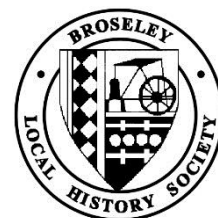


# NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

*INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY*



FEBRUARY 2018

## 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

- 7 Feb *The Archaeology of the Jackfield Stabilisation Project*, Shane Kelleher
- 7 Mar *William Hazledine; Ironmaster Extraordinary*, Andrew Pattison
- 4 Apr *The Caughley Society*, Maurice Wright
- 2 May *WW1, Faces and Tales (1/4 KSLI) part 2*, Wendy Palin
- 6 Jun *Summer Walk between Coalport and Madeley*

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

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## NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

- Reha Dericci, Broseley
- Tony Gunn, Broseley
- Mr & Mrs Spelle, Broseley
- Caroline Shannon, Rugeley
- Tony Honeyands, Charlbury



This year our summer outing is to Port Sunlight. If you would like to book a place on the trip, then fill out and return the form on the last page of this edition of Newsletter

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### Archaeologists: Heroes or Villains?

*Jim Clarke writes:*

*At the joint meeting of the Broseley Local History Society and Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust I reflected upon the work of archaeologists and the role they play in helping both to rescue the past and shape it.*

*The case for restoration?*

*The role of archaeologists in balancing the need to rescue and preserve the past with that of “educating” the public was illustrated through the work of Sir Arthur Evans and his reconstruction of the Minoan Palace at Knossos on Crete. The interpretation given to minimal evidence, which resulted in the partial recreation of a Minoan Palace, established a view of that civilisation that has been hard to challenge even though later research has revised the original interpretation.*

*Reconstruction at Knossos.*

*The tension between the need for research and that of educating the public was highlighted by a visit to the first integrated iron working site in North America at Saugus, Massachusetts. Established in the 1640s to support the new Puritan settlement of Boston it only survived for 40 years but laid the foundations of the future American Iron industry. The rediscovery of the site in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century and exploration in the 1950s by Roland Robbins highlighted the clash between the researcher and his sponsors keen to have something to show the public – the resulting recreation of a 17<sup>th</sup> Century ironworks based on partial archaeology and educated guesswork led to the departure of one very frustrated archaeologist!*



*Reconstruction at Knossos on the Greek island of Crete*

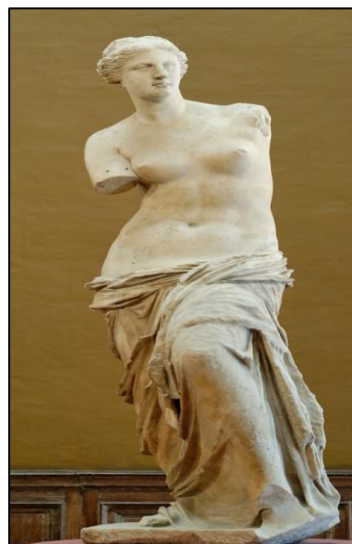


*Saugus Ironworks, Massachusetts*

*Political interference!*

*Examples where archaeologists have been drawn into politics reveal work that is good and bad. The reconstruction of the centre of Warsaw after World War II owed much to the detailed research of existing evidence in the recreation of the buildings – as well as a statement of Polish nationality in the face of Stalin’s drive to rebuild the city along Soviet architectural lines. Soviet designs in Central Asia saw the reconstruction of the Silk Road cities of Samarkand and Khiva as an exercise in 1950s propaganda, one in which political necessity overrode archaeological research.*

*A century earlier, the acquisition and dating of the Venus de Milo reflected National pride and the status of leading museums. The acquisition of the Elgin Marbles by the British Museum challenged the predominance of the Louvre Museum; the discovery of the Venus de Milo saw French archaeologists dispatched to date the find, with instructions that it should be from an earlier age than the Elgin Marbles – that they did owed more to the “misplacing” of the statue’s original plinth than the accuracy of the dating techniques of the archaeologists, who conveniently added two centuries to its age!*



*Venus de Milo*

### Self-Publicists.

The balance between scholarship and publicity was illustrated through the work of respected archaeologists like Pitt Rivers and Mortimer Wheeler and contrasted with that of Charles Dawson, “discoverer” of Piltdown Man and



Mask of Agamemnon

Heinrich von Schliemann. Regarded as a trophy hunter, von Schliemann excavated sites to prove his theories, ignoring evidence that did not fit them; it was rumoured he even “salted” artefacts made for him on sites to ensure the success of his excavations – the Mask of Agamemnon was alleged to be such an example as its style has been shown not to exist elsewhere in Greek archaeology!

