

# Newsletter

## Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society

*Incorporating the Wilkinson Society*



November 2005

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Chairman</i>                               | Gillian Pope   |
| <i>Secretary</i>                              | Dot Cox  |
| <i>Treasurer</i>                              | Steve Dewhirst   |
| <i>Curator</i>                                | David Lake   |
| <i>Membership Secretary</i>                   | Janet Robinson   |
|   | 26 Coalport Road   |
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| <i>Programme Secretary and Journal Editor</i> | Neil Clarke  |
| <i>Newsletter Editor</i>                      | Jan Lancaster  |
| <i>Publicity</i>                              | Michael Pope   |
| <i>CD archiving</i>                           | Vin Callcut  |
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June Summer Event – details to be announced  
8 July Coach trip to Bristol – details to be announced

Further information from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

### New Members

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Susan Tappin, Wolverhampton  
William Inkson, Bridgnorth  
Christa Crawford, Broseley  
Peter and Shirley King, Benthall  
David Smith, Pontesbury

### Annual General Meeting

The Society's AGM took place at the October meeting when the Chairman, John Freeman, gave a review of the past year, recalling successful lectures, memories evenings and visits, in particular the July coach trip to John Wilkinson's home at Castlehead in the Lake District.

Treasurer Steve Dewhirst then presented the accounts for the year. Although these are in a healthy condition it was noted that subscriptions, which have stood at £3.00 for many years, no longer covered the costs of printing and distribution of Newsletters and Journals. It was proposed, therefore, to increase subscriptions to £5.00 for individual members and £8.00 for family membership. This motion was passed.

At this meeting John Freeman announced his decision to resign as Chairman, but stressed that he still intended to remain a member of the Society. There was a unanimously supported vote of thanks from the Society, and several members gave John their personal thanks for what he had done in the last four years, when the Society had gone from strength to strength.

### 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

- 7 Dec Annual Christmas dinner
- 4 Jan *The Society's Outings* – an illustrated presentation by John Freeman
- 1 Feb *Coalport, New Town of the 1790s?*, by Marilyn Higson
- 1 Mar *Lord Dundonald*, annual Wilkinson Lecture, by Paul Luter
- 5 April *An Evening with Ron Miles* – further examples of the inimitable wit and humour of this well known local historian
- 3 May *Perceptions of the Industrial Revolution* – readings and discussion with Diana Clarke

With the exception of John Freeman, all the present committee members agreed to be re-elected, and their names appear on p1 of the *Newsletter*. In addition, Gillian Pope was elected as Chairman.

### New Chairman



Gillian Pope is the first Society Chairman to have been born in Broseley where her family have lived since at least the 1700s. Her father's family were well known painters of Coalport china while her mother's kept the last working ferry on the River Severn before the Free Bridge was built in 1909. Gillian was actually born in the Lion Hotel in Broseley, which was then kept by her grandmother, although her parents later ran the newsagents and post office in the High Street.

Gillian went to school in Broseley before attending Hiatt College in Wellington and Priory Grammar School in Shrewsbury. After obtaining her teaching qualification, she returned to teach at Broseley C of E Primary School in Bridgnorth Road before moving with it in 1967 to its new site in Dark Lane.

In 1969 she married Michael, a past curate at All Saints' Church in Broseley, before moving to Shrewsbury, where their two daughters were born, and then to Gnosall in Staffordshire. She and Michael returned to live in Broseley in 2000.

Gillian is a keen gardener and flower arranger and is the President of the Newport Flower Club. Both she and Michael were among the prime movers of the *Broseley in Bloom* entry this year and put in sterling work in helping the town look so bright and colourful.

### Christmas dinner

**Date:** Wednesday 7th December

**Venue:** The Woodbridge Inn, Coalport Road

**Time:** 7.30 for 8.00 pm

**Price:** £13.50 per person

The Society's annual Christmas dinner will this year be held at the Woodbridge Inn, Coalport Road, Broseley. Always a fun occasion, book your



place now by completing the form on p13 and returning it, together with your payment, to Janet Robinson by not later than Friday 2 December. Please indicate your choice of starter, although your main course may be selected on the night.

### Trafalgar 200

In celebration of Trafalgar 200 the Society organised a series of events during Trafalgar Week, including an exhibition, a victory dinner, the auction of a Broseley Biscuit and the planting of pine trees off Dark Lane.



### Exhibition

The exhibition, which was held in Broseley Library, highlighted the contribution that Broseley and the surrounding landlocked district had made to Nelson's victory and was complemented by a grand display done by the children of Dark Lane Primary School and an excellent window in James Hurdley's ironmongers' shop.

The contribution of John Wilkinson has been well appreciated, his methods for casting and machining cannon being of such high quality and reliability that they formed the benchmark in providing the armament needed by the navy to confound Napoleon's ambitions. One of the features of the display was the Society's model of a pre-Wilkinson lathe together with a model cannon.

