

# NEWSLETTER

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

*INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY*

November - 2020

### MEETINGS

**Meetings of the Broseley Local History Society are currently on hold due to the Covid Pandemic.** Meetings will continue to be on hold for the foreseeable future. Members will be notified via this newsletter as soon as the situation changes. 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.

### BLHS PROGRAMME

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to the current restrictions no BLHS activities are currently scheduled.

### What's On Elsewhere?

As above, nothing is currently scheduled.

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### NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Jackie Cordell, Herne Bay, Kent.

Mrs. Maureen Hayward, Southend-on-sea Essex.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to the Society are currently being waived due to the Pandemic preventing all the usual activities.

### Society Update - A Further Update of The Society

In the August Newsletter we stated that we had hoped to restart our programme in the New Year. Due to the resurgence of the Coronavirus, now Autumn is here, it is not going to be possible.

At the time of the printing of the newsletter only six people are allowed to meet indoors and these restrictions will more than likely continue for some time. Certainly our meetings of sixty to seventy members will not be allowed.

The Committee are keeping in touch with each other and do have the interests of the Society to heart.

Our Treasurer Reha Derici has prepared the Societies Financial Statement for the year and it is included in this Newsletter. If you have any comments I am sure that Reha would be happy to respond to them. We thank Reha for his work.

As announced in the previous newsletter, subscriptions are put on hold until the Society can resume its meetings. The email address of our Membership Secretary, Janet Robinson, was printed incorrectly in the last newsletter. The correct address is: [janetc46.jr.jr@gmail.com](mailto:janetc46.jr.jr@gmail.com)

The next Newsletter will be published in February. If any member has an article or any news they would like included, please send it to our editor Mike. He would be pleased to receive any contributions.

I would like to wish all our members a Happy and Peaceful Christmas with the hope that you will be able to share the time with members of your families. I look forward to the New Year in the hope that we may be able to meet each other again in the not too distance future. Keep well and safe.

**Gillian Pope.**

# BLHS Statement of Accounts

Please see below the latest financial statement kindly provided by our Treasurer Reha Derici

## Broseley Local History Society

### Financial Statement for the period 1st October 2019 - 22nd October 2020

Income & Expenditure Opening Balance	£ 2,678.38
Research Fund Opening Balance	£ 782.68
<b>Opening Balance (total)</b>	<b>£ 3,461.06</b>

### Income & Expenditure for the period 1 Oct 2019 - 22 Oct 2020

**2018-2019**

Opening balance	£ 2,678.38		
<b>Income</b>			
Membership Subs.	£ 1,287.00		£ 1,266.00
Sales	£ 50.00		£ -
Royalties	£ 100.63		
X-mas dinner	£ 1,078.00		
Audio Rec.contribution	£ 100.00		
Trip	£ 180.00		
Victoria Hall refund	£ 84.50		
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Print & Post	£ 1,529.36		£ 922.51
Speakers	£ 50.00		£ 50.00
Donations & Subs.	£ 165.00		£ 160.00
Web Site	£ 65.87		£ 65.87
Trip refund	£ 180.00		
X-mas dinner	£ 1,040.00		
Audio Rec. Equipment	£ 265.73		
Victoria Hall rental	£ 84.50		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 5,558.51</b>	<b>£ 3,380.46</b>	<b>£ 2,178.05</b>

### Research Fund income & expenditure

Opening balance	£ 782.68		
Donations	£ 77.00		
Donation Box	£ 80.42		
Research Grant		£ 50.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 940.10</b>	<b>£ 50.00</b>	<b>£ 890.10</b>

**Total Funds carried forward** **£ 3,068.15**

### Bank reconciliation

Balance at 1st Oct 20	£ 3,104.90		£ 3,104.90
Petty cash	£ 26.90		£ 3,131.80
Uncashed chq 488 (MDT)		£ 63.65	£ 3,068.15

## OBITUARY - George Evans

It is with sadness that we report the death of George Evans, who died at his home in Wellington on September 24<sup>th</sup>, aged 97. Many members will remember that he gave the Annual Wilkinson Lecture ten years ago – ‘A Tribute to Dr William Withering, 1741-99’. Withering was a native of Wellington, a member of the Lunar Society and best known for his discovery of the medicinal properties of digitalis. The talk was published in Journal No. 32 (2010).

