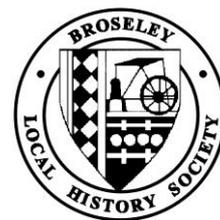


NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



FEBRUARY 2016

MEETINGS

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

Members are requested to be seated by 7.30pm to allow our speakers a prompt start.

Visitors are welcome but are asked to give a donation towards Society funds.

PROGRAMME

- 2 Mar *Annual Wilkinson Lecture; Thomas Turner's Transport Requirements at Caughley* by Neil Clarke
- 6 Apr *Anglo Saxon Shropshire* by Shelagh Hampton
- 4 May *Reliving the Past* by Glyn Bowen
- 1 Jun *Summer Event* to be confirmed
- 2 Jul *Annual Trip* to be confirmed

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Jennifer Alexander, Jackfield.

Prof. Michael A. Fullen, Jackfield.

Colin & Sue Mattock, Broseley.

John & Elizabeth Boydell, Ironbridge.

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The trackbed of the Severn Valley Railway crosses the road at the foot of Tarbatch Dingle (see mailbox page 8).

Picture courtesy of [Richard Webb](#)



Previous meetings

At the annual joint meeting with the Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum, held at Coalbrookdale in November, Graham Hollox gave a talk entitled, *John Doughty and Son – The story of a brick and tile manufacturer*. Graham's interest in this company and the social history of its times arose as his home at The Woodlands, just off the Calcutts in Jackfield, is built on the manufacturing site occupied for over one hundred years.

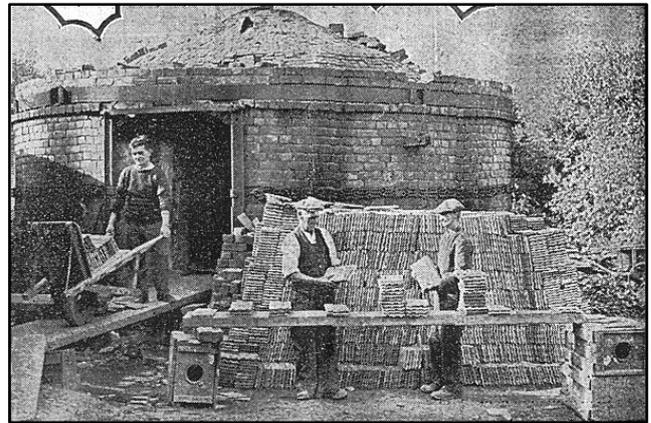
In 1800 Theophilus Doughty was born into a family of bargemen who, for generations, had made their living by transporting goods and people on the River Severn. At around this time the local iron and coal industries were beginning to decline due to decreasing local resources and lower production costs from new companies in Staffordshire and further afield. The result of this decline was that there were fewer goods to be transported on the river. New faster and more reliable transport methods in the form of canals and railways as well as seasonal limitations on the river also meant reductions in freight.

Theophilus realized that he needed to pursue other ways of making a living and decided to move into brick and tile manufacture. He leased the site at Jackfield and is shown in the 1851 census as a Brickmaker, employing 10 men. He still retained his barge so it is possible that he was transporting his own goods, thus saving costs.

Theophilus died in 1857 and is buried in the Churchyard of All Saints, Broseley. After the death of their father, his sons John and George became equal partners in the business, however, within 2 years, the partnership was dissolved. The fortunes of the company were very much entwined with the social history of the town and those times. John Doughty developed the company to become very profitable as a result of expanding markets for their products in civic buildings and railways during the Victorian era.



The Woodlands. A modern housing development on the former site of the Doughty Brick and Tile Works

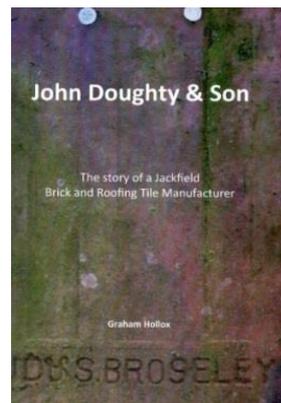


A Severn Valley tile works showing workmen sorting roofing tiles.

In common with most industries, working conditions, particularly for children, were hard. In the latter part of the 1800s the output from Doughty's was less than some of its competitors which would suggest that its wares were still handmade. Other larger manufacturers had mechanised their processes by this point and had a far greater output. The Doughty family had become wealthy from their business dealings and were pillars of and benefactors to the local community, for example, giving the bricks and tiles to build St Mary's Church in Jackfield.

