

For Your Information

Places of interest:

Broseley Pipe Museum (01952 433424) – check for opening times. The Museum shows visitors the history of local tobacco pipe-making. It is one of the sites of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum (Museum car park in Duke Street). ironbridge.org.uk

Benthall Hall (National Trust) (01952 882159) – check for opening times. The Hall is a beautiful 16th Century stone house with a stunning interior. There is also a carefully restored plantsman's garden, old kitchen garden and a nearby church. nationaltrust.org.uk

Broseley Local History Society website: broseley.org.uk

Bus services:

The main bus stop is on Bridgnorth Road opposite the library. For current bus timetables and routes contact traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit traveline.org.uk

ATMs:

There are various ATMs located around the town including Co-op, Ironbridge Road and the Spar and the newsagents on the High Street.

Public Toilets:

Public toilets are located at the Dark Lane car park just off the High Street.

Petrol Station:

Co-op, Ironbridge Road

Half-day closing: Wednesday

Churches:

Church of England, All Saints Church, Church Street
Baptist Church, Chapel Lane
Methodist Church, Duke Street

Doctor:

Broseley Medical Practice, Bridgnorth Road
 (01952) 882854



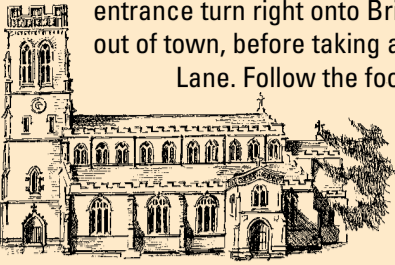
Broseley Town Council and Library for local and community information and services,
 Bridgnorth Road, Broseley

Town Council: 01952 882172 • Library: 01952 884119
broseleytowncouncil.co.uk

For events, shops, accommodation, attractions and more...
visitbroseley.co.uk

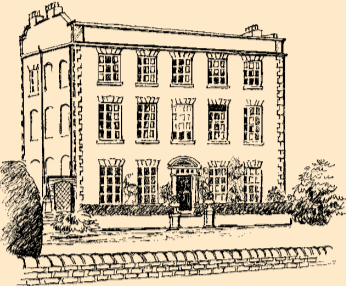


1 A tour through the town might well start at the Town Council and Library car park. From the entrance turn right onto Bridgnorth Road heading out of town, before taking a left onto Foundry Lane. Follow the footpath to Church Street. Turning right, continue along the street to the Parish Church, **All Saints**, completed in 1845 in a perpendicular style.



This area was the village centre in medieval times. Located within the church grounds now stands a Gerry Foxall sculpture, depicting the more recent mining history of Broseley and surrounding area.

2 Next door is **Broseley Hall**, which dates from the 1730s. In the late 18th Century chimney pieces and a small temple garden were added by the Shrewsbury architect Thomas Farnolls Pritchard, who also designed the Ironbridge.

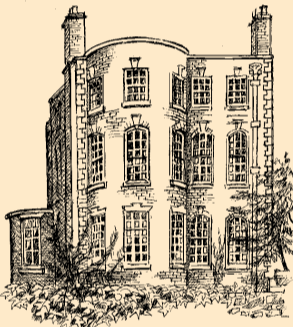


It retains many 18th Century features: pedimented doorcase with fanlight, tall sash windows and a shallow roof hidden by its parapet.

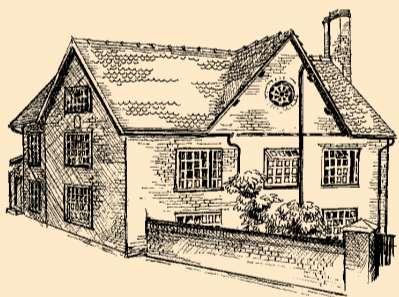
3 Opposite the Hall **Numbers 6 and 7** form an interesting block. The elevation displays two shades of the mottled brick made, and used widely, in Broseley during the 19th Century. Number 7 was at one time the Mint for ironmaster John Wilkinson's coinage.



