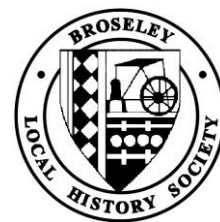


NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



MAY 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

- 1 Jun *Summer Walk Meet at Bedlam Furnace*
7.30pm (Free bridge to Ironbridge circuit, approx. 1.2 miles)
- 2 Jul *Annual Trip Visit to Lichfield*
- 7 Sept *Matthew Webb* by Paul Wolfe
- 5 Oct *AGM followed by - Roads of East Shropshire* by Neil Clarke
- 2 Nov *A History of Much Wenlock* by Vivien Bellamy. Joint meeting with the Friends

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Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Clive and Ann Morley, Much Wenlock

ANNUAL OUTING

For more information about the annual outing to Lichfield contact Michael Pope on 01952 883960 and see the booking form on the last page of the Newsletter.

Erasmus Darwin House in Lichfield



Previous meetings

At the first meeting of 2016, on January 6th, Ron Miles gave us one of his renowned slide shows, delivered in his inimitable style. They were all of local views, taken over many years, the theme of which could have been “Change” as so many places had altered. The one slide that showed the least change was of Dawley High Street, still much the same, as Ron said.

Ron had the foresight to photograph places before and during the changes that took place as Telford New Town was constructed. We saw the Ironbridge By-pass and the M54 being built. There was a photograph of the church which had once stood in Malinslee but was moved stone by stone and rebuilt in what is now the Town Park. An early view of Telford Town Centre from the air in the 1970s showed a rather isolated group of buildings with very little built around them, very different from today. An older slide showed Malinslee railway station which once stood where the Town Centre is situated. A snowy view taken during the cold winter of 1962-63 showed the building of Sutton Hill housing estate.

There were several views of Ironbridge B Power Station and its splendid cooling towers under construction, rather poignant, as it had been decommissioned in the latter weeks of 2015 and will, no doubt, feature in a future slide show as it is dismantled.

There were some very old and interesting photos including the Coalport China Works when it was still in commercial production. We saw potters, paintresses and apprentices working. We also saw Jackfield Band in 1906, Ironbridge with five Severn Trows on the River, Horsehay Works where girders were made for bridges, and the Red Church at Jackfield which had to be demolished because it was undermined by adits. Another slide showed one of the last trains crossing the Tuckies Bridge in Jackfield before the Beeching closures.

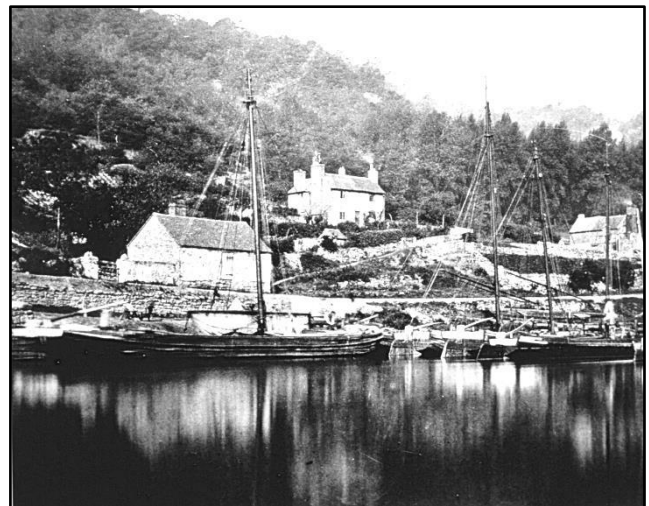
It is impossible to mention everything but we all saw views and subjects that we hadn't seen before and it proved a fascinating evening.