### Explorer Archaeologists.

International power politics of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century coupled with intense rivalry for predominance between leading museums encouraged this type of archaeologist. The rivalry between the expanding British and Russian Empires in Central Asia opened “The Great Manuscript Race” which saw the plundering of thousands of artefacts from the desert sites along the Chinese section of the ancient Silk Road.

The frantic removal of manuscripts, frescos, paintings, embroideries and relics dating back to 7<sup>th</sup> Century owed as much to political as archaeological rivalry bordering on cultural vandalism and leaving the Chinese people to “gnash their teeth in bitter hatred”. Unfortunately, many of the treasures dug up in China over 100 years ago remain buried in the vaults of museums of London, Paris and Berlin where there is insufficient space to display them – for China you can



Removed Frescos – Silk Road

also read Greece or Egypt and many other ancient civilizations.

*It’s all about the interpretation.*

The dilemma for archaeologists is the expansion of knowledge that causes the revision of interpretations, defensible when the best available knowledge of the time is updated but less so where evidence has been manufactured or an interpretation proposed to support a theory.

In the case of Easter Island theories based on a folk memory where less than 3% of the native population survived and no written tradition existed to corroborate it, coupled with a theory of how the island’s indigenous population arrived and where their culture originated from has created an image of the past that may never have existed. The work of Kathleen Rutledge and Thor Heyerdahl in re-erecting the Moai statues ignored changes in religious and cultural beliefs on the island and the evidence that only 25% of the Moai started had been finished flies in the face of the image popularly understood to be that of Easter Island’s past.

Hiram Bingham’s search for the “lost capital” of the Incas arose from his interest in the Incas as much as his need to satisfy the demands of his patron, Yale University. The discovery of Macchu Picchu and claim for it to be a religious centre was not supported by any evidence but on his interpretation of certain features he labelled as the Sun Gate and Sun Temple resulting in a “restored” city to match Bingham’s theory.



Moai Stone Quarry



Machu Picchu Reconstructed

## *To dig or not to dig?*

*Whether adopted as an approach to preserve evidence in situ or a consequence of poverty, the current preference for archaeology is to identify sites of interest enabling informed decisions to be made about them. The excavation of sites creates the need to preserve and store artefacts plus protect exposed remains, all with technical and/or financial implications that may not be possible to meet.*

*Evidence shown from Syria, Ethiopia and Uzbekistan reveals that the identification of sites of interest may in itself be enough to protect them if under no imminent threat, a policy born out of economic necessity and a lack of technical expertise but one less damaging to the historical remains. Locally, the example of Turner's Yard Colliery and the abandoned settlement of Darley was used to illustrate the approach where knowledge, aided by non-invasive archaeological techniques allowed for the importance of the sites to be established and their protection guaranteed.*



*Apamea, Syria*



*Turner's Yard Colliery, Broseley*

*In conclusion the thought offered about archaeologists was that if it was hard to live with them it was harder to live without them!*

*Jim Clarke*

## **Christmas Meal**

In December the Society held another successful Christmas dinner at the Lion Hotel. Once our appetites were satisfied with a super meal we all sat back and enjoyed some entertainment supplied by Jim and Mary Cooper. Jim had been looking back through newspapers and censuses to compile a history of the Lion Hotel and its various owners and incumbents over the years. His findings showed that as well as some fine upstanding figures of the community a few rogues, rascals and real characters had been involved over the years. If only the walls could talk!