Another was a 1/12 scale model of the galley stove invented by Alexander Brodie. An actual stove on HMS Victory was capable of providing two hot meals a day to a crew of over 800 men. The stove, 6ft 6in square and 5ft 6in high, was surrounded by



*This model of Alexander Brodie's galley stove formed part of the exhibition*

a rail on which individual braziers could be hung. The front had three fire sections, a chimney-driven spit and two kettle cranes, while behind this was an oven capable of baking 80 loaves at once. The rear section had a separate furnace fire that heated two cauldrons providing steam to a copper condenser that produced desalinated water. □

There was also a display of items from the Society's collection of cast and wrought iron as well as a 'Trafalgar' clay pipe of unknown parentage, while the centrepiece of the display was a scale model of HMS Victory. □

Graphics boards designed by Hilary Callcut described Broseley's vital role at Trafalgar, the food rations, Nelson's famous rallying signal and a diagram of Nelson's tactics, as well as details of late 18th century taxation that helped pay for the navy and some vital statistics on HMS Victory herself. □

The display put together by the Dark Lane Primary School featured a 3-D representation of HMS Victory surrounded by appliqué pictures of alphabetical signal flags. Students' paintings of the actual battle and 'letters home' reporting on the death of Nelson, flanked the central display. □



Models on display included one of HMS Victory and a pre-Wilkinson lathe and cannon □



This splendid collage was designed and built by the students of Dark Lane Primary School □

## Victory Dinner □

On Trafalgar Day itself some 40 people met at the Lion Hotel to enjoy a splendid victory dinner. In a dining room decked out in red, white and blue, Cannon Ball starters and Fleet Broadside □



with Lead Shot were followed by Lady Hamilton for dessert, while Take Six, a group of local singers under the direction of Society member Geoff Bird, provided the nautical entertainment. □

After dinner Lt Cdr Lance Wise gave an outline of Nelson's life and emphasised that, despite his physical disabilities, Nelson was a man of great personal courage who cared for all the men under his command, irrespective of rank. As a result, the men on board his ships were devoted to him and were prepared to risk both danger and death. □

On a lighter note, Dot Cox and Neil Clarke painted a picture of what Nelson's famous victory might have been like in today's □

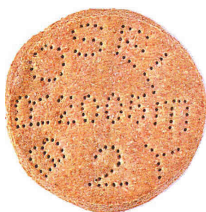


politically correct and health and safety conscious Britain. With scaffolding obligatory to access the crow's nest, and his men afraid to fire for fear of being accused of murder, Nelson's fleet would have fought under a very different flag. So should Nelson, in exasperation, have enquired "Whatever happened to rum, sodomy and the lash?" Hardy would have replied, "Rum is no longer allowed for fear of binge drinking, Sir. Corporal punishment has also been banned, although sodomy, I believe, is to be encouraged." Which is where Nelson's classic reply "In which case, kiss me, Hardy!" originated. □

As a finale to the evening Vin Callcut, who had put one of the by then famous Broseley Biscuits up for auction on ebay, presented this to the successful bidder, Laurence Ball, and thanked him for his contribution to Society funds. □



## The Broseley Biscuit



At the time of Trafalgar, each man on board ship had been entitled to one pound of ship's biscuit (or bread) per day. In keeping with this tradition, the Society arranged for five special Broseley Biscuits to be baked. Made to an original ship's biscuit recipe and similar to those on display in HMS Victory, each one weighed approximately 2½ oz, was 3¼" in diameter and some ¾" thick. Provided they are kept dry, they should still be in good condition for the next centenary celebration.

To raise funds for the pine trees which have now been planted at The Firs, Broseley Biscuit No 2 was put up for auction on ebay. Thanks to the efforts of Vin Callcut and Michael Pope, extensive press coverage to 'save the Broseley Biscuit' from going to America resulted in some lively bidding for this one time offer. The successful bid, of £212, was made by Laurence Ball who at one time worked at Instone's butchery in Broseley.



Laurence Ball, right, being presented with the Broseley Biscuit for which he successfully bid £212

Of the remaining four biscuits, No 1 will be retained in the Society's museum collection, while Nos 3, 4 and 5 were presented to Lady Forester, local MP Philip Dunne and the Mayor of Broseley, Cllr Eric Cox at the tree planting ceremony.

## Tree planting ceremony

On Saturday 22 October a ceremony took place at The Firs in Dark Lane at which a number of Scots pine trees were planted. These were to replace some of those purported to have been planted 200 years ago, of which only two now remain.

Broseley's Mayor, Cllr Eric Cox, and local MP Philip Dunne with Lady Forester at the planting of pine trees at The Firs, Dark Lane



Dignitaries from ten local authorities gathered to watch the tree planting ceremony at The Firs in Dark Lane



The planting was completed by Lady Forester of Willey Hall and the ceremony was attended by dignitaries from ten local authorities, as well as Broseley's MP, Philip Dunne. The Jackfield Reisen Band played a splendid fanfare after which the guests returned to Dark Lane Primary School to where the exhibition held in the Library had been moved.

