Newsletter

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

Incorporating the Wilkinson Society

May 2007

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MEETINGS

Meetings of the Broseley Local History Society are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm 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 7.30 pm to allow speakers a prompt start.

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

PROGRAMME

6 June	Site visit to the Lloyds led by Neal Rushton (see details on this page)
7 July	Trip to North Wales to see some of the achievements of Thomas Telford and John Wilkinson
5 Sept	*Wartime Memories* led by David Lake
3 Oct	AGM and talk by Richard Bifield *Thomas Telford's Shropshire Works*
7 Nov	*Alison House,* talk by Vin Callcut on the history of his house
5 Dec	Annual Christmas dinner

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

John Box	Ironbridge
Marion Bright	Broseley
Maureen Evans	Birmingham
Natalie Hodgson	Astley Abbots
Melvin Molyneux	Coalbrookdale
Dilys Caswell	Broseley
John Francis	Broseley
Diana Watling	Broseley

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Visit to the Lloyds

Wednesday 6 June, 7.30 pm

For our June meeting Neal Rushton of Telford & Wrekin Council will be showing members around the work going on at the Lloyds. Anyone needing a lift should meet in the Social Club car park at 7.00 pm while others may go straight there for 7.30 pm. Neal advises that the only available parking will be from the Blist's Hill end, through the 'Road Closed' sign; park beyond the house on the left. Protective clothing will be available but please wear stout shoes.

Members will be pleased to know that Phase I of the work is now nearing completion with a reopening date scheduled for mid August. This phase of the overall project has concentrated on stabilising the actual road, while Phase II will look to stabilising the area between the road adjacent to Lloyds Cottage and the river. It is envisaged that this second stage can be completed with the road open. Once complete the project will have a design life of over 100 years.

At the same time the Council has continued to lobby for additional funds to address the issue across the World Heritage Site and has identified a

need for £30 million additional funding to complete investigations and to stabilise priority sites.

The Council has also recently closed the road at Lloyds Head, Jackfield, as a consequence of land instability. Engineers are continuing to monitor the site to assess the cause of this movement and to look at options to address the problem.

Trip to North Wales

The Society's trip to North Wales in July, planned to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Telford and to see some of the achievements of both this remarkable man and his contemporary John Wilkinson, is now fully booked.

GARDEN OPEN DAY

Gillian, chairman of the Society, and Michael Pope recently held an open day at their garden at Rivendell, Dark Lane. The perfect early summer day attracted a large number of visitors who came to enjoy their fascinating garden as well as take the opportunity to purchase some of the plants on sale.

The event, which was held under the auspices of the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, raised almost £1 300. Half of this sum will go to the Trust, while the remainder will be split between the parish churches of Broseley and Barrow.

The open day at Michael and Gillian Pope's garden raised almost £1,300

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Bridgnorth and the River Trade, 1660-1760

In March Dr Malcolm Wanklyn, Professor of History at the University of Wolverhampton, gave a fascinating insight into the river trade of Bridgnorth in the late 17th and early 18th centuries – the vessels that were used, the goods they carried and the families that operated them.

Bridgnorth had been prosperous as a result of the cloth trade in the Middle Ages but suffered badly in the Civil War when most of the town was damaged by fire and many people moved out. The economic recovery in the late 17th and early 18th centuries depended not so much on manufacturing but on the carrying trade on the river.

Coal was the major cargo, carried by Bridgnorth boats from the Ironbridge Gorge mostly to ports down river and sometimes around the estuary. From evidence in the Gloucester Port Books, long distant cargoes handled by Bridgnorth vessel owners included white clay from Devon (destined for the manufacture of Broseley clay pipes and whiteware at Stoke), imported tobacco and wine, all going upstream and, in addition to coal, potware from Stoke and cheese from the Trent valley going downstream.

