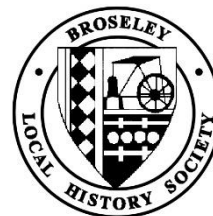


# NEWSLETTER

## Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



May - 2020

### MEETINGS

**Meetings of the Broseley Local History Society are currently on hold due to the Covid Pandemic.** As and when the situation changes you will be notified.

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,

Events below are organised by **Much Wenlock U3A** and will all be held in the **Priory Hall at 2:00pm**, visitors are welcome:

Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. – **Peter Dunhill: Shrewsbury Flaxmill**

Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>. – **Alwyn Hughes: The Making of Lake Vyrnwy.**

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unless otherwise announced.

### BLHS PROGRAMME

Programme for Summer / Autumn:

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to the current restrictions it is uncertain whether any of these items will actually be able to take place but they are included for information purposes

June 10<sup>th</sup>. - *Summer Walk (Leader **Steve Dewhirst**).*

July 4<sup>th</sup>. - *Annual Outing: Coventry (CANCELLED).*

Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>. – **Jim Cooper, The Shropshire Banking Fraud of 1855**

Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. - **AGM and Keith Robinson, John Wilkinson's Trade Tokens**

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. – *Annual dinner.*

### What's On Elsewhere?

All the below are organised by **The Friends of The Ironbridge Gorge Museum** -

#### Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. 2020

Diana Clarke, *Joseph Anstice, and his Circle* (joint meeting with IGM Friends)

### NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Ian & Lesley Ralston. Broseley

Colette McCabe. Broseley

Jude Morris. Broseley

Judith Edwards. Broseley

Brian & Margaret Allaway. Broseley

Yvonne & Peter Hughes. Broseley

Carol & Phil Danny. Sherriffhales

### SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Janet Robinson would like to remind members who have not paid their annual subscription since the Annual Meeting last October that the cost of membership is £7 for single membership and £12 for double membership. Could you please let Janet have your payment as soon as possible.

## Obituary

### The Reverend Michael Pope



It is with great sadness that we report the death of Michael on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Around a year ago he was diagnosed with cancer and underwent a course of palliative chemotherapy, which extended and added quality to the final months of his life. Michael had a very positive attitude towards his illness and the fact that he was not going to recover. This greatly helped his wife Gillian and their daughters Helen and Caroline to come to terms with his illness and ensure that the remainder of his life was filled with happy times. Unfortunately, his death came during the first weeks of the “lockdown” and the family were unable to hold the funeral service, which he had written before his death, in All Saints’ Church, Broseley. Instead, a service was held at Telford Crematorium, which incorporated some of his wishes, and the intention is to hold a Thanksgiving Service in the Church, when circumstances allow.

Michael was born in Hereford and went to Hereford Cathedral School alongside his twin brother Brian. It was while he was doing National Service in Aden that he decided that he wanted to be ordained into the ministry of the church. Michael trained at Salisbury Theological College and his first curacy was here at All Saints’ Church, Broseley. It was while he was in Broseley that he met Gillian. They married and moved to St Giles Church, Shrewsbury, for his second curacy. He was then made Vicar of St Georges Church Shrewsbury and, during the ten years that he was there, their two daughters were born. In 1979 he was offered the Parish of St Lawrence’s Church, a beautiful Norman Church located in Gnosall, Staffordshire.

Michael retired in the year 2000 and he and Gillian returned to live in Broseley. Throughout his life Michael had been interested in history, particularly local history and, in November 2001, he joined the Committee of Broseley Local History Society,

remaining on the Committee until October last year, a long stint! He contributed much to the Society, organising the annual outings, and giving several presentations about people in history who had greatly contributed to the life and development of Broseley. He also wrote a leaflet about George Pritchard, to whom, St Mary’s Church, Jackfield was built in memory of all he had achieved for the people of Broseley and the surrounding area.