Philip and Joyce Matthews, who live at The Firs, were thanked for giving the Society permission to plant the trees on their land.

Photographs courtesy of Vin Callcut, John Freeman and Michael Pope

*The Society is indebted to Vin Callcut and Michael Pope for the tremendous amount of work they put into the Trafalgar 200 programme. I am also personally indebted to them for their reports on these events, as I was unable to attend any of these functions.*

Editor

## Previous Meetings

### Broseley Schools

September's meeting was all about Schools and Neil Clarke opened the evening with some extracts from Dennis Mason's *Memories of a Shropshire Lad*. Dennis had attended Broseley Church of England school in Bridgnorth Road in the 1920s, where he remembered discipline and good old fashioned learning as being somewhat different – and more effective – than the more relaxed attitudes of today.

According to Dennis, the school had been built during the 1850s and took children from the age of four. As is still the case, there was no grammar school in Broseley in Dennis' day, and those children who did not go on to the grammar school in Coalbrookdale left at 14. Despite the lack of

*This photograph of Broseley C of E School in Bridgnorth Road is thought to have been taken in the late 1950s. An air raid shelter built during WW2 can be seen in the foreground, while to the left of the main building is the vegetable garden in which the students worked as part of school activities. The area behind the school grounds is now a housing development.*



Photograph courtesy of Gillian Pope

*The school building today now houses the Library and the Health Centre*



sophisticated equipment most left school with a good grounding in the three Rs.

Sports education was, however, a little more erratic, access to local fields being by arrangement with the farmers. Cricket was always a game full of surprises, the unrolled pitch calling for quick reactions when the ball bounced in unexpected directions.

Another outdoor pursuit for the boys was that of vegetable gardening, an activity fully endorsed by parents who expected their sons to help them in their own gardens.

The school drew not only from Broseley but from several miles around, the children from Wyke walking the three miles in all weathers. Most of the children went home at midday, eating their own dinner quickly before taking a hot meal to their fathers' places of work. Since some of these worked at Maws or Dunnills in Jackfield, the children certainly had to waste no time in walking the four miles there and back in order not to be late for afternoon school.

Discipline in school was strict with offences such as theft and ownership of a catapult earning a caning. Also punished, though not so harshly, was the stealing of walnuts, or 'bannuts' as they were known. According to Dennis, the use of the cane was definitely a deterrent and was treated with a healthy respect by the children. The occasion for a caning engendered a certain aura of mystique and it was popularly supposed that a horse hair laid across the hand before a caning would lessen the pain and could even break the cane itself. From Dennis' own experience, however, neither of these two theories had any basis in fact!

David Lake then recalled that a past president of the Society, Jack Owen, had once told him that, because there had been no swimming pool at the school, the children had been made to practise the breast stroke on dry land. Once sufficiently skilled, they had tackled the real thing in the river and had very soon learnt to swim.

Noel Ward recounted how they went camping on an afforesting trip to Herefordshire where they



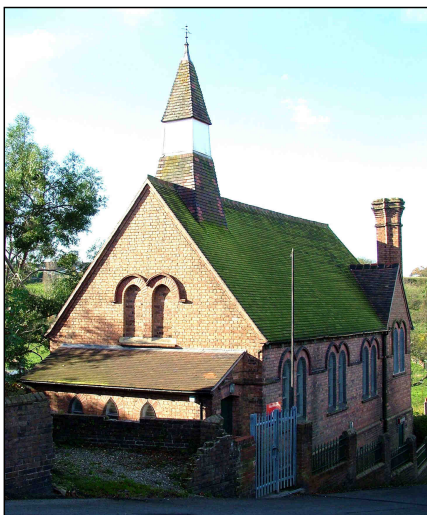
spent the time clearing and burning the underbrush, before using the time honoured method of extinguishing the fire come nightfall! He also remembered a trip to Wales where they got flooded out and had to sleep in a cowshed. Possibly the person who slept with his head in a bees' nest also remembers the occasion!□

There had been a number of evacuees attending the schools during the war. Some of these had been accompanied by nuns who, not caring for the Church of England School, had given lessons in the Town Hall. The children were, however, then taken down to the Rectory for their midday meal where they were joined by some of the children from the Church of England school, others going to the Victoria Hall. At some stage, the Town Hall was used for carpentry lessons.□

Another school in the town was the Legges Hill infants' school, now the home of the Broseley Detachment of the Shropshire Army Cadet Force. Built in 1872, it accepted children up to the age of seven, after which they went to the Church of England school.□

Enid Chidlow said she had been the last headmistress there and when the school had closed in 1967 she and the children had moved to the new school in Dark Lane, which had been built to replace the school in Bridgnorth Road.□

