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932). Although not yet open to the public; like most garden enthusiasts I can't wait to visit.

Janet Doody 16th. October 2023

Rev. William Arthur Terry and Mrs Rose Elizabeth Terry

Amongst the photographic collection held by the Broseley Local History Society are these two rather splendid portraits are of the Rev Terry, vicar of Benthall and his wife. The Rev William Arthur Terry and Mrs Terry came to Benthall in 1899 and he was the last vicar of Benthall as on his death the parish was united with Broseley. William Arthur Terry was born in York, to John and Annie; he was baptised on 4 Sept 1860 at St. Olave's church, Marygate, York. William was part of the Terry family, confectioners of York, the founder of the company, Joseph Terry was his grandfather.

Initially William appears to have followed into the family business, being listed as a confectioner on the 1881 census, however on his marriage certificate a little later in the year he stated his occupation as that of an engineer's clerk. William married Rosa Elizabeth Phillips on 22 Nov 1881 at St. Jude's, Grays Inn, her father was an engineer and she had been born on 10 Dec 1861 in Grantham.

In 1890 William became a student at Chichester Theological College; his first curacy was in St. Albans, followed by North Weald, Gillingham, Warboys, Cambridgeshire and then Meltham, Yorkshire. In 1899 William was appointed as clerk-in-charge at Benthall Parish and the Wellington Journal on 4 November 1899 reported:

"Farewell Sermon: The Rev. Thomas Pinches, curate in charge, preached his final sermon at the parish church on Sunday. The Rev. gentleman has been in charge about 10 months during which period he has made many friends. He was kind to the poor, who will miss him very much, failing health has compelled him to give up the living and he will be succeeded by the Rev. W. A. Terry."

In 1902, on Whit Sunday, after the prescribed "reading of the Thirty-nine Articles" the Rev. William Arthur Terry was appointed Vicar of Benthall. He and his wife became fully involved in the community, Girls Friendly Society, Schools and Sunday schools, Mother's Union, and the Madeley Board of Guardians.

The couple first lived at Ladywood House (1901); then in 1902 moved to Benthall Vicarage, formerly Coppice House, where the Rev. William Arthur Terry died on 2 February 1931. On his death Benthall parish was joined with Broseley; Mrs Terry continued living at the property and taking a full role in the community until her death on 30 July 1941.

Janet Doody



Rev. William Arthur Terry



Mrs. Rosa Terry

Janet Doody 16th. October 2023

BENTHALL PARISH in 1885

Benthall is both a township and a parish, the Severn Valley railway runs along this northern boundary with its station called Ironbridge. The area is 825 acres and the population in 1881 was 450. The soil a mixture of clay and gravel and the minerals are limestone, ironstone, and coal; the chief crops are wheat, barley, and beans. Letters are received by foot through Broseley, which is also the nearest money order & telegraph office. The parish school is for 80 boys and girls, with an average attendance of 60, **Mrs Annie Shaw** is the school mistress; she was born in 1838 in Renfrewshire, Scotland, on 5 April 1866 she married **Thomas Shaw**, farmer of Benthall; following the death of Thomas in 1897 Annie moved to Pontesbury.

The "new" church of St. Bartholomew was erected in 1667, the previous church having been destroyed during the 'Great Rebellion' when Benthall Hall was garrisoned for the King'. The minister is the **Rev. Thomas Talbot Day** of Cambridge & the University of Rostock; he was born on 13 July 1826 in Birmingham, he came to St. Bartholomew's in 1878; he moved to Thwaite, St. Mary, Norfolk in 1892, where he died on 21 March 1898. Benthall Hall is an ancient structure erected c1583 in the Gothic style and is currently the home of **George Maw**, of Maw's Encaustic Tile Manufactory.

Mrs Fanny Green Burton of Bridge House, widow of John Burton, brick manufacturer; was born 21 August 1851 and married John on 26 October 1876, she died 28 April 1932 in Ontario, Canada **Harry Bagnall**, farmer of The Mines; was born 28 December 1831 in Liverpool; he married Elizabeth Price on 6 June 1871 at Willey and died in December 1891 (buried on 16 December at Benthall). Elizabeth and son Edwin continued to farm at 54 The Mines until at least 1911.

George Gother, cabinet maker, carpenter and joiner of Bowyer Yard was born in 1818 (baptised at Benthall 30 August); on 31 March 1869 he

married Jane Reynolds (1839-1924), George died in 1901.

Warren Taylor Jones, municipal relieving officer of The Coppice House, born 1821; married Sarah Corder Hayward on 2 January 1861, died 24 March 1888.

Joseph Oakley, farmer at Benthall Farm was born in 1835 at Upton-on-Severn, he married Ellen Bowen on 1 Sept 1874 in Derbyshire. They came first to Linley Farm, then to Benthall Farm; Joseph died on 7 March 1909 and his son Joseph Bowen Oakley took over the tenancy.

Mrs Ann Roberts, widow of the New Inn, born in 1828, died 1899 and was buried at Benthall

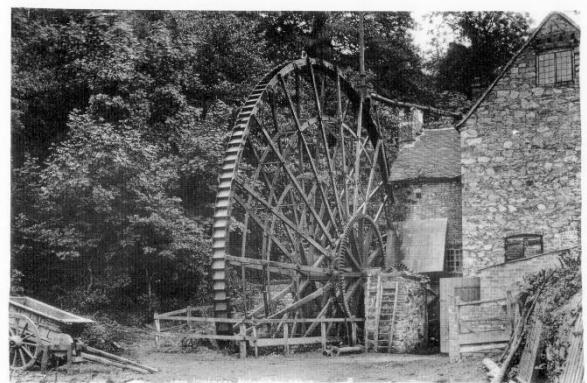
John Rose of the Leopard, veterinary surgeon, and inspector under the Contagious Diseases (animals) Act for Much Wenlock Borough was born in 1858 in London; he died on 5 September 1925 in Much Wenlock.

Thomas Watson, farmer of Benthall Lane, was born in 1809 in Ainsdale, Cumbria and was at 'White Hill' Benthall by 1851; he died at Benthall in February 1896

William Allen of the Benthall Pottery Co., employing 35 men, 16 women and 4 boys (1881), was born 1841, on 2 May 1865 he married Julia Caroline Lopez at Wednesfield, and died 22 November 1907

William Southorn & Co, Raleigh tobacco pipe works; one of the largest factories of its kind in England

Thomas Howells Thursfield of Barrow, owner of the steam and water corn mill that has an over-shot water-wheel with the unusual diameter of 60 feet.



BENTHALL STEAM & WATER MILL

Janet Doody 17th. October 2023

MAILBOX

There is no Mail for 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.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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Christmas Dinner
At
The Lion Hotel, Broseley
Wednesday 6th December 2023
7.00pm for 7.30pm

Please reserve me _____ place/places at a cost of £25.95 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 25 th November 2023

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 GF

King Prawn & smoked salmon platter ,GF _____

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
GF _____

Breaded white bait and tartare sauce _____

Three cheese and broccoli bake _____

Melon and fruits GF _____

Cannelloni, spinach & ricotta _____

Please indicate if you require a Gluten Free meal and Gluten Free gravy.

A selection of desserts

Coffee with mints