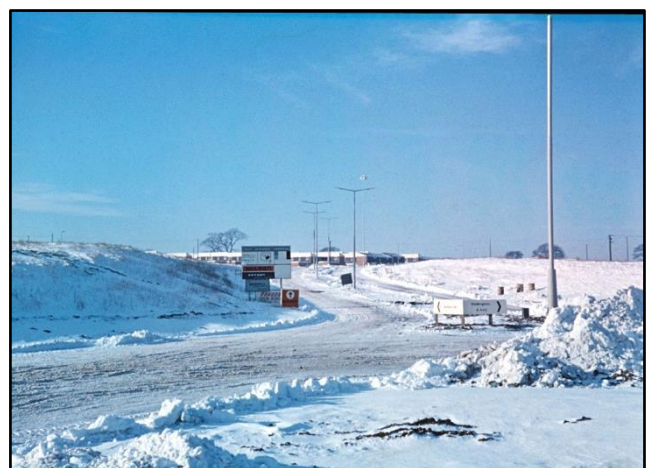
Malinslee chapel was demolished in 1971 to make way for the new Telford Town Centre. It was later re-assembled in the Town Park near to the Withy Pool.



Malinslee Station on the Coalport Branch of the Northwestern railway, 4½ miles north of Coalport. The first half of the line was originally part of the Shropshire Canal which LNWR bought in 1857 and filled in, the line opening four years later. The passenger service, referred to as the Coalport Dodger, consisted of 4 trains on weekdays, the journey taking half an hour.



Trows at Bower Yard with Benthall Edge in the background. At one time the River Severn was one of the busiest in Europe, and trade along it was dependent on these boats. The shallow draught of the trow was essential along a river like this with its sand banks and low summer water levels



Link road from the A442 to Sutton Hill (The petrol station is now opposite the large sign in the middle of the picture)

In February Wendy Palin gave a talk on the King's Shropshire Light Infantry in the First World War. For her talk Wendy looked at her Grandfather's role in the war which gave it a very personal touch. The meeting was well attended and Wendy fielded lots of questions at the end of the evening from members, many of whom had also had grandparents or parents involved in the Wars.

Wendy writes –

The preparation for my talk served to make me realise how little I knew about the subject I had taken on and how huge that topic was. In order to proceed I decided to limit myself to a general overview of the KSLI in WW1, then to concentrate unashamedly on the experiences of my maternal grandfather, Thomas Henry Turner, (THT), who served with the 1/4th battalion from January 1916.

The name KSLI – King's Shropshire Light Infantry caused my first problem. It is a little known fact, considering this is our county's fighting force, for which king it is named. It turns out that the name was given in 1821 when a Shropshire force protected George IV during a riot in Brighton.

Pre-war:- 1881 1st and 2nd Battalion formed.

1908 4th Battalion TA formed.

At the outbreak of war the professional soldiers were recalled from overseas and redeployed to the theatre of war being replaced by the TA

The number of battalions increased to 12, 8 of which saw active service. Further information on these can be found in a number of places-

- *KSLI webpage*
- *Shrewsbury Castle*
- *British Regiments 1914-18 by E.A. James*
- *On Facebook, Shropshire World War One (WW1) Memories*
- *Also King's Shropshire Light Infantry Battlefields gives daily updates of 100 years ago today –*

<https://www.facebook.com/KSLI.Battlefields.tours/>

Despite the name of this fighting force, on average only approximately 40% of the men were from our county, the rest were from Lancashire, Herefordshire and South Wales in the main.

From my Grandad's point of view he did not rush to join the war, but after National Registration in 1915



Thomas Henry Turner (front left) as a new recruit

and enforced conscription looming he and a friend, Jack Pitt, went to Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury to enlist.

At some point over the next four months the usual portrait photos were taken, and a sweetheart brooch given to my Gran. Kit was issued, this would eventually include Lee Enfield Rifle, bayonet, jack-knife, tin helmet (after 1915), great coat, all weather woollen serge – khaki, winding putties (852 miles issued in total), webbing, gas hood, entrenching tool, water bottle, boots, knapsack, blanket, 2 wound dressings (one for entry wound, one for exit wound) and shaving kit.