From documentary sources such as parish records and probate inventories, it is possible to give some indication of the number of workers on the river and the ancillary trades such as coopers, rope makers and boat builders:

1641-1670	34 river men	7 related trades
1671-1700	79	15
1701-1730	108	16
1731-1760	121	24

By 1758, of the 259 vessels operating out of Upper Severn ports above Bewdley, 75 belonged to 47 Bridgnorth owners. The majority were one-boat owners, but the Asbury family operated several vessels and one member of the family achieved the rank of alderman in 1769. The dependence of the boat owners on other trades led to much mobility (eg following the expansion of the Droitwich salt trade), and many owners were also innkeepers along the river.

The number of questions and points raised at the end of Dr Wanklyn's talk showed how much it was appreciated.
Neil Clarke

Thomas Farnolls Pritchard

The annual Wilkinson Lecture on Thomas Farnolls Pritchard was this year given in April by Julia Ionides. Julia is secretary of the Georgian Group which campaigns against the neglect, maltreatment and destruction of Georgian buildings, as well as the founder of the Dogrose Trust, a charity which works to make all environments accessible to people with visual and other sensory impairments.

In her lecture she gave an overview of Pritchard's work throughout Shropshire and the Border area, illustrating this with drawings and plans of such buildings as St Julian's Church and the Shrewsbury Foundling Hospital.

A full report on her talk will appear in the 2007 edition of the Society's Journal.

An Oral History of Broseley

In May Ken Jones presented some more of his recordings and memories of the people of Broseley, some of which had been made over 35 years ago.

On the recordings, Cis Hudson recalled going to the Broseley Fair which used to be held along the Bridgnorth Road and of how, as a child, he would help his uncle in his barber's shop in the High Street. Too small to reach, he would stand on a stool to lather a customer ready for his weekly shave. In those days, he said, the shop would be open until 11 o'clock on a Saturday night and you could get a haircut for twopence.

Two of the workers at the Southorn Pipeworks, Ida Bennett, left, and Clara Bagley who was still working at the age of 76

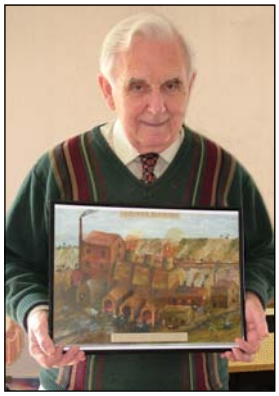
Len Edwards told of his experiences when enlisting in the King's Shropshires during WW1. Only 17 at the time, there were so many enlisting that the recruiting officer took on more than were needed, and several of them, including Len, were ordered to hand back their King's Shilling. More successful next time, he eventually ended up in the trenches and never forgot the horrors of that war.

Another well known person was Ivor Southorn, whose family owned the Southorn Pipeworks, who spoke about clay tobacco pipes and how they were being used to smoke such things as dock leaves long before Sir Walter Raleigh introduced tobacco into the country.

A particularly poignant memory was that of a picture of a gravestone in Madeley churchyard. This headstone had been painstakingly assembled by Edith Turner, a mosaic worker at Maws Tileworks, in memory of her eight year old son Charles. In attempting to save his brother from harm, Charles had fallen into the discharge pit for the winding engine boiler for the nearby Meadow Pit and had been severely scalded. The pit mound still survives next to the junction of Ironbridge Road and Glendinning Way.

Cis Roberts told stories he had heard of the time of the cholera epidemic back in the mid 1800s. It seems that the local doctor had been in the habit of giving victims what was known as the 'black

This headstone in Madeley churchyard was painstakingly assembled by Edith Turner, a mosaic worker at Maws Tile-works, in memory of her eight year old son Charles Arthur Turner



Ken Jones with the picture of the Lightmoor Ironworks painted by Ray Johnston

draught'. This induced such a deep sleep that the victim appeared to have died and would be prepared for burial, only later to be heard hammering on the coffin lid, and shouting to be let out.

At the end of the evening, Ken was presented with a picture of the Lightmoor Ironworks, which had been painted by Ray Johnston as he envisaged they would have been in their heyday.

