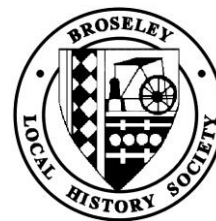


NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



MAY 2014

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.

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PROGRAMME

- 4 Jun *Woodland Walk, Coalbrookdale* led by Cadi Price. See page 6 for details.
- 6 Jul Annual outing, Manchester Salford Quays.
- 3 Sept *Floods on the river Severn* by David de Haan

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Shane Kelleher, Coalbrookdale
Jeremy Green, Broseley
Graham and Sue Lyon, Broseley
David Everitt, Broseley

ANNUAL OUTING

For more information about the annual outing to Salford Quays contact Michael Pope on 01952 883739

"Going To The Match" by L.S. Lowry. On display in the Lowry museum in Salford Quays



PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Family History

In February Geoff Harrison spoke to the Society about how to research family history. His talk was made interesting and topical by using two case studies where he had been asked to trace the history of two soldiers. This made the whole process feel more real rather than simply identifying what resources are available and how to use them in a general way.

An attentive audience listened as it was explained that there is a certain sequence that can be used to research family history beginning with a starting point like a question or something specific you want to research. In the case studies used the specific thing was a war record; but it was necessary to know the origin of the individual (birth place and date) from information that you can be certain of from your own research into primary sources (certificates of birth, marriage or death or searching the General Register Office index). “Believe nothing” until you have confirmed the information for yourself was the message that was repeated. Once you have identified the origins of the individual you can look at specific records.

Research into war service records probably begins with the “Burnt Records” of which 60% were lost during enemy bombing in WW2. The surviving 40% of soldier’s records are online, often on subscription sites or at the National Archives where records of officers can be researched and actual paper documents can be accessed.

There exist records of War Service (burnt records) and, not to be ignored, pension records which are not confined to WWI but exist for earlier service. Although Service records are incomplete Medal Cards and National Archives Medal Rolls are complete and any soldier who served out of UK was possibly entitled to two or three war service medals.

Soldiers who did not return but died in the service of their country are recorded at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site, together with details of unit, date of death and any memorial existing.

Some resources used by Geoff which people doing their own research may find useful are -

Free sources and websites

Parish Registers-

Wolverhampton

- www.wolverhamptonhistory.org.uk

Lancashire

- www.lan-opc.org.uk

General sites-

- www.freebmd.org.uk
- <https://familysearch.org>
- www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
- www.ukbmd.org.uk
- www.cwgc.org

Subscription sources and websites-

- www.findmypast.co.uk
- www.ancestry.co.uk
- www.thegenealogist.co.uk

Personal Visit-

Appropriate local archives

National Archives at Kew for-

- Officer records and naval records
- Soldiers’ service and pension records
- Medal cards for both soldiers and officers

Annual Wilkinson Lecture

John Rose of Coalport by Kate Cadman

Kate Cadman, Curatorial Officer at Coalport China Museum, gave the Annual Wilkinson Lecture on John Rose to a large meeting.

The talk began by setting the background to this era of industrial, intellectual and social change, occurring somewhat surprisingly in a period of war and both political and social instability which materially affected trade and prosperity.



*John Rose
1772-1841,
Son of a local
farmer.*

*By 1800
Coalport was
Britain's
largest china
manufactory.*

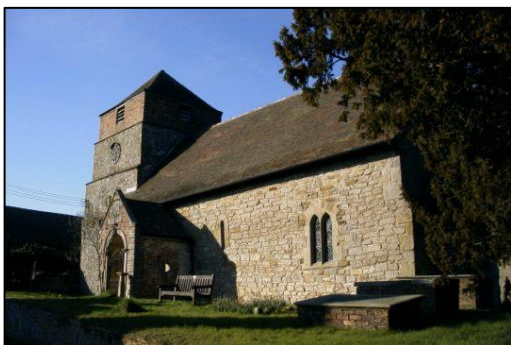


*Earliest
part of the
original
works at
Coalport,
now
housing a
café and
Youth
Hostel*

John Rose, from a Scottish family, was the eldest son of a farmer who moved to Swinney Farm, near Caughley in 1771. Born in 1772 he was apprenticed to Thomas Turner at the Caughley Porcelain Works, setting up his own manufactory with the financial support of Edward Blakeway at Calcutts in around 1793.

The establishment of a partnership with Blakeway and John's younger brother, Richard led to the leasing of land from William Reynolds at the new town of Coalport to build a factory for the manufacture of porcelain. Initially producing relatively simple wares, often blue printed and similar to some of the Caughley production, John Rose swiftly began to attract skilled artists to Shropshire to expand the range of china for broader markets. In 1799 he acquired the Caughley works, and its important coal reserves, from Thomas Turner. His initial success can be deduced from his move to the Lawns, in Broseley, the substantial house previously occupied by John Wilkinson.