I now realised that my Grandad had left me an amazing gift, a short diary of his first few months as a soldier. I could do no better than illustrate his words.

The new recruit's first posting was to Tenby. The soldiers were lodged with locals in the town, some providing better facilities than others. As part of my research I made a visit in Oct 2014 and was able to find the former Medical Hall where THT had lodged; even finding the shop interior preserved.

On the cliffs to the south of Tenby, near Penally, a set of training trenches had been built (still worth a visit) and also a firing range. After six weeks here,

drilling, skirmishing and learning to use a rifle he was prepared for war.

THT classed himself as one of the fortunate ones when he was drafted to Singapore. He was given four days leave “which was like being in paradise and under the circumstances I prefer Oakengates to the seaside.” Tropical kit was distributed.

On March 31st 1916 the men entrained at Tenby and headed to Plymouth. That night they were issued rifles and beds (2 blankets). On 2nd April they boarded the “Morea”, sailing at 3pm.

The voyage took them to Gibraltar, Marseille where the hospital ship “La France” was moored, Port Said, the Suez Canal, Port Suez, Aden, Bombay and Colombo where they changed ship. Now on the S.S. Novara they sailed to Panang, through the Straits of Malacca and eventually to Singapore. Whilst on board there were duties to perform, inoculations, boat drills and Church services. They were apparently chased by German submarines.

Once in Singapore the men marched to Tanglin Barracks; this saw 16 of them admitted to hospital, presumably with heat exhaustion.

A pleasant routine quickly established, reveille at 5.30am for parade at 6, physical drill then off to breakfast, cleaning up then 9am parade. By the time training was finished the men were dismissed around 11am except on Fridays when there was a route march. Recreation time was spent playing cricket, football and amateur dramatics. Church parade on Sunday and occasional guard duties were required, not bad for active service.

Other members of the Battalion found themselves in the Andaman Islands, Rangoon and lower Burma, Kelantan in the Gulf of Siam, China, Mesopotamia, Hong Kong, Canada or Australia on a variety of jobs.

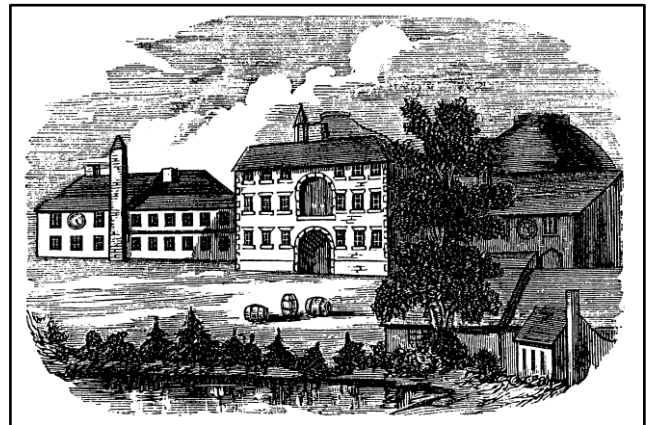
After approximately a year the battalion made ready to return for a much tougher stint serving King and Country.



*Thomas
Henry
Turner
(middle)
during his
posting to
Singapore*

In March our Annual Wilkinson Lecture was given by Neil Clarke and examined Thomas Turner’s Transport Requirements at Caughley.

When Thomas Turner joined Ambrose Gallimore at Caughley in the early 1770s, he helped to turn the pottery into the first soft-paste porcelain manufactory in Shropshire. To convey local (coal and clay) and distant (soapstone) raw materials to the factory and finished goods to markets, Turner utilised a range of transport modes – packhorses, carts, wagonways and the River Severn. The talk, an edited version of which will appear in this year’s Journal, explored these.



Caughley: The Salopian China Manufactory c. 1800

Where’s Welly?