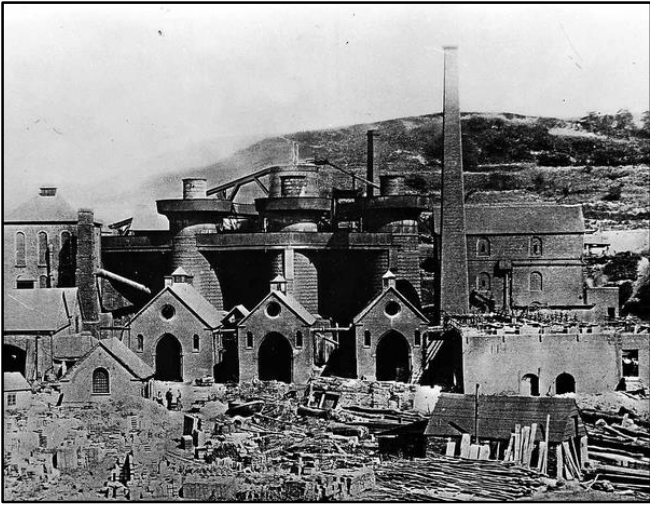
*Jim and Mary acting out their interpretation of some of the more interesting goings on at the Lion Hotel over the years.*

## **Blists Hill Museum**

*Janet Robinson writes:*

*The first meeting of 2018 was a presentation of slides showing the origins and evolution of Blists Hill Museum. Ron Miles had provided most of the slides but, as he was still on holiday, Steve Dewhirst also used some of his own as he gave the presentation. The first picture showed the blast furnaces in 1847 when the site was called Blesses Hill. The Madeley Wood Company owned the furnaces and the brickworks at that time. The furnaces were abandoned in 1912 when they were in decline and there was also a coal strike. The Hay Inclined Plane was also abandoned at this time. From 1912 until 1931 George Legge owned the brickworks. Benthall Pipes made sanitary pipes there until 1956.*

*The decision to make a museum on the site was informed by various other museums; Scandinavian type open air museum, York Castle museum, St Fagan's Welsh Folk Museum, Avoncroft and Beamish museums.*



*Blists Hill in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century*

*Blists Hill was to be a museum of industrial archaeology. First the site had to be cleared. Slag from the furnaces was used as hard-core for motorways. Volunteers cleared the site in front of the furnaces. The first exhibit to be brought from elsewhere was “David & Sampson” from the Lilleshall Company, reconstructed in 1971. A roof was built to house the vertical blowing engine. The canal was already there but needed to be reinstated and rails needed to be relaid on the inclined plane. The 1820 Telford Tollhouse from the A5 at Shelton was moved and rebuilt at the museum in 1972. In the same year the mine was built and the Duke of Edinburgh paid a visit. The headgear to the mine was added in 1973. On 31st March 1973 Blists Hill Museum was formally opened by the Earl of Plymouth. At that time the entrance was by “David & Sampson”. Two mine engines were brought from Milburgh tile works when it closed and a Candle Workshop was moved from Madeley to the site.*

*The first Guide Book was produced in 1974. On its cover was a low key picture of a reconstructed adit with a truck on some rails. During 1976 some events were held at the museum including two steam events, two veteran car rallies, Morris Dancing and horses in harness. In 1979 Prince Charles visited at the bicentenary of the Iron Bridge. He landed his helicopter at the site and was presented with Merrythought teddies in coracles. Neil Cossons was the Director of the Museum from 1971- 1983 when Stuart Smith took over and re-created an ironworks to make wrought iron. The building came from Woolwich and most of the equipment from Malmseys of Bolton. The hope was to produce wrought iron commercially by 1988 but it was never commercially viable. A Severn Trow named The Spry was bought in 1982, travelled to Blists Hill the next year but was moved out in 1996. More exhibits were added including a tin tabernacle, sweetshop,*



*The Spry, recovered as a rotting hull from the Diglis canal basin on the River Severn at Worcester in early 1982. Rebuilt fully to her original river-worthy condition she was successfully sailed, several times, in the Severn estuary, before returning to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum site at Blists Hill.*

*blacksmiths and plasters shops. A public house from Walsall was opened, and also a photographer’s studio and surveyor’s office and a baker’s shop. In 1985 a foundry opened for casting. This still operates each Wednesday. A doctor’s surgery was opened.*