George was a proud Wellingtonian who had served the town as a councillor and fought to maintain its status within the new town of Telford. He was prominent in many community projects and particularly keen to promote Wellington’s history. He founded the town’s civic society and co-founded Wellington History Group, of which he was President.

George’s legacy will be the wide interest that now exists in the town and its history, which he stimulated; and the Peace Garden which he established at the Civic Centre, the result of his pacifism following his wartime experience.

**Neil Clarke 26<sup>th</sup>. September 2020**

## Articles

### Randall (a Son of Broseley) Remembered



Ten years ago, in September 2010, a Day School was organised at the John Randall Primary School in Madeley to celebrate the life and achievements of ‘Shropshire’s Grand Old Man’ on the occasion of the bicentenary of his birth and the centenary of his death.

The speakers at the Day School are shown in the accompanying photograph (above): from left to right, Neil Clarke (John Randall’s Early Years),

George Baugh (Randall in Local Government and Politics), Roger Edmundson (Randall the China Painter), Hugh Torrens (Randall as Writer and Geologist) and Barrie Trinder (Randall as Historian). The photograph was taken by the organiser, Shelagh Lewis, who also gave a talk on John Randall and Madeley. The Proceedings of the Day School, including a bibliography of Randall’s publications by Marilyn Higson, were published in the Transactions of the Wrekin Local Studies Forum. This is now out of print but a copy is available on the Forum’s website – [www.wlsf.org.uk](http://www.wlsf.org.uk)

**Neil Clarke 15<sup>th</sup>. September 2020**

## BROSELEY CHURCH

The latest issue of the Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological & Historical Society (vol.95, 2020) contains an article that throws further light on the building of All Saints (1843-45). In ‘Church Building and Restoration in Shropshire, 1800-1850: a Reappraisal’, Martin Speight argues that the origins of the church building boom of the 1830s and 1840s, traditionally ascribed to the influence of the Oxford and Cambridge movements, in fact go back to the early years of the century, and were motivated primarily by the need to provide extra accommodation, particularly for the poor.

In his excellent booklet ‘The Story of All Saints’ Parish Church, Broseley’, the late Michael Pope relates how the Rector, the Revd. Orlando Watkin Weld-Forester, insisted on the new church being built of stone, in spite of the fact that local brick makers offered to provide materials free of charge to the church. The local historian John Randall stated that the cost of building the church was £3,388-4s.-0d, but Michael points out that this figure is clearly incorrect, the total cost appearing to be between nine- and nine and a half thousand pounds.

Martin Speight gives further details. All Saints, designed by Harvey Eglinton, was by far the most ambitious church building project undertaken in the county. At nearly £9,500, it cost £7,000 more than Eglinton’s other church at Dawley, and far more than most other churches of comparable size being built in the county. The building costs of £9,474 were met from the Incorporated Church Building Society (£400), Diocese (£350), Cooperative Society (£28), subscriptions (£2,837), anonymous subscriptions (£5,639).

**Neil Clarke 16<sup>th</sup>. October 2020**

## BROSELEY NEWS - BITS & PIECES

### BROSELEY – A DARK PROSPECT

At a meeting of the District Council on Wednesday Councillor T. T. GRIFFITHS presiding, the Broseley Gas Company wrote, that owing to the recent rise in the price coal they were unable to reduce their terms for supplying the public lamps with gas. The Chairman remarked the town would be in darkness if they did not accept the company's terms. – Mr HERBERT reported one case of diphtheria in the town. – The Collector was instructed to take proceedings against all rate defaulters after 14 days' notice. – Mr. Abberley reported all the water mains in Jackfield and Broseley were in good order. SHREWSBURY CHRONICLE – Friday 9 September 1910