Theophilus's grandson, Thomas succeeded John in running the company. Around 1900, he invested heavily in a major mining venture, but competition, World War I and recession led to the failure of the company. By 1939, the same fate had overwhelmed all other similar companies which had played such a major part in the economy of Jackfield and Broseley for over a hundred years. The mine on the hillside above Jackfield was built on land known to be unstable certainly in 1728. It is possible that flooding subsequent to the mines closure could have been a contributing factor to the destruction of a large part of Jackfield in 1953 and the need for the Jackfield stabilisation project now nearing completion.

Graham still has a few copies of his book on the subject available for a donation of £5 to funds of St Mary's Church. Contact - grahamhollox@sky.com



John Doughty's children dedicated a window in St Mary's Church to their parents. The window has sadly been vandalised and £3500 is needed for its renovation. Any contributions would be greatly appreciated. Please contact richardwilkinson@aol.com for more details.

Christmas Dinner

In December the Society held another successful Christmas dinner at the Lion Hotel, after which Jim Cooper once again entertained members with excerpts from the weekly *Salopian Telegraph and Border Review*. This paper, which was published in Shrewsbury in the early 1840s, had as its motto "Truth against the World" and obviously regarded itself as the upholder of the district's morals, albeit very much tongue in cheek.

One of their most delightful expressions was the 'Nymphs of the Pave', those ladies of easy virtue who lived in the area. One such was Twopenny Molly who was spotted conducting some 'legal conveyancing' with a certain gentleman known as the Derby-Ram. This gentleman apparently was actually Bailiff William Liggett from Derbyshire, who was very conversant with legal business and conveyancing, but not normally that conducted in the street.

Another report was of a certain dealer in black diamonds (the coalman to you and I) who was in the habit of regularly attending a Miss Selman's establishment. One night he was discovered, on his knees, in a cupboard. Asked what he was doing in a place of such questionable repute, he said he had come to pray for the inmates of the house, and that "his only motive for concealment was to prevent his extraordinary religious zeal coming to the ears of his wife and family". Believe that if you will!

Meanwhile, another member of the community was warned that if he did not stop visiting a certain shop, someone would have a word with his wife's mother and advise her to "wait on this worthy with a good oak plank". Obviously a mother-in-law to be respected!

Over in Donnington Wood, Joe D was warned that the next time he went to Hatfields he should make sure "not to be caught with his unmentionables down", along with Mr Hatfield's daughter Miss H, for which misdemeanour he had acquired a black eye. Arriving back home he was quick to explain to his wife that he had been minding his own business in the White Horse when a young man had come up and struck him for no reason at all!

While much of the reporting in *The Salopian* was tongue in cheek moralising, it could also be a little salacious at times. A certain Mrs H of Oakengates, known as the Ugly Queen, was bargaining with a countryman for a fowl. As she was agreeing the



Members enjoying the Christmas meal at the Lion Hotel

price, she lifted the fowl to her nose and sniffed its rump end, remarking that it "smelt a bit musty". To which the pithy reply was "So would you, mistress, were I to hold you up, and smell you in the same part."

Over in Ironbridge four young ladies were way ahead of the age of internet dating, when they advertised for four bachelors aged from 22 to 30. Application was to be made either personally or by prepaid letter and only those well recommended need bother. We hope they got some satisfactory replies.

Finally a bit of black humour when *The Salopian* advised people wanting good manured ground to apply to a Mr Wrong-breeches. This gentleman apparently guaranteed treble crops when using this manure as it was from the parish churchyard and contained the decayed bones of people's ancestors. However, his claim that it was ideal for producing "the most beautiful flavoured potatoes" did not go down well with the gentlemen of Broseley. Less worried about the ethics of using such material than that it would lower the price of potatoes too much, they formed a committee to force him to take the manure back to the churchyard. A case of pragmatism rather than moral principles!

So ended a delightful evening with thanks to Jim for sharing his research into the goings on of the 'nymphs of the pave' and their clientele.

Copies of The Salopian Telegraph are available on microfilm at Shropshire Archives. They are well worth looking at, not only for their social comment, but for their delightfully biting wit and telling innuendo.