*By this time the museum had become more a museum of life with people interpreting for visitors. A bank, chemist and grocers’ shop were added in 1997. The Forest Glen was moved from the base of the Wrekin to be a restaurant and a school from Stirchley became the Victorian School at the museum. In 2002 the museum changed its name to “Blists Hill Victorian Town”. The Goods Shed opened in 2004. Canal Street was constructed with replica buildings at a cost of £12m and opened in 2009 and the visitor entrance changed for the 4th time. The emphasis of the museum has changed from the early days of industrial archaeology to a much broader concept of a complete town with all the inhabitants in costume and character.*



*Lloyds Bank at Blists Hill, based on Lloyds bank in Broseley that sadly closed last year.*



## ENGLISH HERITAGE

### Ironbridge Visitor Volunteer

Stretching across the River Severn, the world's first iron bridge is one of the greatest symbols of the Industrial Revolution. English Heritage is embarking on its largest conservation project to date and we need volunteers to support visitors and help them see the bridge in a whole new way.

#### Where & When

- The Toll House, Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire, TF8 7JP
- This project will run from Autumn 2017 until Autumn 2018. The public walk way will be open from March 2018 until September 2018.
- The volunteer sessions will be mornings and afternoons, and we hope you will be able to do 1-2 sessions a fortnight. There will also be slots to support Hard Hat Tours, we will let you know these dates at induction.

#### Who We Are Looking For

We are looking for friendly enthusiastic communicators who enjoy meeting people from all walks of life, are keen to learn about the history of the bridge and share this knowledge with our visitors.

You can find more information about this opportunity by downloading the [role description](#).

#### Why Volunteer With English Heritage

Volunteering is your opportunity to play a part in protecting and presenting some of the greatest places in England. Your support is extremely valuable to us and we want to make sure you have an enjoyable and rewarding volunteering experience. Find out more reasons to volunteer with English Heritage.

#### Ready To Take The Next Step?

Download a registration form and email it to us at [volunteer.enquiries@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:volunteer.enquiries@english-heritage.org.uk).

Or you can post it to us at: Volunteer Team, English Heritage, The Engine House, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2EH.

### Blue Plaque Unveiling at the Wilkinson Primary School, Bradley, Bilston, Wolverhampton

Joseph Priestley and his eldest son had set up an insurance scheme for Wilkinson's workers at Bradley in the late 1780s, which made provision for a school. There was a later Victorian school, possibly called St. Mary's? in the town. Many years after the closure of the works, the site of Bradley furnaces was cleared in the late 1960s and a new primary school named after John Wilkinson was eventually built there. Three members of our Society (Audrey Morton, Maurice Hawes and Neil Clarke) were invited to the opening of the school – sometime in the 1970s, but the exact date is uncertain. Following the destruction of this building by fire, the present school was built.

On Thursday 2 November 2017 the Wolverhampton Civic and Historical Society (WCHS) unveiled its 100<sup>th</sup> blue plaque. This plaque was dedicated to John Wilkinson and was erected at the new Wilkinson Primary School.



*Former head teacher, Philip Staley, who retired in 2003 came back to unveil the plaque*



*L to R, Barry Hodgson, WCHS blue plaque organiser, Richard Sells (WCHS, BLHS) and Chris Gibbon, current head teacher of the school*



*The new Wilkinson Primary School*

The school has 520 pupils and 68 staff and was rebuilt in 2014 at a cost of £8.2m. Rather appropriately, the playing fields are on the side of the Birmingham Canal Navigations (BCN), which Wilkinson was instrumental in establishing. This was in 1767 at the same time as he was establishing his Bradley Ironworks, clearly, he wanted the canal to serve his new ironworks.

On the request of the head teacher, Chris Gibbon, the school was built in an industrial style in memory of Wilkinson

**Where's Welly?** 



*Editor: Where have I been this month? You may be stumped by this one!*

*In the last edition of Newsletter, we were trying to identify the place of worship pictured on the next page. How many of you guessed correctly that it was the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Broseley Wood? The Primitive Methodists built this chapel in Broseley Wood in 1839. In 1851 it had free seating for 108 people and rented seating for 84. There were 37 people at their afternoon service and 91 at their evening service on 30 March 1851, together with 48 Sunday scholars. The building ceased to be used by the Methodists in about 1920. It is reported to have been used as a Church of England chapel of ease after that, and ceased to be used for religious purposes in 1970. It has been converted to residential use in recent times.*