Designed to house over 400 pupils, this new school incorporated a mural of tiles made in 1883, presented by Maws of Jackfield, showing the



*Legge's Hill□  
infants school□  
is now home to  
the Broseley□  
Detachment of  
the Shropshire  
Army Cadet□  
Force□*

makers at work. It also had much more modern facilities including central heating, a self contained kitchen and indoor toilets.□

Broseley, however, was growing fast and three years later a further school, John Wilkinson Primary School, was opened in Coalport Road.□

*The Society would be pleased to hear from anyone else who has memories of their school years in Broseley.□  
Editor□*

### **The Navy, Nelson and Trafalgar 1805□**

*Lt Cdr Lance Wise, gave the□  
October meeting talk on the Navy,□  
Nelson and Trafalgar.□*



At the time of Trafalgar the crews□  
of the ships were mainly volunteers.□  
Typically a ship would have 60%□  
volunteers, 26% transferred from□  
other ships, 12% pressed men and a 2% quota from  
all the towns of Britain. Though conditions were  
not good, they were frequently better than those on  
land and had improved significantly since the 1797  
Spithead and Nore mutinies. Pressed men were  
usually collected from nearby harbour inns, while  
the quota men were frequently landlubber jailbirds  
who did not get an initial welcome from their  
messmates.□

The volunteers were mostly attracted by the  
assured food and accommodation and the chance  
of prize money. For example, prize money from a  
captured 32 gun frigate would be split between the  
admiral, the captain, the officers and the crew. The  
captain's share would be equivalent to about 35  
years' pay and for the seamen about 18 months'.□

Assessing the age of the crew with certainty was  
difficult. Most would be in the 20-30 year age  
group though on HMS Victory the age spread was  
from 8 to 69.□

Unlike the army system, it was not possible to buy  
a commission. A midshipman could only become  
commissioned as a lieutenant once he had passed  
an examining board. HMS Victory had a crew,  
commanded by Captain Hardy, of 820 men of  
which 9 were commissioned officers, 21 were  
midshipmen and 77 were non-commissioned

warrant and petty officers. The rest of the crew comprised able and ordinary seaman, landsmen and supernumeraries as well as 31 boys. □

Also within this complement was a detachment of 146 Royal Marines from the Chatham Division, commanded by Captain Charles Adair. Their duties included security on board as well as fighting the enemy. Apart from the 700 English, Irish, Scots and Welsh, 18 other nationalities were represented on the ship at the Battle of Trafalgar. All had to work, eat and sleep in a ship only 151 ft long. Only a small number would actually have been needed to work the ship although the full complement was required to service and man the 104 guns. When not fighting they were kept busy with routine work and training. □

As the British fleet waited for the combined French and Spanish fleet to sail from Cadiz Nelson outlined his plan of attack. The ships were to form two columns, with Nelson in command of one and Collingwood the other, and sail at the centre and rear of the enemy line of battle so as to bring the British ships into close action and cut off the van of the combined fleet. □

This was radically different from the usual practice of firing broadsides while sailing alongside the enemy. Nelson's plan allowed for his fleet to

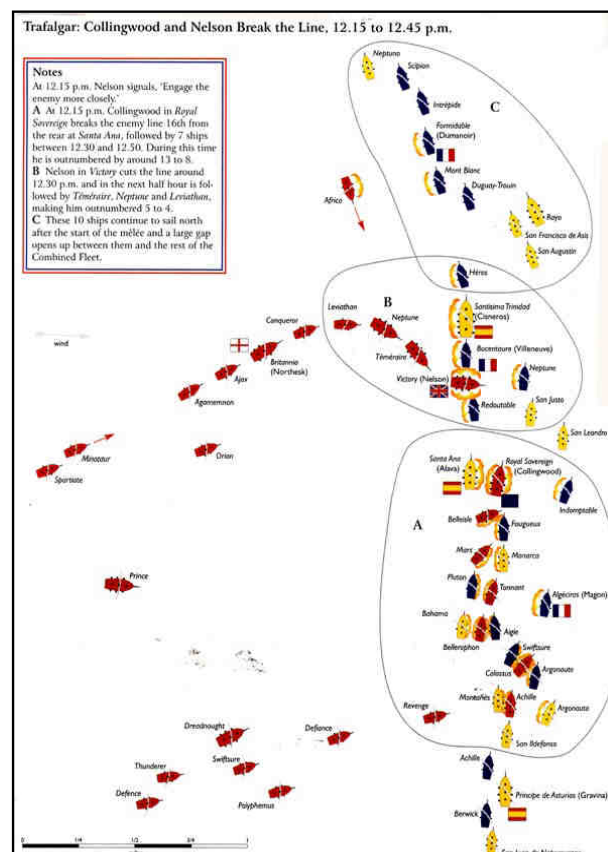
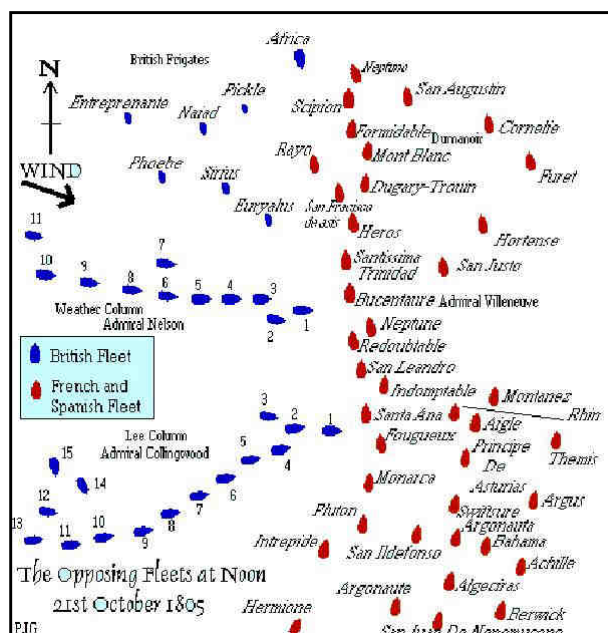
attack selected targets across their bows and sterns with devastating fire that would sweep the length of the enemy ships. This meant that the approach was directly into the broadsides of the enemy while his ships could not fire forwards. That damage had to be expected and absorbed. □