However, there were some reverses to his progress. The original Blakeway & Rose partnership went bankrupt, and the factory was acquired by new partners, but the high esteem in which John Rose was held is evidenced by the fact that not only was he appointed manager by the new owners, but that the name of the factory was changed to John Rose & Co.



*Barrow Church
where
John Rose,
his brother
and many
members
of the
Rose
family are
buried.*

The relationship of John Rose with his brother Thomas, running a rival factory just a few yards away, has always been a point of discussion, some factors suggesting rivalry, others indicating some degree of co-operation. The Anstice, Horton and (Thomas) Rose factory was taken over by John Rose in 1814, and another competitor, the South Wales factory at Nantgarw, was also removed by attracting its developers, Billingsley and Walker, to Coalport to work.

John Rose died in 1841. He and many other members of the Rose family are buried at Barrow Church.

A full report on Kate's presentation will be published in the next copy of the Society Journal.

Mills on the Linley Brook

In April Steve Dewhirst gave a talk about the mills on the Linley Brook. The brook's source is in Barrow Dingle near to Willey Hall and it runs roughly south and east until it meets the River Severn at Apley Forge. Although only about five miles long the brook supported as many as nine mills at various times. Some of the mills drove bellows for furnaces, some drove hammers in forges and some were involved in the production of fabric.

Maps show evidence of mills on the Brook as early as 1639. Some can still be seen today but many of them have totally disappeared or can only be identified using maps and an expert eye.

It is difficult to believe that such a small source of water supported so many mills in the past.

A full report on Steve's presentation will be published in the next copy of the Society Journal.

A Bridge over the Linley Brook near to Nordley



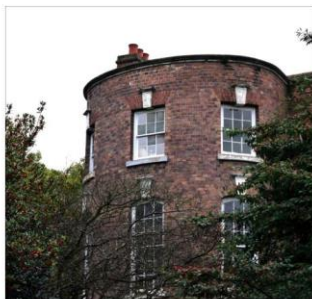
Quiz

Below are the answers to the Christmas quiz questions from the last edition of Newsletter. The full quiz and the answers can be found on the Broseley Local History Society website –

<http://www.broseley.org.uk>

A 1.

- John Wilkinson
- John Rose



A 3.

- King Street
- A butcher



A 6.

- The Hanging Tree
- Duke Street



A 9.

- The Angel



A 14.

- The Burnt House



A 17.

- The Instone building which faces into the Square, now Harwoods Estate Agency



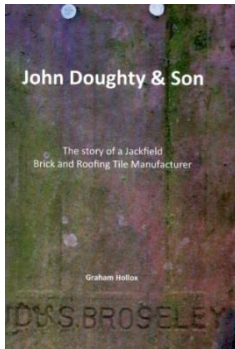
A 23.

- Pipe Museum car park
- Abraham Darby



Bookshop

Graham Hollox has written a book on the family and business of John Doughty & Son, brick and tile manufacturers of Jackfield. It is on sale at £5 a copy. The family had a long association with St Mary's Church, Jackfield, and all proceeds from sales will be donated to the restoration and maintenance of the church.



Copies can be obtained from Graham by contacting him at -

grahamhollox@sky.com

Another Iron Plaque for Broseley

The Society has sponsored a further plaque which has been fixed next to the gateway into the churchyard at All Saints' Church. It records that the church was built in 1845 and is said to be the finest early Victorian church in Shropshire.

In 1842 a decision was made to build a new church and demolish the old church which had been built in 1716 and was dedicated to St. Leonard. This was just after the Reverend Orlando Watkin Weld-Forester had been inducted to the benefice in 1841. He obviously considered that the old building was in a poor state and that Broseley deserved something better as a fit place for the worship of God.

The architect appointed for the task of designing the new church was Harvey Eginton who was born in 1809 and was the son of Raphael Eginton, a glass painter living in Worcester. Harvey learned his architectural skills simply by studying the Cathedral there and absorbing information from his father. He obtained a few commissions and was then fortunate to gain the attention of a Wiltshire magistrate for whom he undertook the building of a new church and designed a new school at Westbury. Another personal recommendation brought Eginton the prestigious commission for the restoration of the parish Church at Stratford-upon-Avon. Further ecclesiastical work rapidly followed – St. Lawrence's Church, Evesham; St. Mary's, Kidderminster; St. Michael's, Worcester



and many more. However, his endeavours extended beyond church design and restoration. He designed twelve police stations, new schools and an extension to Worcester County Prison. He also restored Sudeley Castle and Astley Hall. Nearer Broseley he was the architect for the new Holy Trinity Parish Church at Dawley.