*The Primitive Methodists were a major offshoot of the principal stream of Methodism - the Wesleyan Methodists - in 19th Century Britain.*

*In the early decades of the 19th century there was a growing body of opinion among the Wesleyans that their Connexion was moving in directions which were a distortion of, not to say a betrayal of, what John Wesley had brought to birth in the 18th century.*

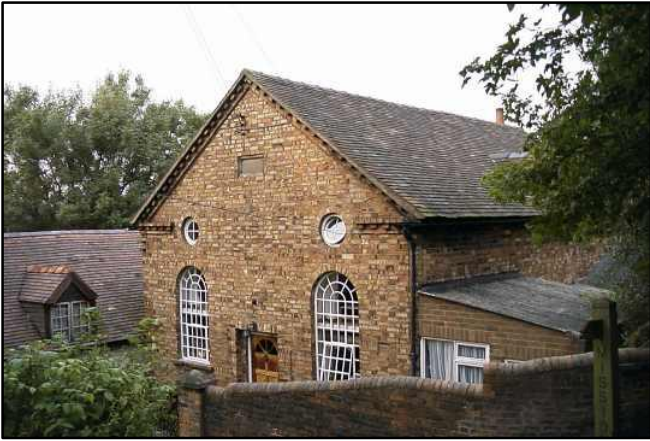
*Eventually a Methodist preacher called Hugh Bourne became the catalyst for a breakaway, to form the Primitive Methodists. Probably 'primitive' was used to clarify their self-understanding that they were the true guardians of the original, or primitive, form of Methodism.*



*John Freeman (BHLS) pictured holding the cast Iron plaque prior to its erection*



*The WCHS plaque in the grounds of Wilkinson School, Bradley*



*Primitive Methodist Chapel in Broseley  
Wood*

## What's On?

### Thur 1 Mar

#### Wrekin Historical Group

*Dr Penny Brookes, St Georges Parish Council Room,  
London Rd, St Georges at 7.30pm. 01952 613055*

### Thur 15 Mar

#### Wellington History Group

*World War One Postcards, a personal collection,  
Diana Clarke, 7.30pm Wellington Library, 01952  
402459*

### Wed 18 Apr

#### Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust,

*The Coalbrookdale Archives Lecture, Sula Rayska,  
7.30pm Glass Classroom, Museum Offices,  
Coalbrookdale, 01952 435900*

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/category/calendar/>

## Mailbox

**I recently visited Jackfield and spotted the attached photograph which looks very much like one of my relatives.**



Do you have any more information regarding the photograph e.g. the names?

Thanks, Sally Hayward

*Steve Dewhirst writes:*

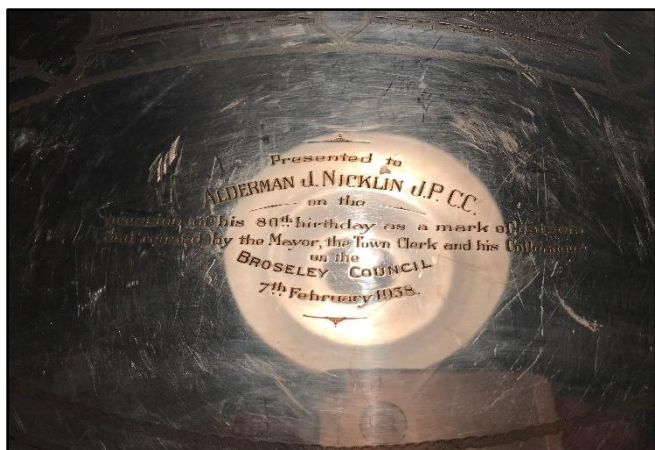
*Sorry I don't know the names but I will ask for it to be put in our next newsletter and hopefully someone will recognise them.*

**I just wanted to send you some photos of a tray that I bought in Düsseldorf some months ago. I found its history on the internet.**

Best regards from Germany,  
Anja Bergen







*Editor: The engraving on the tray reads:*

*“Presented to Alderman J. Nicklin J.P.C.C. on the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday as a mark of esteem and regard by the Mayor, the Town Clerk and his Colleagues on the Broseley Council 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 1938”*

**My father owned a house in Swan Street and also** had his own factory in Wolverhampton. After the war he sold up and moved to a cottage in Swan Street, bought the fish shop in the village and I went to the school across the road. I used to play with the Oakley family children and often used to go to what was known as Bluebell wood. I also used to play with Caroline Jones whose father used to own the Butchers on the corner. My father also built a pig sty adjacent to the fish shop and kept three pigs. The Hunt also used to gather in front of our fish shop. Do you know the story of the red chapel? Well once a year Lady Cotton used to appear and give water to those that died in the plague, it used to bring people from all over.