During the battle HMS Victory suffered some of the worst casualties of the allied fleet with 57 of her crew killed or dying of their wounds, and a further 102 wounded. Overall, the casualties were high, as might be expected in such a close fought action. The British lost 449 men killed and 1,241 wounded (some of whom subsequently died), while the French and Spanish fleets lost 4,408 men killed and 2,545 wounded. □

The ultimate outcome of the victory was to secure the supremacy of the British navy on the high seas for the next hundred years, and marked the end to any threat of invasion from France. This situation led Napoleon to develop his Continental strategy, and may have been responsible for his disastrous campaign against the Russians in 1812. □

#### Breaking the line at Trafalgar □

*The two fleets at the onset of the battle* □



## Broseley and early Railways

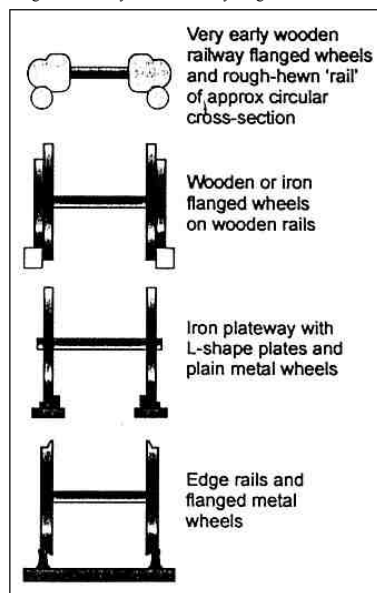
Nottinghamshire may lay claim to having had the first railway in Britain, but the village of Broseley was not far behind, even though this advance in transport technology did not appear to meet with the approval of the Lord of the Manor, James Clifford.

During his talk at the November meeting, Neil Clarke cited the report of a law suit heard in the Court of the Star Chamber in 1606 when at 10 o'clock on the night of 14 November 1605 he (James Clifford) is reported to have assembled a gang of ruffians who 'did cut, hack, hew and displace the... engine (wagon) and the rails, or sawed timber there laid and placed for the passage of the said engine...' which ran from Birchmeadow to the Calcutts and belonged to Richard Willcox and William Wells.

This case, and a subsequent retaliatory law suit two years later, provide the evidence for Broseley having Shropshire's first recorded railway.

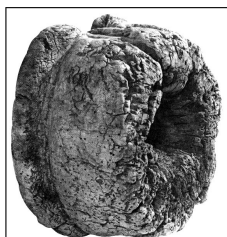
The references in the Court record of these cases to instruments of timber, 'tylting rails', 'ropes' and 'pins' (ie a waggonway with rope worked inclines and wooden rails fixed to the ground) describe the typical characteristics of the type of early railway that developed in the Ironbridge Gorge in the 17th and early 18th centuries, designed to carry coal from mines and adits down to the wharves.

Diagram courtesy of The Railway Magazine March 2004



*The evolution of wheel and rail*

*This flanged wooden waggonway wheel had a diameter of 9½ in*



An example of a flanged wooden waggonway wheel (with a 9½" diameter and a 3½" tread) has survived, and an early 18th century estate map shows the wharf layout at the Calcutts.

Neil went on to describe developments in railway technology in which Shropshire took the lead in the 18th and early 19th centuries – including the introduction of the iron waggon wheel (Little Wenlock-Strethill railway 1729), the first use of iron on rails (Coalbrookdale 1767), the first surface use of L-shaped plateway rails (Ketley inclined plane 1788) and the first steam locomotive (Coalbrookdale 1802).