Thomas Telford and the Chelsea Flower Show

This year sees the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Telford, one of the country's greatest civil engineers, and after whom the town of Telford is named. To celebrate this, Telford & Wrekin Council are coordinating a county-wide series of events and projects that will remind local people of his achievements. These include the Colossus of Roads Exhibition in Coalbrookdale, lectures, themed walks and, perhaps most unusual of all, a show garden at the Chelsea Flower Show.

The inspiration for this garden is Telford's design for the toll houses built along the A5 London to Holyhead Road between 1817 and 1832. The tollhouses were also the toll keeper's home and time would have been spent gardening, helping to sustain the household with fruit and vegetables.

Plan and elevation of the Telford & Wrekin Council's entry for the Chelsea Flower Show

The entry aims to capture the essence and quality of Telford's designs. Set in the 1820s it features a tollhouse, privy, toll gate, green picket fence and even the highway itself and is divided into a fruit, vegetable and herb garden.

The project is a joint effort with other Shropshire concerns. A replica of the toll house has been built with the help of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, the vegetables for the garden have been grown by Harper Adams University College in Newport, while Craven Dunnill of Jackfield have produced 'foxglove' designed encaustic floor tiles to complement the 30 foxglove plants which form part of the digitalis display.

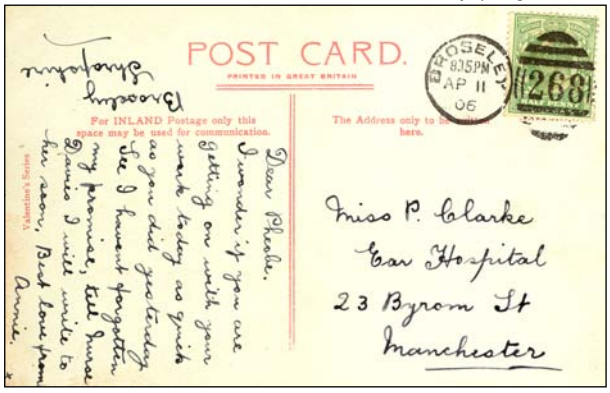
Once the show is over, the whole project will be brought back and rebuilt in Telford Town Park for the enjoyment of both local residents and visitors.

See What's on? on page 6 for details of Thomas Telford celebration events.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

This hand tinted postcard of Broseley Church bears a postmark of 1906. Since then it appears that the turrets from the top of the tower have been removed and there are more trees in the churchyard itself.

Postcard courtesy of Margaret Watkins



All Saints' Church, Broseley, today

The beautiful cherry tree, part of which can be seen on the right of the picture above, was planted in 1940 by Society Chairman Gillian Pope's grandmother Edith Oswell, in memory of her husband Archibald.

The magnolia further into the churchyard (not in the picture) was planted by Gillian's mother Mary Dixon in memory of her mother.

BROSELEY TILES GET EVERYWHERE!

An unexpected find in Singapore was the Thian Hock Keng Chinese temple which had been floored with Broseley tiles. The temple started life as a joss house, but was rebuilt in 1842 to service the influx of Chinese immigrants. The building is of an unusual construction, being supported entirely on bricks and wooden posts, with no nails in any part of the structure.

Inside the Thian Hock Keng Chinese temple in Singapore, which had been floored with Broseley tiles

SEVERN GORGE COUNTRYSIDE TRUST

The SGCT, which control almost 300 hectares of grass and woodland for the enjoyment of walkers in the area, are applying for planning permission to build a new office on their land between the Darby Houses and Sunniside Estate. This will provide accommodation for their staff as well as serve as a base for their volunteer programme.

The building has been designed by Simmonds Mills, the local architects responsible for the woodland college building at the Green Wood Centre on Station Road.

The Trust would welcome comments from the interested public and plans are being made available in local libraries. If anyone has any concerns and would like to know more, telephone 01952 433880.

WHAT'S ON?

Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

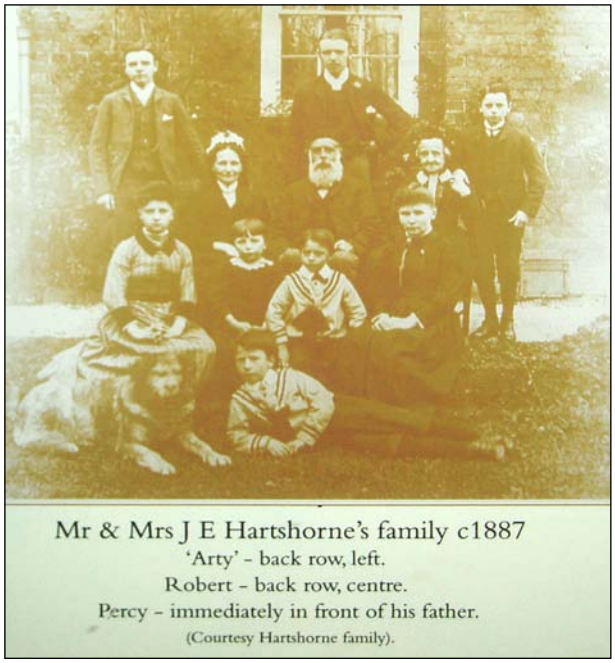
Coalport China Museum

The Coalport Teapot Exhibition will continue through to October. A bright and colourful display of early Coalport teapots, this exhibition gives a fascinating insight into the social history of tea drinking in Britain in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Porcelain teapots dating back to between 1796 and 1820 will be on display, with examples by both John Rose and Thomas Rose. A selection from other factories such as Caughley and Worcester provide comparisons and illustrate the styles that were influencing Coalport products.

Jackfield Tile Museum

The Salopian Art Pottery exhibition, which marks 100 years since the death of potter William Allen of Broseley, will run until 2 September. Allen ran the small Benthall Pottery for almost 50 years, producing



Arty Hartshorne, back row left, made the Gorilla Tobacco Jar overleaf

a fascinating range of ornamental and practical ceramics with a distinctive design which set them apart from the hundreds of other products made during the Victorian era.

Coalbrookdale Gallery

Colossus of Roads Exhibition
9 May – 30 September

This exhibition, being held to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Telford, the 18th century engineer responsible for the design of many innovative bridges, roads and canals throughout the country, focuses on his greatest works in the Midlands and North Wales as seen through the eyes of contemporary artists and engravers.

The original draft for his autobiography and associated correspondence will also be on show.

For further information on opening times for this and the other museums contact 01952 884391 or visit www.ironbridge.org.uk.

Thomas Telford 250th anniversary
In addition to this exhibition there are various other events celebrating the life and works of Thomas Telford.

Sat 21 July, St Michael's Church, Madeley
Lecture on Thomas Telford by David de Haan

Sun 22 July, St Michael's Church, Madeley
Thomas Telford 'Civic Service'

Thu 9 August, Montford Bridge
Unveiling of commemorative plaque

Sat 9 Sep, Jubilee House, Madeley
Thomas Telford conference study day

For further information on these and other Thomas Telford events, contact Richard Bifield on 01952 384191 or email richard.bifield@telford.gov.uk, or visit www.thomastelford.info.

Discover Shropshire

From Monks to Megawatts
Wed 20 June, 7.30 pm
Cost £3.00, meet on Buildwas Bridge
Walk around Buildwas and site of Thomas Telford's bridge led by Neil Clarke.
For parking facilities phone 01952 504135.

Bridgnorth and St Mary Magdalene
Wed 27 June, 7.00 pm
Cost £3.00, meet at the Northgate Museum, Bridgnorth
Tour of historic Bridgnorth and Thomas Telford's church led by Alan Webb.

Longdon-upon-Tern
Tue 17 July, 7.30 pm
Cost £3.00, meet at the Tayleur Arms, Longdon-upon-Tern
Visit to the site of the canal wharf, Thomas Telford's aqueduct and the church led by Neil Clarke.