Harvey Eginton died on Ash Wednesday 1849, aged just 40 years. At the time of his death he held three public offices; he was County Surveyor of Worcestershire, architect to the incorporated Society for Building churches and Chapels for the Worcester district, and architect to the Worcester Diocesan Church Building Society.

One of the features of his designs was the incorporation of a curious curved tail detail at the base of corbels supporting stone arches. They were rather slug-like in form and seem to have been one of the signatures of his designs. So if you come across a slug in Broseley church you will know why it is there! The legacy of Harvey Eginton was to provide Broseley with the finest early Victorian Church in the County of Shropshire.



All Saint's Church Broseley

Who was “Iron Mad” Wilkinson? by Richard Sells.

A background to the new pamphlet by John Freeman

Prior to the late 1990's Broseley Local History Society was actually The Wilkinson Society, whose purpose was to research and expand the available knowledge about the extraordinary man Thomas Telford called 'King of the Ironmasters'. Although running several different operations around the country, The Lawns, Broseley, remained Wilkinson's headquarters for over 30 years, leading to him referring to himself as 'Ironmaster of Broseley'. Outside industrial archaeological circles he is hardly known to anyone, yet, as the leaflet so ably shows, his influence has been enormous. He was one of the greatest names of the Industrial Revolution, in my opinion, and the unnamed third man to the Boulton and Watt partnership.

Following Vin Callcuts Annual Wilkinson Lecture in March 2011 Richard Sells was inspired to compile a leaflet, as there was no readily accessible information available in this form. This was no small undertaking, as he quickly realised, as in his 80 years John Wilkinson achieved great things, and in so many different fields. Having known little about the man at the start of the project, it quickly became clear that the main challenge for Richard would be to fit a meaningful amount of information onto a double A3 leaflet!

It has been a mammoth undertaking, but the result is an information-crammed, but accessible introduction to the life and achievements of the great man, which I hope will serve to interest and inspire any readers to further research and exploration.

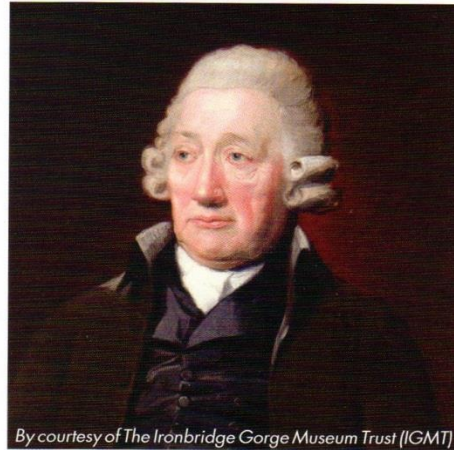
I am sure you will enjoy reading the leaflet, and if further copies are required, for either yourself, a professional body or organisation please contact me at the address below, with sae.

John Freeman

Freemans of Telford Ltd. Heslop, Halesfield 21,
Telford TF7 4PA.

WHO WAS 'IRON-MAD' WILKINSON?

He was the leading Ironmaster, entrepreneur and inventor of his day who also expanded the use of steam power.



By courtesy of The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT)



Cannon for Nelson's ship Victory and many others
Photo by ref. 8



The World's first iron bridge was John Wilkinson's idea.
See column 1 overleaf
Image by courtesy of the IGMT



Trade token coinage
e.g. Willeys see item 16 overleaf
Photo by ref. 1

John (Iron-Mad) Wilkinson 1728 - 1808

- He inspired the World's first iron bridge and boat
- 'King of the Ironmasters', said Thomas Telford
- Father of the South Staffs Iron Industry
- Father of the machine tool industry
- Acclaimed for his advanced farming methods
- He was the first true industrialist and he drove forward the early Industrial Revolution.

He is an inspiration for today's entrepreneurs

The new pamphlet written by Richard Sells and produced by the society in conjunction with Freemans of Telford Ltd

Summer Walk Wednesday 4th June

This year's summer walk will take place on Wednesday 4th June. The walk will begin at the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust Centre, Darby Road, Coalbrookdale at 7.30pm.

The walk will be led by Cadi Price, the Community Development Officer for the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust who has a great knowledge of the area.

We shall walk from the office through the woods above the Coalbrookdale Arboretum and down

towards the Coalbrookdale Museum. From there we shall make our way back up to the Centre.

Cadi is providing transport in the Trust's minibus from the Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge Community Centre for those who do not wish to climb the hill back to the Centre.

Once back in the Centre light refreshments will be served and this will be followed by Cadi giving a presentation about the work of the Trust and its various projects.

For those who do not wish to take part in the walk it is suggested that they arrive at the centre about 8.30pm in time for refreshment and the presentation.