Editor: Where in the Broseley area have I been this month? The answer will be printed in August’s copy of Newsletter.

In the last edition of Newsletter we were looking for the location of the beautiful tiled floor shown again over the page. I’m sure most of you guessed that it is in the Cemetery Chapel.

By 1880 the graveyard at All Saints was becoming full and a new cemetery was required. To achieve this the Local Board (council) assumed the role of Burial Board under the Internment Act of 1879. After many discussions it was decided to purchase land in Duckhouse and Brandlee Meadows for £175 from

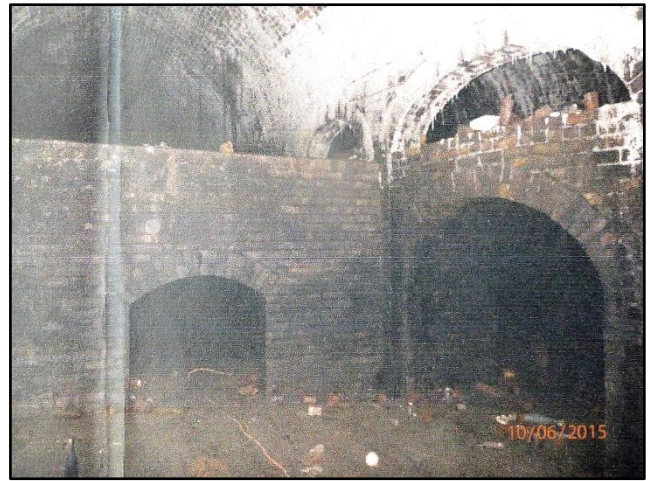
Major General Jenkins. This land is adjacent to Ironbridge Road to the north east of the Church. The cemetery was constructed by Millington's and opened in 1884. It was extended in 1899 and again in 1969. The chapel of rest was built using local bricks and tiles and was an excellent advert for these products.



The Continuing Saga of a Water Supply For Broseley

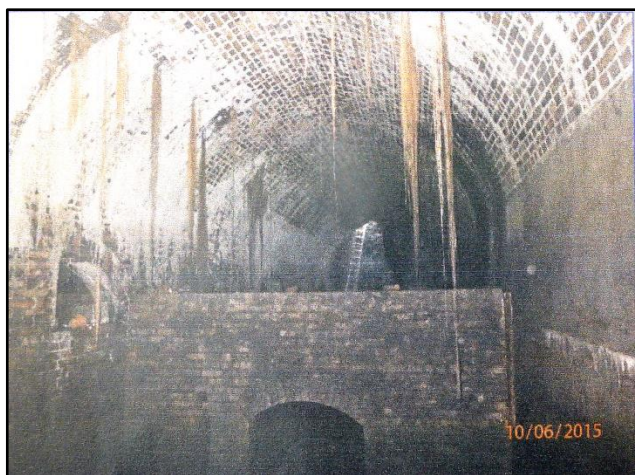
Michael Pope writes -

Several years ago I gave a talk to the Society outlining the problems which Broseley has experienced in the past in obtaining a decent water supply. The provision of a decent, clean, water supply has been an ongoing saga involving the Delph in the centre of the town, the Pritchard Memorial (now demolished), and the Down Well which was restored by the Haycop Conservation Group in 2007. Up until the middle of the 19th century the only supply of water for general use in the centre of the town was the Down Well and the Delph; now generally known as the Memorial Garden. The latter was a pool in the centre of the town, which received only the rain water from the street, and sewage from the surrounding houses. As a result, in a dry summer, it became a filthy mess and emitted an abominable odour. In a letter to the Daily Post, dated 21st June 1862 an inhabitant of Broseley wrote as follows, "Lately, a poor woman referred to the excessive grief and dismay she felt when a pan of water was by accident spilled upon the floor, for which she had just paid threepence". She also stated that all the water most sparingly used from week's end to week's end, was husbanded to clean the floors,