### BROSELEY – TEA AND SPORTS

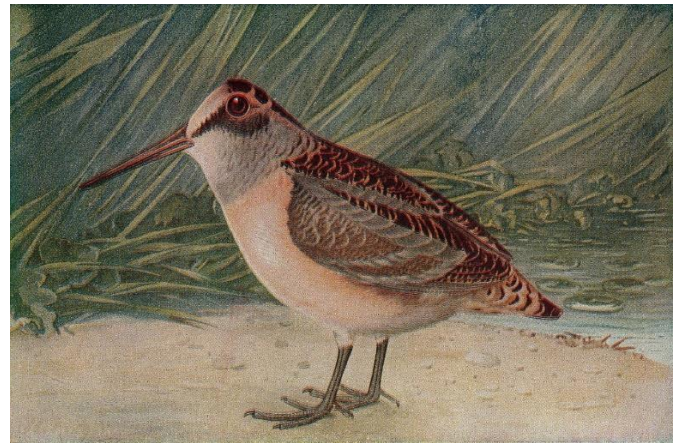
All the schoolchildren at Broseley Wood were, on Friday entertained to tea and sports by Mr CHARLES THOMAS of the Argentine Republic, South America, who is on a visit to this country. They also received prizes and sweets before returning to their homes. On the same day Mr & Mrs DAVIES generously entertained the school staff and friends to a substantial tea at their house. A display of fireworks closed a memorable event. SHREWSBURY CHRONICLE – Friday 5 August 1910

### CRICKET

The match between Broseley Second and Broseley Tileries was fraught with considerable interest. Previous to this game the Tileries had met with such success that a win on this occasion would have meant their 13<sup>th</sup> successive victory; "but" remarks a correspondent "the unlucky number (the date was also the 13<sup>th</sup>) perhaps had something to do with the disaster that befell them". However, it may be the Tileries met more than their match this time and thus their remarkable run of success met with a check – and a rather severe one too. The Second Eleven who went in first were in fine batting form and punished the Tileries bowling, scoring 102, the chief contributors to this total being E JONES (29); H. RUSSELL (23), and W. HARVEY (20). In bowling as in batting the Second Eleven appear to have made up their minds to excel in this match and RUSSELL and LEE made short work of the Tileries batsmen, dismissing the lot for a paltry score of 19, the only man to make a stand being H. SOUTHORN (12). No fewer than seven men on the Tileries side failed to score. LEE had 6 wickets for 11 runs and RUSSELL 4 for 6. WELLINGTON JOURNAL AND SHREWSBURY NEW Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August 1904

Janet Doody 19<sup>th</sup>. October 2020

## COCKSHUTT – WHAT'S IN A NAME



This is described as an opening in a wood through which woodcock might 'shoot' and does not refer to shooting the birds. The woodcocks remain out of sight during the day, but during the night they fly low along any openings in the woods in a search for water. In the evening hunters would tie nets across the openings to catch the birds. The phrase 'cockshut time' came to mean twilight or nightfall when the birds flew into the open and is mentioned in Richard III.

**Richard:** Saw'st the melancholly Lord Northumberland?

**Ratcliff:** Thomas the Earle of Surrey, and himselfe, Much about Cockshut time, from Troope to Troope

Went through the Army, chearing up the Souldier

The bird had become rare during the 19<sup>th</sup> century but as the newspaper extract below shows it did not stop hunters shooting them. Numbers did increase during the 20<sup>th</sup> century with an estimated population of 55,000 males and a wintering population of 15 million birds.

Eddowes's Shrewsbury Journal Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup>. 1886

Notes on Shropshire Birds II. William E Buckworth Several instances of woodcocks breeding in Shropshire at irregular intervals have been recorded—and now, in two localities at least, one in the northern, the other in the southern portion of the county, there are nests every year; four or five pairs breeding on Lord property, under the Wrekin, and at Willey. Woodcocks appear to lay early as well as late in the summer, and probably rear two broods, though perhaps these late eggs are only laid when the first have been destroyed. In 1879 a pair of woodcocks, with three young ones so small that they could scarcely fly, were seen near the Wrekin, late in July 1882 a nest,

with three eggs, to which a fourth was afterwards laid, was found at Willey on June 18th; and in 1885 a young woodcock that could fly well, was shot under the Wrekin, the keeper mistaking it for a hawk, on May 16th. In winter cocks are now much less numerous than formerly, and as the woods where they used to be found have undergone little change. This decrease in their numbers can only be seconded for by the fact that, from some unknown cause, fewer migratory ones now visit us. The largest bag of cocks recently made was at Hawkstone, where Lord Hill's party killed 41 in a day; but the late Lord Forester got nearly 60 couple on his Willey property in a season. To show however, that their numbers have diminished, the late Mr. George Pardoe used, 20 years ago to shoot about 25 couple near the Clee Hills, during the winter; then it became difficult to get more than 10, and latterly only four or five birds were found. The catalogue of the Hawkstone Museum contains as autograph letter of the late Mr. Gould's, describing a woodcock, shot on the property in 1871, that weighed nearly 16 ounces.