Just before his death, Michael completed a booklet about the History of All Saints’ Church, and he was delighted to get to see the final printed version in the week before his death. A copy of the booklet is included with your posted newsletter. In due course, the booklets will be available to purchase in various venues around the town.

Michael loved gardening and, for a great many years, he was very involved with Broseley in Bloom, sitting on the committee. He was particularly supportive of the Town’s entry into the Heart of England in Bloom competition and contributed much to Broseley’s success, with the town one year winning a Gold Award in the small-town category.

For several years Michael and Gillian also opened their garden for the Shropshire Historical Churches Trust, each time raising over £1000 for both the Trust and All Saints’ Church.

In his retirement Michael was kept very busy helping out with various services at the churches in the area. For several years he took regular services in the Telford area and helped with services in the Broseley Group of Parishes, particularly during the long interregnum between the departure of The Rev’d. Sue Beverly and the arrival of The Rev’d Christopher Penn.

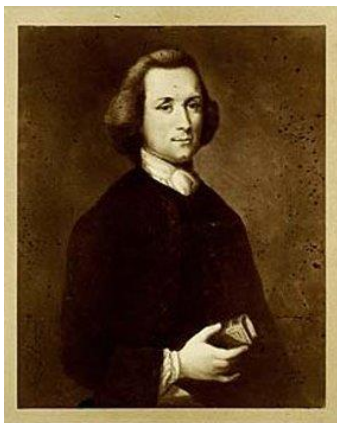
Last year Michael and Gillian celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, a special occasion spent together with their children and grandchildren on a family holiday.

Michael will be greatly missed, not only by his family and friends, but also by the many people and organisations with which he was involved.

## Previous Meetings

### Short report on the Annual Wilkinson Lecture

Our Annual Wilkinson Lecture is always based on the theme of the life and work of John Wilkinson, or one of his contemporaries, or the time in which he lived. Diana Clarke has given three previous annual lectures – ‘The Spirit of the Age: ideas and movements of the 18th century and John Wilkinson’ (2002), ‘Perceptions of the Industrial Revolution’ (2007), and ‘Joseph Priestley and the Wilkinsons’ (2012). In this year’s annual lecture – ‘The world turned upside down’ – Diana outlined Joseph Priestley’s radical Enlightenment views and his support for the revolutions in America and France. Priestley, John Wilkinson’s brother-in-law, was a polymath – a renowned scientist, philosopher, teacher, preacher, and writer. But he alienated the Establishment to the extent that he had to flee to America in 1794, never to return to this country.



Joseph Priestley (Leeds)

An edited version of the lecture, including a selection of the contemporary cartoons which proved so popular with the audience, will appear in the society’s journal later this year.

### Neil Clarke

#### **The Mayflower Children**

At the February meeting of the Broseley Local History Society we enjoyed a very detailed talk about the Mayflower Children, given by Phil Revell, who has researched the subject in much detail. It was an appropriate subject for the date as it was virtually to the day that the children set off on the Mayflower 400 years previously. Their mother, Katherine, married Samuel More, when he was aged 17 and she was 25. This was an advanced age for a woman to get wed at the time, and a big difference in age. It appears that it was a marriage of convenience, since her father, Jasper More, had built an extension to his house which he could not afford, and Samuel’s father, Richard

More, was a wealthy man and this arrangement paid Jasper’s expenses and kept Larden Hall and the land belonging to it in the family. Katherine had been betrothed to a local yeoman farmer, Jacob Blakeway, before becoming Samuel’s wife and normally this would have taken precedence, but in this case the arrangement was overlooked as there were no living witnesses. In Broseley we have the name used and there is a connection with a Blakeway and Broseley Hall. The children were born at Larden Hall, Elinor in 1612, Jasper in 1613, Richard in 1614 and Mary in 1616, the two boys being named after their grandfathers. An old document, authenticated, vouched for their births as, although they were baptised in Shipton Church, there are no records of this.