Underground reservoir chambers built in 1875 on the left of Dark Lane and on the edge of the building site currently being developed for housing by Taylor Wimpey.

for at this time the Delph water was so offensive that "people were afraid to have it in their houses", and that nowhere within reach was its consistence thin enough to allow it to be ladled into a bucket. This distress affected all the poorer population of Broseley; and, in such a case, what must have been the condition of their personal clothing. The dangers in using the water from the Delph pool resulted in it being filled in and turned into a Bowling Green and then into a Memorial Garden after the First World War with the erection of the cenotaph. The Down Well proved equally difficult. The same correspondent wrote - "Upwards of twenty years ago £300 was expended in making a reservoir at the well in which to save the surplus water in the winter months. It was no sooner completed than it broke, from having been undermined, and so hopeless did the case appear to be, that until the present time it has been abandoned, remaining only as a proof of how abortive have been the best attempts to supply the town with water." Another attempt to solve the water problem was made in 1875 when the Broseley Local Board decided to build another reservoir. This time it was much nearer the town centre; on the left of Dark Lane and on the edge of the building site currently being developed for housing by Taylor Wimpey. The reservoir was to be fed by a spring in the adjacent field. This supply proved inadequate and so an attempt was made to pump water into the reservoir from the Down Well. The enterprise was not a success. Disaster struck again in 1895. The reservoir ran dry. It had been built over a mining shaft. Subsidence took place again. Cracks appeared in the bottom of the reservoir. Local builders were again called in to repair it. But to no avail, the water leaked out again. Taylor Wimpey have faced similar problems with the present development. The site has



Further chambers at the Dark Lane site.

had to be extensively drilled and piling has taken place to a considerable depth in order to stabilise the ground. The reservoir has again created a problem. Now, after extensive consultations, it has been considered that the area is unsafe and the Shropshire Council have agreed to fill it in later in the year before several houses can be built nearby. The size of the reservoir can be seen from the photographs which were recently taken of the interior. When the present reservoir was almost completed a celebration was arranged. A Supper and Dance was held inside before it was finally sealed over. Will we soon be seeing an end to the long saga of providing a water supply for Broseley or will the present development only create further problems in the future!

Interested in Researching aspects of Broseley?

Your committee has been considering the possibility of producing leaflets or small booklets to publicise the wonderful history of this early industrial town. Subjects could range from the religious buildings, industrial sites, notable buildings such as the hospital, street names, pubs, people of note, sports clubs, the drama group, carnivals ... the list is almost endless.

Madeley History Group, (from over the water!) have successfully published a wide range of such works and I am sure that this Society is more than able to equal them. If anyone is interested, has an idea or would like help with research already undertaken, please feel free to contact any committee member or email me.

Be assured this does not have to be to the level of an academic work such as that submitted for a University thesis, (although these would be accepted!). The committee would also point out that

an allowance or grant could be available to assist with any research.

Janet Doody

Email: janet.doody27@googlmail.com

Obituary

Julia Ionides (1942-2015)

Many BLHS members will recall the 2007 Annual Wilkinson Lecture given by Julia Ionides, based on her book "Thomas Farnolls Pritchard of Shrewsbury, Architect and Inventor of Cast Iron Bridges". Sadly, Julia died in December following a tragic accident while attending a conference with her husband Peter in Istanbul. Julia was an architectural historian of some note and, with Peter (a former architect), ran the Shropshire & Marches Branch of the Georgian Group. She and Peter also set up the Dog Rose Trust in Ludlow twenty one years ago to raise awareness of the visually impaired. Their Dog Rose Press published a number of books, including Julia's work on Pritchard (1999) and "Pitmen, Poachers and Preachers" by Ken Jones (2009).

I last met Julia in October when she attended a reception organised by the Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum to celebrate the naming of "Ken Jones Close" (Lightmoor). At the Service of Thanksgiving for Julia's life, which I attended on January 30th at St Lawrence's Church, Ludlow, glowing tributes were paid to her many talents and her generous personality.