Members enjoying the Christmas meal at the Lion Hotel

Salopian Art Pottery

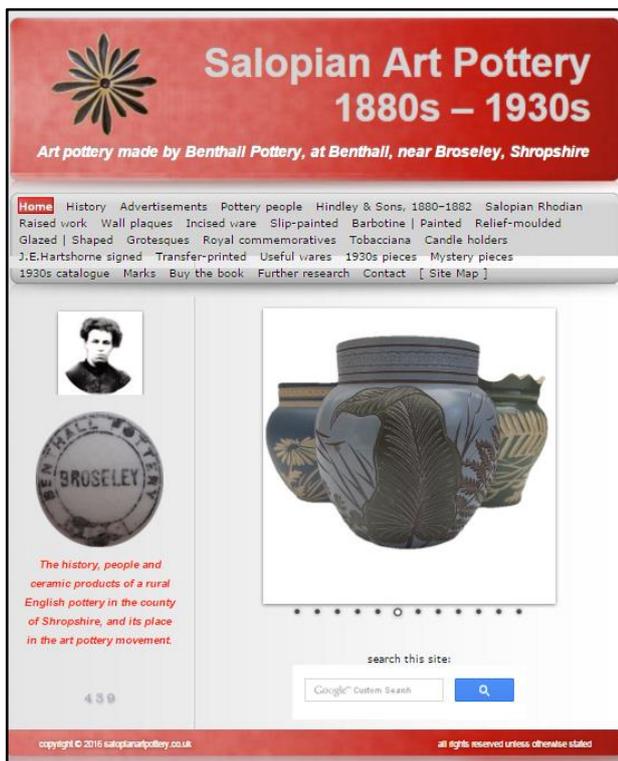
A website devoted to Salopian Art Pottery, made by the Benthall Pottery Company between 1880 and 1930, has recently been published.

The site has illustrated sections on the history, people and pots of this small rural pottery. Much new information has come to light through online searches amongst the world's newspaper archives, including the earliest known image of Salopian Art Pottery (1885), the opening of London showrooms (1885), its display at the Melbourne Centennial International Exhibition (1888), and how an export order to the USA fell foul of American import duty (1892).

Several hundred pieces of Salopian Art Pottery are shown in the site's numerous photo galleries, drawn from public and private collections.

The site is the work of John Malam, whose interest in Salopian Art Pottery stems from when he worked at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in the early 1980s. John is very keen to hear about pieces of Salopian Art Pottery that members may have or know about. He is also looking for documents and images relating to the Benthall Pottery, and information about the people who worked there at any time in its long history.

Website: salopianartpottery.co.uk



Broseley Archives @ oldcopper.org

Editor writes:

Over the past few months Vin Calcutt has been rebuilding his website, oldcopper.org, due to the original web publishing software becoming obsolete. The website is mainly about Vin's lifelong work with copper but there is also a section where he has painstakingly scanned and archived early journals, articles and notes relevant to Broseley Local History Society and its Wilkinson Society predecessor from its conception in 1972 up until 1997. More recent publications are found on our own website.

There are over 60 pages in this archive and Vin has been working diligently to get the new site running seamlessly. He still has a few links to make and check but hopes to be finished soon.

A particular favourite of mine is an article by Vin about Broseley Clockmakers, a profession that is often overlooked due to the importance of iron and clay industries locally. The article can be found at -

http://www.oldcopper.org/broseley/broseley_clockmakers.html

The main website can be found under -

<http://www.oldcopper.org/index.php>

Anstice Memorial, Proposal for a free bridge

David de Haan writes:

John Anstice, the manager of the Madeley Wood Company, died on 31st May 1867. In a letter of Saturday 15th June to the Editor of Eddowes's Shrewsbury Journalⁱ a writer who signed himself simply as 'Query' proposed as "a memorial to the late Mr. Anstice a free bridge across the Severn, near Madeley Wood Hall, to be called the Anstice Bridge ... the town of Ironbridge would benefit by a reduction of the extortionate tolls now exacted at that gate, and doubtless double the traffic would then take place, and probably an increase of trade ensue." A meeting was held in Madeley on Friday 21st June to discuss a suitable memorial where it was agreed that an Institute would be more fitting and that the bridge as proposed by 'Query' would cost in excess of £4,000, but they agreed to cost both proposals. They set up a committee with 71 names and received a letter from 120 Ironbridge tradesmen supporting the idea.ⁱⁱ On 5th July at a meeting at the Police Office in Ironbridge one of the committee, W L Lowndes, begged to withdraw the bridge proposal in favour of an Institute, which was done.ⁱⁱⁱ It emerged that Lowndes had been asked to call on Anstice's widow who had made it clear that the family would not

accept a free bridge. A further letter from “Query” to the Wellington Journal dated 16th July explained the reason – that it would be “injurious to the interests of the present proprietors of the Ironbridge”.^{iv} This is hardly surprising given that the family had been related by marriage to William Reynolds who had owned one share in the Iron Bridge, as had his brother Joseph, while their father Richard had owned 20 shares including most of those originally owned by Abraham Darby. In the event the Anstice Memorial Institute was built in the centre of Madeley, opening on 16th February 1870 at a cost of £3,000, all raised by donations, £1,000 of which came from the Anstice family. It is worth noting that Lord Forester favoured the free bridge option, to the point that he offered to pledge £1,000 towards it.