Broseley also played a part in these 18th and early 19th century developments, the use of the term 'railroad' first being recorded at Rowton on the Tarbatch Dingle line in 1702. This same railway, later extended by the New Willey Company, was probably the first to have double track (1759). It was while living at the Tuckies at Jackfield (1800-1803) that William Reynolds planned with Richard Trevithick the building and testing of the Coalbrookdale locomotive.

## The Tree



Known simply as The Tree, this splendid beech has, for many years, formed a graceful arch over the Broseley to Much Wenlock road at the entrance to Arlescott Farm. Thought to be more than 200 years old it is over 60ft high, has a girth of 15ft and a canopy diameter of almost 100ft.

Time, however, has taken its toll and during routine inspections by the Willey Estate, on whose land the tree stands, it was found to be infected with two different fungi. While one is fairly slow acting the other, the giant polypore, poses an



immediate threat. This particular fungus attacks the under sides of the woody roots and the base of the trunk causing the wood to break unexpectedly, leaving the tree at significant risk of blowing over in strong winds, particularly if in leaf.

It is with great reluctance, therefore, that the Willey Estate has decided that The Tree must be felled as soon as possible before it falls onto the highway and risks becoming a danger to traffic.

There is, however, a brighter side. Fortunately the tree has produced a number of seedlings which will eventually be planted out along Arlescott Farm drive. In addition, one of these seedlings will be presented to Helen Chissell from Dawley. Her husband Richard's ashes are scattered under The Tree and Helen has asked the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust to plant her seedling out at Blists Hill. That way, she says, people will remember not only her husband, but The Tree as well.

### Broseley in Bloom



Readers of *Newsletter* will be aware that the Society was one of the sponsors of the *Broseley in Bloom* competition. This project was the idea of Mayor Eric Cox and he, together with a dedicated band of helpers and the goodwill of

the community, worked hard to make the town look its best when judging took place in July. Their efforts certainly paid off when the town gained a Silver Award, with Jackson Avenue getting a Certificate of Merit.

This competition is ongoing and the town can look forward to a show of both winter and spring flowers in the months to come.



One of the gardens which helped Jackson Avenue gain a Certificate of Merit

### Dawley History Day

Several members of the Society were among over 70 people who attended the Dawley History Day on 24 September, which was organised by Wrekin Local Studies Forum on behalf of the Friends of Shropshire Archives. Dawley, like Broseley, covers a sizeable area and has a long industrial history.

Neil Clarke introduced the proceedings by referring to Dawley's medieval origins and describing the extent of the ancient parish.

The industrial past of the area was the major theme of the day's four illustrated talks with speakers being Marilyn Higson, Ken Jones, Paul Luter and David Gregory.

### Severn Gorge Countryside Trust

In September, the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust organised a walk celebrating the fact that they were taking over responsibility for Workhouse Coppice. Despite the dreadful weather, the event was well attended and the Trust are grateful to all those who came along, including the Mayor of Broseley, Eric Cox, the Chair of Barrow Parish, Shirley King and Andrew Sharkey from the Woodland Trust. A representative from the Shropshire Wildlife Trust was also there and was able to outline how their plans will benefit wildlife, including rare woodland birds such as the pied flycatcher.



The transfer of Workhouse Coppice from the Woodland Trust is scheduled for 1 January, 2006.

### What's on at Ironbridge Gorge Museums? Blists Hill

10 and 11 December  
17 and 18 December  
10.00 am – 4.00 pm daily



Carol singing around the Blists Hill Christmas tree as well as a host of Christmas activities. A trio of treats for children includes a visit to Santa's Grotto, a horse and carriage ride and a traditional Victorian fairground ride. Special discount entry fees apply on these days.

### Coalport China Museum

Chinese New Year

Saturday 28 and

Sunday 29 January 2006

11.00 am – 1.00 pm and

2.00 – 4.00 pm



Chinese New Year festivities mark the Year of the Dog. The museum will highlight its collection of Caughley porcelain, particularly the excellent ‘Chinese Whispers’ exhibit. Caughley’s use of blue and white porcelain, decorated with oriental scenes and landscapes, was a direct result of the popularity of similar Chinese imports during the 18th century.

For further information contact tel: 01952 884391 or visit [www.ironbridge.org.uk](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk).

### Once upon a time

*The following items have been extracted from reports which appeared in the Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News during 1905. These and other reports are available at Broseley Library as well as appearing on the Society’s website [www.broseley.org.uk](http://www.broseley.org.uk).*

30<sup>th</sup> September 1905

A youth named Reginald Wood (16) on Saturday afternoon dived off the famous Coalport Bridge. About 100 people were present, who made a collection for the youth. Wood performed a similar feat on the previous Saturday at Buildwas Bridge; and his intention is to dive off all the bridges in the district.