Neil Clarke

Broseley Goes Walking

Organised by Broseley Totally Locally

Wednesday 6th July 2016

Please contact Gill Pope (01952 883960) if you would like to join the Broseley Local History Society Walk

The cost is £15 per head which includes meeting at Clays at 6.30pm for a drink and to order meals. Returning to Clays at 8pm for dinner



Broseley Trivia

Janet Doody writes-

Did you know that the English character actress of theatre, film and television, Hermione Baddeley was born in Broseley?

Born on the 13th November 1906, to William Herman and Louise Rosalie Clinton Baddeley and named Ruby Hermione Youlanda Clinton Baddeley, she was the youngest of 4 daughters. Hermione played supporting roles in many films including Brighton Rock (1947); Passport to Pimlico (1949) and The Belles of St. Trinians (1954) but is probably best known for playing Ellen the housemaid to the Banks family in Mary Poppins (1964). She was also a voice in Walt Disney's The Aristocats (1970) and on U.S television was in The Little House on the Prairie.

In 1928 Hermione married the Hon. David F. Tennant and had two children, Pauline and David, they divorced in 1937. She married Major J. H. "Dozey" Willis in 1940; they too were divorced in 1946. Hermione died on 19th August 1986 at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, Los Angeles, aged 79 following a series of strokes and is buried in St. Mary and St. Melor churchyard in Amesbury Wiltshire.

Her sister Angela Baddeley was also an actress, playing Mrs. Bridges in "Upstairs, Downstairs".

Hermione appears to be the only one of her family born in Shropshire; everyone else was born and resided in London and the South East. Anyone any ideas why she came to be born in Broseley?



Hermione playing Ellen the housemaid to the Banks family in Mary Poppins (1964).

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

What's On?

Wed 18 May

Wellington History Group, Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Restoration Progress, by Bernie Jones. 7.30pm Wellington Library

Wed 25 May

Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Coalbrookdale WWII Evacuation Hostel, by Prof Timothy Peters, 7.30pm, 01952 433522

Wed 15 Jun

Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Printing History, the Story of the 1875 Coalbrookdale Company Printing Blocks by Georgina Grant, 01952 433522

Fri 24 Jun

Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum, The Archaeology of the Jackfield Stabilisation Project by Shane Kelleher, 7.30pm, Board Room, 01952 433522

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

Mailbox

I am trying to find out about Teague's fish and chip shop that was in Cape Fold. My late father spoke of old Mr Teague who looked after him when he was little. If you have any information, particularly a first name for him and his wife I would be very grateful.

Lyn Yapp

Andy Wellings replies-

Mrs Jones, aged 93, who lives at No. 2 Cape Fold remembers Teague's shop when she was a girl. She does not recall the Christian names of Mr and Mrs Teague but they did not have any children and when they gave up the shop it was taken over by the Burns family. The shop was located in what is now Mrs. Jones's outhouse.

There is also a mention of the shop in a transcript of one of the Society's memory meetings from February 2002. At the meeting Jack Owen made reference to Teague's fish and chip shop being in a shed on Cape Fold and the shed still being there. The full transcript of the memory meeting can be found at -



The former site of Teague's fish and chip shop on Cape Fold

I am searching for information on John James Griffiths, born Broseley 1874, married Ellen Elizabeth Smith (born in Great Totham, Essex) in Rogerstone, Monmouthshire, on 11th March 1905. The 1911 Census states they had three children, Edna Ellen born in Broseley 1906, Irene Mary born in Broseley 1908 and John William born in Broseley 1911.

I have the death certificate for John James Griffiths who died in 1962. He died at The Beeches Hospital, Madeley aged 87. His son, John William Griffiths of Jubilee Cottage, Willey Furnace, Broseley, was the informant. John William born 4th March 1911 died in 1982. The informant on his death certificate was his widow Beatrice Nora Griffiths

If anyone can help me find more information on this I would be extremely grateful.