Thomas Telford and Road Transport in Shropshire
Thu 26 July, 8.00 pm
Cost £3.00, Shropshire Archives
Lecture by Dr Trevor Hill.

Thomas Telford Day School
Sat 8 September, 10.00 am – 4.45 pm
Meet Jubilee House, Madeley
A programme of talks on Thomas Telford and a guided tour of St Michael's Church, Madeley.

Further details on these events from 01743 255350.

MAILBOX

I am trying to trace my family who lived in Broseley Wood around 1797. I have found a Thomas Owen, born 5 January 1800, who married Margaret Millington at Saint Leonard's Church on 23 August 1819. His father was John Owen and his mother Elizabeth Oliver. They were married in the same church on 13 February 1797.

I know they were miners and wondered if anyone has any pictures of the mine.

Richard Wright
bigred1978-2005@hotmail.co.uk

I am trying to get information on Broseley around 1794-1823. I have traced my great great great grandfather, and possibly his father, to Broseley around the dates shown, possibly working in the steel/iron industry as they moved to Kidderminster and Wolverhampton to steel jobs.

Interestingly my mother's family have also been traced to Broseley, they were the Inetts at Inett farm.

Roy Cookson
roy.cookson@yahoo.co.uk

It was quite common for workers from Broseley to go to the Black Country in the early 19th century as the iron works here had all closed by 1831 and there were jobs for skilled workers over there. There were also strong links with the Stourbridge area as well as Wales.

Inett farm is still there. The area is known as the Inett and is shown on an 18th century map. Do you think the farm was named after your family?

Steve Dewhirst

Inetts Farm can be found along Pound Lane in Broseley

Further to her letter in the **August 2006** Newsletter, *Brenda Gaffney writes:*

I have been so fortunate in my search for my maternal grandfather's line. I had always thought he came from Salford but, finding no trace of his birth in the Lancashire entries, I looked further afield and kept coming up with an Arthur Henry Davies in Madeley – it was my grandfather.

A friend who had read Joan Griffiths' book *Broseley: The People and The Past*, suggested I get in touch with her as we could be connected. And so it turned out, my Hiram Hill, born in 1799, was a brother to her John of 1801.

I shall be visiting Broseley in June and Joan has promised to take me around the places where my ancestors used to live. I believe some of the Hills owned a small iron foundry and their grave markers are made of iron with some of the inscriptions still visible.

Brenda Gaffney
brengaf@utvinternet.com

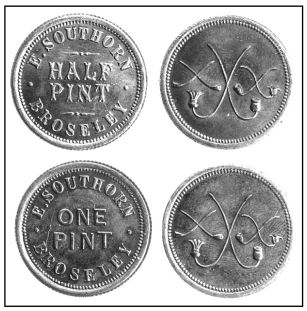
The Hill that Joan mentions will be Stephen Hill who ran the Benthall Ironworks as a foundry. I think he was also involved in limestone mining with someone called Price.

Steve Dewhirst

This old iron grave marker for Hiram Hill can be seen in Benthall churchyard. The inscription reads:

Hiram Hill of this parish
who departed this life
October 27th 1828
Age 58 yrs
Farewell my friends and children dear
My Blessed Redeemer has called me here
My debt is paid, my grave you see
Prepare yourselves to follow me.

Following Rex Key's letter about the Southorn tokens in the *February 2007 Newsletter*, he now writes to say that Dr David Higgins, an archaeologist who formerly worked for Ironbridge Gorge Museums and wrote his doctoral thesis on Broseley pipes, has added interest with this photograph of two more tokens.



Southorn tokens of a different kind, possibly for use at the New Inn

The ones seen on eBay were tallies and not local currency

Dr Higgins, however, says that these are completely different to those written about in recent *Newsletters* and seem to have been used as exchange for beer, presumably at the New Inn!

The tokens are 24mm across, making them a little smaller than the others illustrated. They are also decorated on both sides.