Mrs Anne White (nee Desborough)

**Looking through old newsletters of Broseley Local History Society** I came across an article by Janet Doody in August 2015 on two mosaic headstones, one in Madeley cemetery and one in Broseley, she asked at the end of it for any ideas on the mosaic headstone in Broseley cemetery of George Hayward and his son John. As the Hayward's are my late husband's family I can help with some information.

George, b: 1838 was the son of George Hayward and Ann Delves, He was christened at Broseley Birchmeadow Chapel in 1800, one of nine children all recorded as christened there except for the youngest child Henry. The children were born in Sutton Maddock, Shropshire, just across the river from Broseley, but christened in Broseley. The eldest child – daughter Mary b: 1832, sister to George was the grandmother of my late husband Leslie Griffiths. Jane, another sister

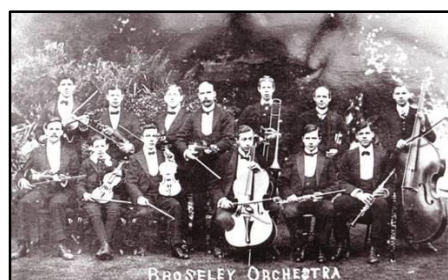


*The mosaic headstone in Broseley cemetery*

married a local butcher Matthew Davies, they went to live in Argentina just after their marriage. Whilst there they lost four children and came back to Broseley, where they had another 10 children. Many of them played musical instruments, two of the Davies sons are on the photograph of the Broseley orchestra which is in my Broseley book.

They were a talented musical family, the best known musician was the youngest child Henry Hayward b:1814 – violinist and composer, said to be born in Broseley, he received his first lessons from his father George and played a solo in public at five years old. He studied under Signor Spagnoletti and his executive powers were so extraordinary that he became known as the English Paganini. After some years passed in the Midlands he made his debut in London on 19 June 1839 at a soiree in Hanover Square Rooms. He later played at the Philharmonic Concerts in 1840 and is recorded in “Vauxhall Gardens 1661-1859 Musicians” as Henry Hayward Deputy Leader 1849.

He played by special command of Royalty at Windsor Castle on several occasions and surprised audiences in London when he was a young man by his brilliant performances. According to the last living relative who died recently of this Hayward family here in Broseley, this Broseley fiddler became known as the English Paganini, he played for nearly half a century appearing with orchestras, leading instrumentalists and vocalists throughout his career. He died in Wolverhampton where he retired to live, in 1884 aged 70 years. While living there he became friends with composer Edward Elgar who travelled from Worcester to buy his music equipment from Henry. He married Harriet Groutage in London in 1860 and was survived by eight children, all musicians, three of his sons married members' of the musical Martinengo family, this part of the family eventually went to live in New Zealand.



*Broseley Orchestra, Davies brothers last left back row and 1st right on front row*