In 1616 the children were abducted from their home; this being organised by Samuel as he suspected the children were not his but Jacob’s. There ensued protracted efforts on Katherine’s part to get the children back. She failed in this endeavour and Samuel was declared their father. He, however, wanted rid of them so they were put on board the Mayflower aged eight, seven, six, and four as indentured servants to three of the principal backers of the ship. Only one of the children survived after they landed near Boston, Richard, who went on to enjoy success as a ship’s captain, owning his own boat, and had a long life, dying at the age of 81. His gravestone in Salem is the only marker for the Mayflower passengers. This very local connection with the voyage of the Mayflower has a somewhat complicated history and a sad ending, with four abandoned children suffering for the actions of their parents. Larden Hall was demolished in the 1950’s.

**Phil Revell 14<sup>th</sup>. February 2020**

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## Articles

### **BOXING TOURNAMENT AT BROSELEY**

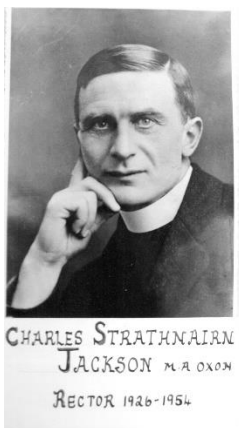
Boxing during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century at a local amateur level appears to have been extremely popular as this report from Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1932 illustrates.

*A benefit boxing tournament was held on the Broseley Cricket Ground on Monday before a large crowd. Each bout was of an interesting nature, and keen interest was taken in the six rounds exhibition between HARRY EVANS of Shrewsbury and HAL GOODALL of Jackfield, when some delightful boxing was seen.*

*In a four rounds contest YOUNG DODD (Broseley) out pointed YOUNG BUFTON (Little Wenlock) after a hard set-to. Young CIS HILL received the referee's decision in what might have been one of the best fights of the evening against young JOHNSON of Madeley. Both boys warmed up to their work from the start, but were over-anxious, and had to be spoken to by the referee at the beginning of the second session. The second round was a stirring one, with JOHNSON gaining ground, but towards the end of the round he was disqualified for hitting low.*

*A sporting bout by the OAKLEY NIPPERS earned great ovation from the crowd, as also did the contest between young REEVES and NORMAN OAKLEY, which ended in a draw. A splendid contest was that between young ERNIE JONES, a local boy and young SID GORING of Ironbridge. This was a very fast fight, with JONES always keeping the upper hand. He hit more solidly and dropped GORING for a count of five in round two. JONES received the verdict on points after a very good fight.*

*The referees were Mr. WALTER RICKERS (Madeley) and Mr HARRY EVANS (Shrewsbury). Mr. C.V. DAVIS was M.C. and Mr. J. BEAMAN, timekeeper. The committee and members of Broseley Cricket Club gave good assistance in the arrangements. The Rev. C.S. JACKSON (Broseley) addressed the spectators and spoke of the cause for which the tournament had been organised. Mr. JACKSON said that he hoped there would be many more tournaments organised in Broseley, as they had an ideal place for it, adding that any sport which brought people into the open air for a couple of hours, and gave such enjoyment should be encouraged.*



Does anyone have photographs of any of the mentioned pugilists or remember their achievements?

Janet Doody

## **BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY - NEWS**

Not unexpectedly the Local History Day and AGM have been cancelled; I was looking forward to representing our society again and also taking the opportunity for a bit of London sight-seeing – there's always 2021 we hope!