I have established that James Onions enlisted as a private in the 82nd Regiment of Foot on 28 December 1813 age 15. His army papers record his birthplace as Broseley and his occupation as hatter. His service in the Regiment included ten years in Mauritius and he was finally discharged on medical grounds on 10 September 1833. I am hoping to trace his birth/baptism and parents and should like to know if anyone has any information on the family.

Peter Cornish
petercornish@btinternet.com

Onions was a local name, the main family being the Onions ironmasters. I don't think there were that many Onions in Broseley so he may be related to them. I do not have any records for James, and as the registers for Broseley are in Shropshire Archives it would be better to contact them or the Shropshire Family History Society (see link on our website).

Steve Dewhirst

I am a Pumphrey living in the US and can trace my family history back to John Pomfrey (1410-1472) who lived in Newnham in Gloucestershire.

One of his descendants, a Richard Pomfrey (1470-1526), was widowed and remarried a woman named Weale who already had three sons. The line of Richard Pomfrey's children from his first marriage died out, but his three step-sons all continued their lineage. One of these was Walter Weale (1500-1546) who is my ancestor, so I am not actually a Pomfrey at all. The name came about because Walter Weale and his sons apparently went by the name Weale Alias Pomfrey, but at some later stage the Weale was dropped from the name and it became simply Pomfrey.

Walter Pomfrey, who was born in Charlton Kings Parish, Gloucestershire, in 1655 was the first immigrant to the US from our family line, sailing and settling with Quakers in Burlington, NJ, in the 1670s.

I am now trying to trace my real family heritage and the only reference I can find to the Weale lineage has a connection to Broseley – the baptism of Thomas fil Richard and Anne Weale 8 April, 1621. Are there any other Broseley Parish records predating this?

Mark Pumphrey
pumphre@citcom.net

I cannot find any reference to the Weale family in my collection of information. I would suggest you contact the Shropshire Family History Society who are the experts in these matters.

Steve Dewhirst

July 2008 marks the 200th anniversary of the death of John 'Iron Mad' Wilkinson, whose monument is such a prominent landmark in the village of Lindale in Cumbria.

To mark the event our Parish Council plans to smarten the monument up and install an interpretation panel which will tell visitors something of Wilkinson's life and work. As well as this, special events for next July are in the planning stages and we hope to work with

interested people from our community in various ways to highlight Wilkinson's achievements and his legacy in Lindale.

We are presently bidding for a National Lottery grant and have been advised that it would be helpful if we could get some letters of support and interest. If any of your members felt able to provide us with evidence of your interest in Wilkinson, and in the Lindale years in particular, so that we can show that the project is worthwhile, it would be of great help.

Jane Hall
Allithwaite Upper Parish Council
jane@janehall.wanadoo.co.uk

Peter Caves has had this reply to his request for *information on the Hudson, Gittins/Gittings and Pountney families of Broseley,* November 2006 Newsletter.

I have done a lot of research on the Hudson family in Shropshire since the 17th century. It is my mother's maiden name and we have a connection with the Gittings family in Broseley. I think Peter may be the New Zealand connection I have been looking for and would love to hear from him.

I also see that Gillian Pope has Oswells in her family as I do myself in Broseley. It would be interesting to know if they are the same.

Pauline Bradburn
DandPbradburnuk@aol.com

I have just read the article about Gillian Pope and her family's connection with the *Dog and Duck* public house in Jackfield in the *November 2006 Newsletter*.

Edward Williams, who held the licence for many years, was my great great grandfather and it was in his family right back to the original Crumptons. His widow Caroline held it after him, and after her their daughter Dora and her husband Richard Evans. I had thought it had lost its licence after that and become three cottages.

I should be grateful if anyone can give me information about this photograph. Can anyone date it approximately, or identify the two people or

Can anyone help date this picture of the Dog and Duck, or identify any of the people?

even the photographer? It is an early one, as the three gables are still in place, later ones have the third one removed. It appears to be before the pub was turned into three cottages, as there are still beer barrels outside. According to a *Wellington Journal* article in 1939 the pub lost its licence in 1892. Dora and Richard Evans took over the Duke of York in Broseley after the *Dog and Duck* closed.