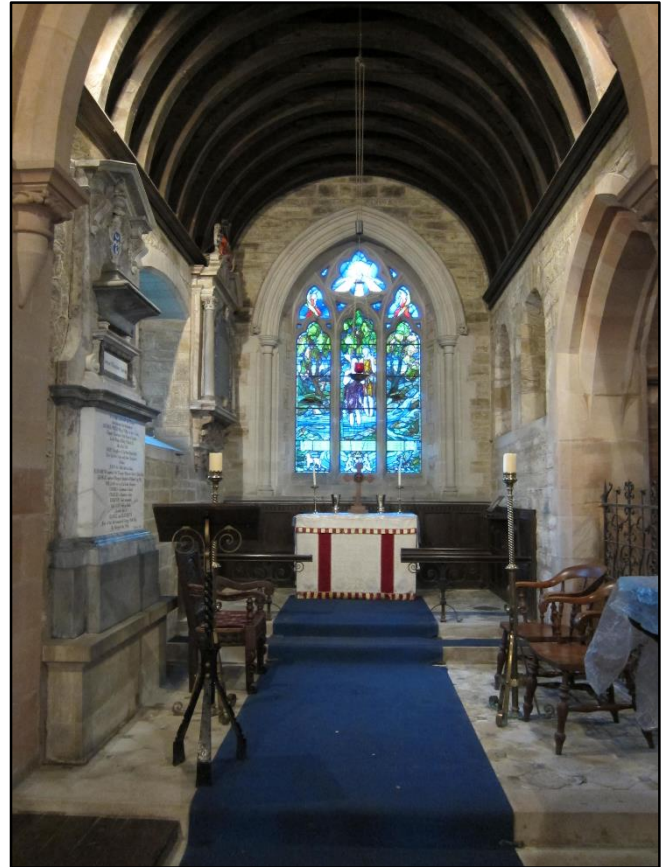
*Tiled butchers shop of Matthew Davies*

But going back to the mosaic tiles on the headstones, I was told by Jane's grandson that when they came back and lived in the Broseley Wood butcher's shop in King Street, Jane wanted the place brightened up as it was very drab so Matthew carted many loads of Maws tiles and tiled the butchers shop and other parts of the premises, the shop today stands empty but is still known as the old tiled butchers shop. He also told me that when the headstone was ready to be erected a local handy man took it to the cemetery on a wheel barrow, they don't know how they got it there it was so heavy, but he left the family members assisting him and said he would be back, apparently he went to the Foresters Arms and got drunk, they didn't see him again until the next day, he said they had an awful job trying to get it to stand upright! So I would assume the mosaic is made up from broken Maw's tiles left lying at the property.

Joan Griffiths

**Correction -**

*Editor - In the last edition of Newsletter two eagle eyed members pointed out that the picture of Willey Church was not actually "our Willey". It was a Willey in Warwickshire. Below is a photo of Willey Church in Shropshire.*



To see this Newsletter in full colour visit the website at [www.broseley.org.uk](http://www.broseley.org.uk).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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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:

[janetc46.jr@gmail.com](mailto:janetc46.jr@gmail.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

BROSELEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY.



SUMMER OUTING ----- SATURDAY 7th JULY 2018.

This year our Summer Outing will be to Port Sunlight on the Wirral, a beautiful model village and award winning tourist attraction.

The village was originally built for the workers at the Lever Brothers Soap Works and is now home to more than 2,000 residents. There is a range of attractions including the award-winning Port Sunlight Museum and a recently restored Edwardian Worker’s cottage. The Museum itself explores the founding and development of Port Sunlight through the decades and brings the village to life through informative interpretation panels, interactive and memorabilia displays and a unique 20 minute film. Adjacent is the renowned Lady Lever Art Gallery which houses one of the UK’s finest collections of fine and decorative art including the best collection of Wedgwood jasperware anywhere in the world. The Gallery was founded by William Lever and is dedicated to the memory of his wife Elizabeth.

In the afternoon we have arranged an hour long guided coach tour of the village – all part of a special package and the perfect way to appreciate the highlights and landmarks of the village and getting a real insight into village life, past and present.

There is a museum Gift Shop which offers a wide range of souvenirs and art work. It boasts an exclusive range of soaps including Sunlight, Lifebuoy and Vinolia soap – the perfect reminder of the Lever Brothers soap empire and the smell of a bygone era!.

There is also a Tea Room located above the Museum which sells a selection of freshly prepared soups, sandwiches and cakes. A further restaurant is situated above the Art Gallery selling a variety of light meals. Otherwise you can picnic in the extensive gardens.

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. The cost for the day will be £18 which includes coach travel, entry to the Museum and the guided coach tour in the afternoon.. We aim to be back in Broseley between 5.30 p.m. and 6pm

BOOKING FORM

SUMMER OUTING TO PORT SUNLIGHT, -----SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2018

NAME/S -----

ADDRESS. -----.

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

NO OF PERSONS @ £ 18 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 30th. to Michael Pope, Rivendell, 2 Dark Lane, Broseley. TF12 5 LH Telephone No. 01952 883960.