ⁱEddowes’s Shrewsbury Journal, 19th June 1867.

ⁱⁱ Wellington Journal & Shrewsbury News, 6th July 1867.

ⁱⁱⁱ Wellington Journal & Shrewsbury News, 18th July 1867.

^{iv} Wellington Journal & Shrewsbury News, 20th July 1867.



In the last edition of Newsletter we were looking for the resting place of William Doughty. How many of you knew that he is buried at Broseley Baptist Chapel in Chapel Lane?

The Wellington Journal for that time recorded Mr. Doughty’s sad demise thus:

On Tuesday evening, about nine o’clock, the upper town (Bridgnorth) was alarmed by a violent and reverberating shock as of an earthquake, which affected many of the houses, and the cause was soon ascertained to be the explosion of the gasometer now in course of erection at the Works, near the Friars, and adjoining the Severn. The body of a workman, named Doughty, was found lying dead, and much bruised and mangled, in an adjoining field, where part of the debris and the top of the gasometer had been blown by the force of the explosion. On Wednesday the inquest was held in the Council-chamber of the Guildhall, by Mr Batte, coroner, on view of the body of Wm. Doughty, aged 25, a stoker at the Gas Works. The following gentlemen were sworn on the inquest viz. George Fisher, James Brown, Thos. Dowell, Edwin Nock, T.O. Burrows, H.T. Langford, George Young, T. M. Deighton, E.F Brown, Wm. Jehu, George Callant, Joseph Cobb, Wm. Pidduck, and John Lacey. After the jury had been sworn they, with the coroner, proceeded to view the body, which had been removed to the old Friars’ Inn, near the spot of the calamity, and returned to the Council-chamber, when the following witnesses were examined, viz: Robert Gill; “I reside at the Gas Works, and am a fitter. I knew the deceased Wm. Doughty; he was 25, and was a stoker at the gas house. He had been a fireman at Mr Pugh’s of Coalport, before he came here; he was a sober man; his duty was to charge the retorts and furnaces. I



The Anstice Memorial Hall in Madeley

Where’s Welly?

Editor: Where in Broseley have I been this month to find such a beautiful floor?

The answer will be printed in May’s copy of Newsletter.



inspect the gas making, have been connected with it 15 years, but have only undertaken it down there since the 1st of May last. At twenty minutes to 9 the deceased came to me at my warehouse in Bankstreet. The explosion occurred about nine o'clock. I immediately went down, and saw the deceased's body in the field adjoining the works, about two yards from the top of the gasometer; he was quite dead. I was only three minutes in getting down to the spot. It was a new gasometer, which had never been filled, and had been used for the first time on Saturday last. It contained 3,000 or 4,000 feet of gas and atmospheric air combined. Deceased was there for the purpose of letting the air out, which if it had been done, a permanent plug would afterwards have been put in. Deceased had spoken of getting the gasometer in use by next Saturday. I found a piece of tobacco-pipe between his teeth after he was dead, and concluded that he had been smoking. He had matches upon him. Gas and common air will ignite more readily than gas itself. It might have been caused by his lighting a match to ignite his pipe. He was looked upon as a very careful man; and the effect was purely accidental. It is not at all likely that he was trying an experiment (the scale was too large a one). He was strictly a sober man; and there was no danger in what he was going to do; provided there was no fire about." William Penn: "I am a gasfitter from Dawley Green and have been employed here six weeks in erecting the new gasometer. There were no faults whatever in the make or the strength of it, or in the manner in which it was put up. Saw the deceased in the gas yard at eight o'clock at night when I left; he was quite sober. He had no occasion to do what he did, as I had previously let out the air myself before I left the work. A pipe could not have done it, though the light of a match would; he must have had a flame. I had cautioned him the same evening to take no light near it. I said, "William take care you bring no light near this vessel till we have got the foul air out." This was about four o'clock in the afternoon. The gasometer was 35 feet across and 8 feet deep. It would hold one hundred thousand gallons on water." After an address from the coroner to the jury, who, during the investigation, made many scientific remarks; a unanimous verdict was returned of "Accidentally killed by the explosion of the gasometer".