Alan Simmonds

My husband's great, great, great grandfather was David Jones. We know he married Martha Lane on 31st May 1807 in St. Leonard's Church in Broseley. Their banns were published on May 10th, 17th and 24th 1807 by a Rector Forester. The International Genealogical Index for Shropshire lists their marriage on 31st May 1807 and the baptism of their son, John, on 25th December 1807.

Knowing that David and Martha lived in the area during 1807 I wonder if any records exist about them? I have tried various directories and Ancestry.com to no avail. If any member of your Society has worked on this family or if any specialists in Broseley would consider researching David Jones then I will gladly cover all charges for their time, costs etc.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<i>Chairman</i>	Gillian Pope
<i>Secretary</i>	Dot Cox
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jim Cooper
<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>	Andy Wellings
<i>Publicity</i>	Michael Pope Jan Lancaster Janet Doody Richard Sells Jennie Osborn
<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.

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



BROSELEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

SUMMER OUTING ----- SATURDAY 2nd JULY 2016.

This year our Summer Outing will be to the Cathedral city of Lichfield. The City's recorded history began when St. Chad arrived there to establish his Bishopric in the year 669 A.D and the settlement grew to become the ecclesiastical centre of Mercia. In 2009, the Staffordshire Hoard, the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver metalwork, was found 5.9 km southwest of the city. Lichfield's heyday was perhaps in the 18th century when it developed into a thriving coaching city. This was also a period of great intellectual activity, the city being the home of many famous people including Samuel Johnson, David Garrick and Erasmus Darwin. Today the centre of the city retains its unspoilt charm with over 230 listed buildings in its historic streets.

We shall be dropped off near the Cathedral and within a short distance there are some interesting places to visit.

Just inside the Cathedral Close is Erasmus Darwin House. The house, which was his home, was restored to create a museum in 1999, which was then opened to the public. Erasmus was a renowned physician, scientist, inventor, poet, educationalist and a founding member of the Lunar Society. It was here that he received many famous 18th century personalities, including Josiah Wedgwood, Matthew Boulton and James Watt.

In the Market Square is the Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum which records his life, work and personality. Visitors are taken through the colourful life and major achievements of Lichfield's most famous son, from troubled childhood to world renown and success. He wrote the first authoritative Dictionary of the English Language

Also in the Square inside St. Mary's Church is the Lichfield Museum which contains an exhibition of 2,000 years of Lichfield's history. The museum was opened by the Earl of Lichfield on May 30th in 1981.

LICHFIELD Cathedral, set in its beautiful Close, is the only medieval English Cathedral with three spires; known as 'the Ladies of the Vale'. It is dedicated to St. Chad and St. Mary, and suffered severe damage during the English Civil War when all the stained glass was destroyed. In spite of this the windows in the Lady Chapel contain some of the finest medieval Flemish painted glass in existence. It came from the Abbey of Herkenrode in Belgium and has recently been restored at a considerable cost. In the Cathedral you might also come across some Jackfield tiles!

The coach will leave Broseley at 8.30 a.m. from the Broseley Square Bus Stop. There is ample free parking in the car park next to the Library in Bridgnorth Road. We aim to be back in Broseley between 5 and 5.30p.m.

BOOKING FORM.

SUMMER OUTING TO LICHFIELD ----- SATURDAY 2nd JULY 2016.

NAME/S -----

ADDRESS. -----

POST CODE. ----- TEL. NO. -----

NO OF PERSONS @ £ 13 per head. -----

TOTAL PAYMENT. -----

Please make cheques payable to Broseley Local History Society and return this form, together with payment, by not later than June 25th. to Michael Pope, Rivendell, 2 Dark Lane, Broseley. TF12 5 LH
Telephone No. 01952 883960.