25<sup>th</sup> November 1905

When Mr Chas S Henry (Liberal and Labour candidate) was returning from Jackfield yesterday in his motor car, where he had been addressing an open air meeting, the cog wheel of his motor car broke, and the wheel came off. Fortunately no one was injured. Mr Henry and party had to return to Wellington by train.

### Bookshop

*Fatal Accidents in Shropshire Mines from 1850-1979* by Ivor J Brown. Published by the Shropshire Caving & Mining Club as Account No 24, 2005 (August), A4 size, soft cover, 86 pp, illustrated.

This fascinating well illustrated publication gives information on some 800 mineworkers who died as a result of accidents in Shropshire mines. Surprisingly it includes a number of women and children, although their employment below ground had been made illegal before the period covered.

It covers incidents in the coalfields during this period, fatalities in the metalliferous mines from 1875 onwards, a list of disasters and indexes to names of persons and mines in the county.

The book gives considerable detail on all the disasters, each well illustrated using contemporary material.

Available from Moore Books, 53 Vineyard Drive, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 7DF, tel: 01952 405105, or through their website [www.moorebooks.co.uk](http://www.moorebooks.co.uk), price £6.00 plus £1.50 postage and packing.

### Mailbox

*David Folker is looking for information on the Old School House, The Lloyds, Ironbridge*

This property, variously called the Old School House, the Cottage or Riverside, is a Grade II listed building on the north bank of the Severn opposite Jackfield church. Now a domestic property, it is said to be c1840 and is thought to have been a Methodist meeting room and school. It is the property nearest to the Blists Hill junction with the Lloyds.

Would your Society have any information on this? I can find a reference on an old 1790s map to a school in the Lloyds. I have also seen a sale of land on the Lloyds from 1926 which did not include this property but seemed to cover everything else – supporting the idea it had already been gifted to the church before that time.

*In response to this enquiry Steve Dewhirst wrote:* The Victoria County History for Telford reads “the Lloyds Parochial (later Church) School was established c1852 by the Madeley Wood Company in a former warehouse. In 1862, with the vicar’s concurrence, it was managed by John Anstice, a partner in the company. School pence from some 60 mixed pupils then produced c£12, the

deficiency in cost being made up by the company's partners. In 1903-4 there were 68 boys and girls and 49 infants. The school closed in 1926."□

The best places to look are the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Library (01952 432141) and Madeley Library (01952 586575) who (I think) have a local studies section. The Tithe map and apportionment of 1840 should show the school and there was a report (Nuffield Survey) done on the Lloyds about 15 years ago which should be in the IGMT library. Is the house in question the white one next to the road on the bend which is shown on the 1887 Ordnance Survey as School or the brick one set back from the road on the opposite side from the river?□

Anyone else who can help may contact David on□  
Tel: 0207 298 1656 (work)□  
Mobile: 07887 997378□  
Email: dfolker@football-data.co.uk□

**Florence Johnson**□ is trying to contact the family of her American father. His name was Holden Jackson from New Jersey and, with other American troops, was billeted in either Jackfield or Broseley during the spring and summer of 1944. Florence was born in Jackfield at Lloyds Head near the Black Swan and went to Jackfield School where she remembers the Headmistress Miss Dixon. □

She moved to Broseley when she was 10 years old but started work in Maws Tile Works in Jackfield when she was 16. She now lives in Builth Wells.□

She may be contacted on 01782 552307.□

*Following□ **Bob and Christine Morrison's** unsuccessful bid for Broseley Biscuit No 2 Bob writes:□□*

In my opinion it is particularly important to have historical societies. There is a concerted effort within society at large (especially in the UK where we have an imperial and colonial past) to deny any feeling of pride in our history and to replace it with a guilty conscience. If present trends continue, it will not be possible to hold a 250th anniversary

celebration of Trafalgar – we shall probably by then be having to pay compensation to the French for having beaten them and injured their feelings of pride.□

□ We cannot deny that in the pursuit and defence of Empire, many actions were undertaken that would not be contemplated today. However, to only emphasise the bad and not to celebrate the great achievements and victories along the way is a crime against our heritage, to say nothing of the education of future generations.□

Bob Morrison□  
robroy.m@virgin.net□

***Yvonne Hitchen** was recently in Broseley doing some research on her family history. She has also just read an article in the November□ Newsletter regarding the Wolfson Pottery in Broseley.□*

In 1948 my father, William Goodwin,□ left Stoke-on-Trent for Broseley, where he worked for an Abe Wolfson. We lived at 10 Bridge Road and although I found the cottage I couldn't find any information about why my father had come to this area.□

□ My father was a maintenance fitter in the Pot Banks of Stoke-on-Trent and I wondered why, if according to your article Wolfsons went bankrupt, he would come and work for them in 1948. Was the Pottery still capable of re-opening in 1948 or was Mr Wolfson trying to open another factory in the area, or maybe even managing one? □