A few weeks before his death, the census shows him as a labourer in a China works, so despite warnings from colleagues, it is possible that he was not fully aware of the danger from gas and air mixtures.

Ironically, his wife Margaret was a tobacco pipe maker. His death left her, aged 24, with a son Henry under one year old. She remained in Broseley for the rest of her life living with her widowed mother, Margaret Cambell from Ireland.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2016

Subscriptions are now due for the year 2015-2016. If you have not paid please complete the form below and return to Janet Robinson, Membership Secretary BLHS, 26, Coalport Road, Broseley, TF12 5AZ. 01952 882495

The cost of a year's subscription is £7 or £12 for couples.

Cheques should be made payable to Broseley Local History Society.

Name.....
.....

Address.....
.....
.....

Telephone.....

I enclose £.....

E.Mail (If you would like to receive Newsletter electronically).....

What's On?

Fri 19 Feb

Lawley and Overdale History Group, Inaugural Meeting, 6.30pm Lawley Community Centre. Darren Blackburn 07817 457670

Mon 22 Feb

Shropshire Archives, Canal History, 2-4pm for 5 weeks, cost £32. 0345 678096

Thur 25 Feb

Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum, A brief history of Telford, by Richard Bifield. 2.30pm Glass Classroom Coalbrookdale, 01952 433522

Thur 3 Mar

Wrekin Historical Group, Telford's Emerging Heritage, by Gillian Reynolds. 7.30pm St Georges Parish Rooms, 01952 613331

Tue 15 Mar

Shropshire Family History Society, Wellington businessmen and the railway, by Neil Clarke. 7pm The Chapel Community Centre, Cross Houses SY5 6JH, 01691 653316

The above "What's On?" is a taster of what's going on locally. Details of these meetings and more can be found at the Wrekin Local Studies Forum website.

<http://www.wlsf.org.uk/calendar.html>

Mailbox

I have been researching my family history and I was hoping you might be able to help with a little problem I have encountered. On the 1881 Broseley census form members of my family are shown as -

James Clee 63 Agricultural labourer
Mary Clee 53
Edward Clee 17 Agricultural labourer

Their address is Tarbutts Dingle but I cannot find any reference to this address. However, on the 1838 tithe map there is Corbetts Dingle. Do you know if these are one and the same?

Do you know who owned the land around the area in which my great, great grandfather lived as I imagine this is who he would have worked for?

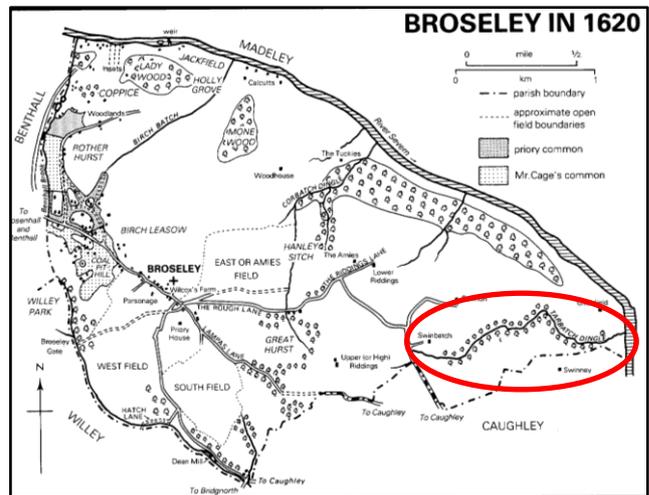
Bill Eiffert

Steve Dewhirst replies-

It is actually Tarbatch Dingle and would be plots 994 or 995 on the tithe map.

<http://www.broseley.org.uk/TitheMap/Broseley%20Tithe%20Map%2039.jpg>.

A few years ago remains of one of the houses could still be seen in the dingle.



Tarbatch Dingle highlighted in red

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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<i>Website</i>	www.broseley.org.uk
<i>Email</i>	steve@broseley.org.uk

DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to those members who have indicated that they would be happy to have an electronic copy of the *Newsletter*. If there are any other members who would prefer it this way, please contact the membership secretary, Janet Robinson, email: pandjrobinson@hotmail.com Those of you who would still prefer to have it in its printed version can continue to look forward to receiving it through the post.

To see this *Newsletter* in full colour visit the website at www.broseley.org.uk.

**There have been several requests not to publish peoples' personal e-mail addresses along with their queries in the Mailbox section of Newsletter. If you would like to respond to any of the Mailbox items then please do so via-
Steve Dewhirst steve@broseley.org.uk
Or
Andy Wellings broseley@talktalk.net**

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