VCH Red Boxes – the Victoria County Histories, the big red books available for the “home” county in almost every library and record office; they are usually the first port of call for any local history research. Last year the VCH set an interesting challenge to counties, to tell the story of your county in a collection of objects that would fit in an A4 box file! This opened the door for many ‘quirky, imaginative and surprising’ ideas; these boxes can be viewed in an online gallery at [www.history.ac.uk](http://www.history.ac.uk), the Shropshire box contains, linen flax (Ditherington Mill), a piece of sheep fleece (wool trade), limestone, a model of the Ironbridge (in iron), a gingerbread box (Market Drayton) and Darwin's book “The Origin of Species”. What would be put in a Broseley box? How about this for starters: Broseley roofing tile, encaustic decorative tile, clay pipe (of course!), ideas anyone?

In the sister publication “The Local Historian” an interesting opinion is put forward by William Evans of Gloucestershire Archaeological Trust on the end of local history and the local historian. His premise is that local history depends on local differences under a central power and that these differences are being eroded by globalisation. Heavy going? Well just think about our large town High Streets (what's left of them); at one time you could tell the area of the country you were in from the architecture, but multinational branding has reduced retailers at street level to uniformity (everywhere looks the same). Dialects too are gradually being diluted, I remember Dawley having a very distinct accent to Madeley and anyone researching the 19<sup>th</sup> century census returns recognises odd spellings of “foreign” names, my 4 x great grandfather came from Blocksidge (Bloxwich) to Broseley in the 1830's! Doom and gloom - but is he correct or underneath the general “sameness” is local diversity thriving? The forgotten decade – the 1920's or any time between the wars, little research has been done on this period at local history level perhaps – food for thought, history marches on!

In this time of lockdown take the opportunity if you can of checking out the BALH website there is some interesting stuff!

**Janet Doody**

## Mailbox

Received from **Al Blow** (Canada) via **Steve Dewhirst**

One author of Oldham's coal mining history wrote, to paraphrase: "Two Welsh labourers, John Evans and William Jones, arrived in Oldham circa 1770..." Both became major players in the development of Oldham's coal industry.

For all of that, finding any history involving John Evans has been a real test of perseverance over the last number of years. What was clearly apparent was that the arrival of John Evans at Oldham much more likely occurred circa 1790.

Thus, it was a revelation when a Google search finally led me to a publication by your society in 2001, where on page 3 is listed the hiring of both John Evans and William Jones of Broseley at Worsley, Lancashire in June of 1784. Also hired was Thomas Evans in June of 1784, Richard Evans in Dec of 1777, and George Evans (whom I believe to be my 4th G. Grandfather) in April of 1787.

To the best of my ability, I believe John Evans married Ann Glover in 1770 at Broseley. Two of his sons, George b1771 (not my grandfather) and Edward b1773, ultimately took over "John Evans & Co." Under the stewardship of Edward Evans, Edward's son, it became "Evans, Barker and Co." a major coal mining concern in Oldham and area by the the 1840s. The expertise that both John Evans and William Jones brought to Oldham was in "long wall" mining, which, I understand, was uniquely developed at Broseley/Madeley.

My grandfather, George Evans, married Letitia Reeves in 1789 at Madeley, and first appears in the Oldham parish registers with baptism of their daughter, Betty, in 1792.

## 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:

[janet46.jr.jr@gmail.com](mailto:janet46.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.

Both my grandfather, George, as well as John's sons, George, and Edward, were involved in the construction of the Standedge Tunnel on the Huddersfield Canal between 1794 and 1798. My 3rd G. Grandfather, John, was baptized Dec 23, 1797 at St. Bartholomew, Marsden, "son of George Evans, miner, of Red Brook".

Trying to pin down exactly who was who, who was married to who, who was related to who, when working with the "Evans" surname in the Broseley and surrounding areas has been a challenge!!!

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<i>Chairman</i>	Gillian Pope
<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>	Jennie Osborn Jocelyne Barbier Jim Cooper Janet Doody Richard Sells
<i>Website</i>	Steve Dewhirst
<i>Email</i>	<a href="http://www.broseley.org.uk">www.broseley.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:steve@broseley.org.uk">steve@broseley.org.uk</a>

To see this *Newsletter* in full colour, visit the

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