Exhibition to commemorate the start of WW1

Rosemary Clegg, one of our members, has undertaken a great deal of research to find information about those who served in the First World War and whose names are recorded on memorials in Broseley cemetery. Some of the men were invalided home and died at a later date and in some cases the names of those who were lost during the war were inscribed on family memorials. These names are in addition to those whose names are recorded on the War Memorial in the centre of Broseley. We hope to display a great deal of this information in the exhibition.

Society Artefacts

The Society has gained a number of artefacts over the years from various sources. Until recently this collection was housed in a storeroom at the Jackfield Tile museum. Due to developments at the Tile Museum the Society needs to find a new home for its artefacts.

Busy cataloguing artefacts at Little Wenlock



A mould for a vase photographed for cataloguing

The collection is being temporarily housed in Little Wenlock at a friend of Jim Cooper. When making the move to Little Wenlock it was noticed that some of the objects were either in a very poor condition or of no real relevance to the society. With this in mind it was decided to catalogue all of the items so that a decision could be made on what to keep and preserve.

Several working parties have taken place over the last few months to help catalogue the collection. Each item has been photographed, numbered and given a description. Once this process is completed a new home can be found for this fascinating collection.

If anybody wants to know more about the cataloguing, can help out or could possibly even offer a home to the collection then contact Jim Cooper on 01952 505442 or e.mail jim.lydebrook@btinternet.com

Broseley Pipe Museum

The Ironbridge Gorge Museums are looking to recruit new volunteer guides at Broseley Pipeworks, a museum that tells the story of clay tobacco pipemaking in the famous Shropshire town.

Volunteers are needed to offer guiding services to visitors to Broseley Pipeworks and to help bring alive the atmosphere and history of the former clay pipe factory which closed in the 1950s and is now a time capsule of a curious craft.

For more information about all volunteering opportunities at The Ironbridge Gorge Museums contact Richard Gough on 01952 601044 or richard.gough@ironbridge.org.uk.



What's On?

Tue 20 May

Andrew Grierson, English or Welsh History: what's the difference? Shropshire Family History Society, Shirehall, Shrewsbury, 7:15pm, 01694 722949

Sat 7 June

Shropshire Family History Society, Open day and fair. The Shirehall, Shrewsbury, from 10am.

11:00am Tom Doig, Old Photographs, Their Identification and Dating.

2:30am Gill Blanchard, Writing, Recording and Presenting your Family History. Contact 01694 722949

Sun 8 June

Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Walk between Ironbridge and Coalport led by Fred Brian, 2pm, 01952 433522

Wed 18 June

A visual crawl around old pubs, Wellington History Group, Wellington Library, 7:30pm.

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

In the last edition of Newsletter Graham Hollox appealed for information about a building that was revealed at the east end of the Church garden of St. Mary's Church in Jackfield.

Graham Writes-

Many thanks to Revd. Michael Pope who may have solved the riddle posed in the last newsletter regarding the Coal House at St. Mary's Church Jackfield. The coal house was the favourite solution from a number which included that it was a pigsty or that it covered a spring. However Michael makes a much more realistic suggestion. He comments that the Church used to have a bier on which to move a coffin and the size and structure of the building was consistent with it being used to store that device.

My wife and I have just embarked on a genealogical quest into the paternal side of her family: Lears, a well-established one in Broseley.

We have a number of related questions and we would be most grateful for any pointers that you may be able to give.

At the start of WW2, my mother-in-law (who still lives) worked at the London HQ of St. John's Ambulance and was one of the evacuees to Willey Hall. While there, she met and married into the Lears family and subsequently moved to Portsmouth, where we all are now. We wondered if you might have any information regarding this sojourn in Broseley. St. John's HQ has nothing and the Foresters are looking, but are not optimistic. Mother-in-law does recall a colleague who started the local Girl Guides and remembers the long estate driveway, as they were bussed-in from Broseley village.

We also came across an address (Barbers Row) of a more distant relative, born in 1868, but which does not appear in the 1871 census and there was a move to Swan Lane. Was this Row demolished? Another relative worked as a tile presser and others were miners. We continue our research and plan to visit Broseley mid-May. Please do not go to too much trouble, but any links would be greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Dr. Mike Hosking.

Steve Dewhirst replies-

I can only find a short reference to the St John Ambulance which is in the newspapers on the web site. There are also various references to the Lear family in the papers. Barbers Row was demolished some years ago although the road of the same name still survives.

I am currently tracing the history of the Hartshorn family. Francis Hartshorn married Martha Morris in 1812 and I have found they had two children, Enoch born 1818 in Broseley and William born 1820 I think. Francis was married again in 1822 to Elizabeth Davies. I can't find a birth place for William or any details of the death of Martha. Francis and Elizabeth went on to have six children, some born after the family moved to Cramlington. Any information that anyone has would be greatly appreciated.

Shelia Cordery

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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.