Is the pub you mention anywhere near 10 Bridge Road or is it further down the steeper part of the hill?□

Yvonne Hitchen□  
yvonne@alpha-business-centre.co.uk□

**Janet Wright**□ from New Zealand is researching names in an old Bible which has come down to her from her father's line which was associated with the pottery industry in the wider Stoke area. Some of the names in the Bible with birth dates are recorded in St Leonard's Public Records, Broseley. They are:□



Eleanor Evans 1741, Tabitha Evans 1762 (daughter of Eleanor Evans), Tabitha Bell 1763 married William Bell 1786. Children of Tabitha and William Bell were Mary Bell 1787, Marget Bell 1789, Elizabeth Bell 1792, Benj Bell bap 1798, Ann Bell bap 1803, Ann Bell bap 1810.□

Other surnames in the Bible are Joiner, Swallow, Barugh, Haines and Parker.□

Janet's great great grandparents were James and Ann Bourne, and her great grandfather was born in 1812. A James Bourne married an Ann Joiner in Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1802. In view of the Bible entries she wonders if there is a connection between the Bournes and the Broseley families and would appreciate hearing from anyone with any information.□

Janet Wright (nee Bourne)□  
jp.wright@xtra.co.nz□

***David Roberts, who now lives in Australia, shares some early memories of Broseley.***□

I lived in Broseley until 1969, when I was aged 11, and my family owned the buildings on High Street opposite the old Town Hall. At that time the family owned and operated a grocery, a men's outfitters and a drapery store, all in the same block. The properties and businesses had been in the family for two generations before the new town of Telford became established and business was drawn to the new centre.□

I have photographs from our time in Broseley and there may be some of interest to your Society, like

*76 High Street. The family name of Roberts is on one of the fascia boards. David's elder sister in the pram outside the grocers dates this picture to the summer of 1953*□



the carnival floats that passed our house each year and in which I remember my father would participate.□

I am curious about what happened to the area near to where I lived. I recall rolling hills behind the house and a farm to which the fair would come each year. The trucks going past our house would often dislodge the narrow paving that lay between our foundations and what I think was Barber's Row. I also remember the old wooden milk cart from which the farmer would fill our milk bottles from his churns. I believe he stopped delivering in the mid '60s when the Pine supermarket opened diagonally opposite. I also remember a naturalist living nearby who used to have her own show on the BBC. She drove a then new Silver Ghost and lived in a three storey house, the top floor of which had been given over as a home for wildlife.□

My grandfather, George, was the first Roberts from our family to move to the area. Although he came from across the Welsh border, I believe he was not actually Welsh but may only have worked there around the time of the First World War. He married Lois Tatnall whose family were long standing in the area. Amongst her siblings were Dorothy, Matilda, Tom and James. My mother's name was Anna and she was well known for being a foreigner and bringing with her the fashion of the continent. Matilda used to live in Broseley in a cottage next to our stable on Swan Lane. Others may remember my father, Frederick, as being one of those who revitalised the old tennis courts and resurrected the sport after the Second World War.□

The family took over the town block and the business before the war, purchasing it from James Davis. My grandfather was friends with the local auctioneer who encouraged him to bid on the property and business when it came up for auction – apparently he was always susceptible to a bargain!

I also remember a few family names such as Davies, Wridly and Lloyd. If any of them are still in the area, please remember me to them.□

David Roberts□  
cti@webone.com.au□

## CHRISTMAS DINNER, WOODBRIDGE INN, COALPORT ROAD, 7 DECEMBER 2005



Please reserve me \_\_\_\_\_ place/s for the Society's Christmas Dinner at a cost of £13.50 a head

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose cheque/postal order for

Add: \_\_\_\_\_

£ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to

\_\_\_\_\_

Broseley Local History Society

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Janet Robinson,

26 Coalport Road

Broseley, TF12 5AZ

by **Friday 2 December**

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your choice of starter from the menu below, giving one tick for each person

### Starter

☐ Cream of vegetable soup

☐ Fan of melon with forest fruits and lemon sorbet

☐ Chicken liver pâté with crusty bread

### Main course (which may be selected on the night)

☐ Roast Shropshire turkey from the carvery with traditional accompaniments

☐ Roast English beef with yorkshire pudding

☐ Vegetarian option on request

All the above served with a selection of vegetables and potatoes

There will also be a selection of desserts followed by coffee.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to the Broseley Local History Society are now due. Fees are £5.00 per single member or £8.00 for family membership.

Please complete this form and send, together with your payment, to:

Janet Robinson, 26 Coalport Road, Broseley TF12 5AZ

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose cheque/postal order for

Add: \_\_\_\_\_

£ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to

\_\_\_\_\_

Broseley Local History Society

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_