**Stephen Dewhirst 16<sup>th</sup>. October 2020**

#### **News from Elsewhere**

The Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum have postponed their AGM until June 2021.

Members have been notified of changes on the Committee. David de Haan, who is a member of Broseley Local History Society, has retired as Chairman of the Friends. His role as Chairman has been taken on by Jim Clarke who is a retired Head Teacher and has been a member of The Friends for over 40 years. He has been Vice Chairman since 2018 and is a Museum guide.

#### **An article which was included in the BROSELEY-WITH- LINLEY Monthly Magazine in October 1910**

DEATH OF MISS JANE THORN, - It is with sincere regret that we record the death of Miss Jane Julia Thorne, of Fifield, which took place on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, after a long and very painful illness. It is difficult to estimate the great and beneficent work which Miss Thorn carried on for very many years, much of it was known to all, but much more was known only to herself and those on behalf of whom she laboured.

In her the poor ever found a true and sympathetic friend, and she never turned a deaf ear to any appeal if she was sure it was genuine.

For many years she was a most assiduous visitor, and when her health no longer permitted her to go out herself, she still carried on her good work by means of helpers.

She was the originator of a Coal Club which has been a great boon to many of the poor, and her carefully kept books show what great pains she took over her work.

She will be greatly missed by all, but especially by the sick and suffering. She was laid to rest in the family vault on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, amidst tokens of universal sorrow.

She was one of those who helped to make the world brighter for those around her, and her life was a noble example of what a Christian life should be. May we strive by God's grace to do likewise.

**Gillian Pope 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

#### **MAILBOX**

**Received from Janet Robinson 23/10/2020:**

I have received this letter from one of our members - Michael Pitchford:

"Many thanks for the copy of the new guidebook to All Saints Church. Broseley people now know the full name of Harvey Eginton who designed it. I would hope that in the future someone can look into the "Onions" family. My late Dad's eldest sister, Emily, married Harold Onions. Their home and shop was the butcher's shop at 106, Potters Bank, Ketley. This was taken down for road alterations about 1980. Uncle Harold also had a shop in Oakengates quite near to the old "South" Oakengates railway station. I visited them with my late mother in 1985 at Hartshill Road, Oakengates. They had a son John who worked in Witney, Oxfordshire but he has not kept in touch since 1973.'

**Received from Steve Dewhirst 24/10/2020:**

We have received the following from Susan Donaldson. Could you please put this in the newsletter and ask people to contact me best wishes,  
Steve

The Society was very helpful some years ago when I was researching my family history and I would be grateful if any member could help with two requests for photographs.

My father John P. Weston was born in Bilston in 1912, son of Albert Ernest Weston and Mary Barbara Matthews. In 1919 the family moved to Broseley and my grandfather worked as a power engineer in Coalbrookdale until the family moved back to Wolverhampton in 1929.

From the age of 7, my father sang in the choir at All Saints Parish Church and had very fond memories of his time there with Walter Davies. I found many church reports of services in your newspaper archives online and feel sure Dad would have been involved in many of the events. I have Dad's prayer book presented to him (as Percy Weston) in 1928.

I would love to find a photograph of the church choir in the period 1919-1929. I was told that my grandfather Albert Ernest Weston played in the Coalbrookdale Band and I am also keen to find a photograph of the band in the 20<sup>th</sup>. Century.

**Received from Steve Dewhirst 30/10/2020:**

Dear Steve

I write a blog about follies and garden ornament and this week I have written about the monument to John Wilkinson that originally stood in his garden. I know your group know all about Wilkinson but thought you might be interested anyway. And hopefully this post will introduce him to a wider audience. Please share with anyone who might be interested.

<https://thefollyflaneuse.com/iron-age-monument-the-wilkinson-obelisk-lindale-cumbria/>

Best wishes  
Karen

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](mailto: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>	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
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**To see this Newsletter in full colour, visit the**

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