Lynda Watts
ljwatts@ntlworld.com

In researching my family history, I found that my great grandfather's sister, Jane Ann Perks, lived in Broseley in 1871 with a George Langford and his family, according to the census return "near the Forester Arms". Jane is listed as a school mistress, aged 23.

Your website has helped give colour to her life. The best thing I find doing this research is "meeting" my ancestors and finding out about their lives. Thank you for the site, it has been a pleasure.

Kath Hewson
kathleen@morningsupu.fsnet.co.uk

Thank you for your kind words about our website, it is good to know that people find it useful. Although I cannot find a reference to Jane Perks in my records there were other Perks in Broseley, certainly from 1880 onwards. I have found several references to Langfords. One was living by the church in 1880 and apparently applied for compensation for the use of a footpath to Broseley

Church, for which he said £2 a year used to be paid. The application was refused. In 1881 and 1882 he was also an auditor or clerk for the local provident society so he was obviously well educated.

In 1841 from the Tithe apportionment a George Langford had a garden (no house is listed) on Rough Lane which is to the east of the Forester Arms. The other Langfords were living nearby at the Folly.

Steve Dewhirst

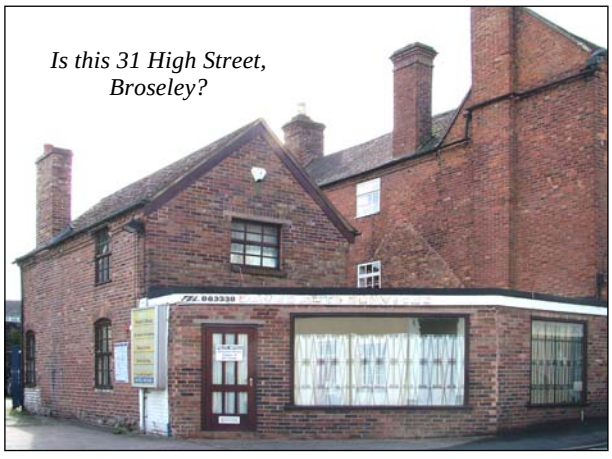
***Pat Newman, who used to live and work in** Broseley, writes:*

Many thanks for the Society's Journal. I have really enjoyed reading it, always a good standard. We have started a little local history society in the next village, which looks like a 19th century strip of ribbon development, but actually had a medieval bridge and a Viking defensive outpost. Lots of enthusiasm but getting people to actually commit to writing something is another matter. Even an evening 'insider' visit to the archives hasn't tempted members to try finding out, so I really admire the standard of your Journal.

Pat Newman
Heads Nook, Brampton, Cumbria

In response to Phil Cowan's letter in the *February 2007 Newsletter*, 31 High Street, Broseley, is now an auto repair shop. The picture shows the house attached to the property, so I am assuming that this could be his grandfather's house.

Editor



Is this 31 High Street, Broseley?

I used to play at the Broseley dance hall in about 1966 and 1967 in a group called The In-Sect. Does anyone know the name of this dance hall?

I am not only researching my family tree but also trying to name all the places the group played.

Malcolm
mthcah@f2s.com

I think the dance hall you refer to would have been the Bladen Club, situated in the old Birch Meadow Baptist Chapel. During or after WW2 the Elite Cinema opened there, although it closed in 1959.

After briefly being used by the Elite Ballroom and the Cabaret Club, the building reopened around 1965 as the Bladen Club. It was still going in 1986.

Steve Dewhirst

The old Birch Meadow Baptist Chapel has had a variety of usages. It now belongs to Broseley Town Council and is used for public functions

Newsletter is sympathetic to the concerns of certain of its correspondents who are reluctant to see their email address appear in the public domain. If there is anyone who does not wish their contact details to be published, they are welcome to make use of the Society's email address steve@broseley.org.uk. Any respondent without access to email may pass on information to any member of the committee.

See the Newsletter in full colour!
Visit the Society's website broseley.org.uk and click on Newsletter