4 **The Lawns** built in 1727, was bought by John Wilkinson in 1763. A new chimney piece was designed by Pritchard and the house was later leased to John Rose, the China manufacturer. The large bow window was added in the 19th Century.



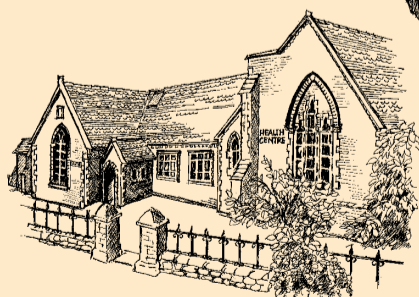
5 Further up the street, opposite a pleasing terrace of Victorian houses, is **Raddle Hall**. Built in 1663, it was at one time the home of the local historian John Randall.



6 Still further up the street, is a white cottage facing sideways to the road. Known locally as the **'Iron-Topped House'** from the iron rafters supporting its hipped roof, it has pointed Gothic windows and an unusual weather vane.



7 Turning left at the top of the street, around the Ruabon brick 'Instone' block (so named after a local family), one reaches **The Old School**. Dating



from 1855 this was designed by the architect Robert Griffiths in a Gothic style, using the distinctive Broseley blue brick. This building is now a health centre, library and Town Council office.

On returning to the mini-roundabout, the **High Street** stretches uphill lined with three storey shops overlooking the Memorial Gardens. In the early 18th Century this was the site of a flooded opencast coal pit used as a fish pond.

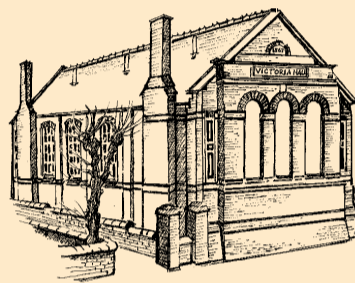
Welcome to Broseley

Broseley has strong links with the early industrial revolution. By the beginning of the 17th Century it was a thriving industrial settlement having close links with Coalbrookdale, on the other side of the River Severn. In the 18th and 19th centuries it developed into a major centre for coal mining, iron manufacture, earthenware manufacture and a variety of associated activities. The famous Iron Bridge was built in 1779 to link Broseley with Coalbrookdale and led to the foundation of the town of Ironbridge which is now part of a World Heritage Site.

This early industrial activity has resulted in a settlement of remarkable character. The architecture is a mixture of three centuries of building styles in a hilly and wooded setting mixed together in a delightfully haphazard manner.

8 **The Memorial Gardens** look out over the site of the old **Pritchard Memorial**, commemorating George Pritchard a local solicitor and banker and High Sheriff of Shropshire. It is now the site of a Gerry Foxall sculpture, previously located at the Ironbridge power station.

9 Further up on the left is the **Victoria Hall**. Built in 1867 as a meeting place for the Plymouth Brethren, it is now a focus for community activities. The local tile manufacturers, Maws, supplied the decorative tiles for the two gable ends.



10 **The Old Butchers Shop Bar**. This 18th Century property was re-fronted in 1904 and used as a butchers shop until the late 1950s when it became derelict. In 1991 it was restored and converted to its present use as a bar.



11 At the top of the street is the **Social Club** built in 1750 as a private house and later becoming the Pritchard Bank.

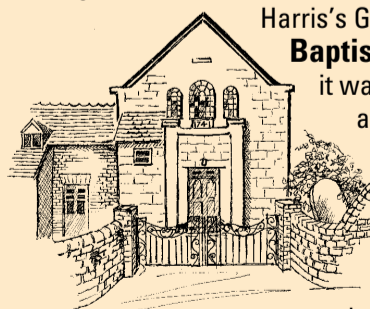


12 **Angel House**, nearby, has a timber frame structure at the rear but is substantially Georgian in style. Above is an interesting window with a cast iron frame. Like many houses in the town it was once an Inn – the etched glass panels at the front are a relic of this.



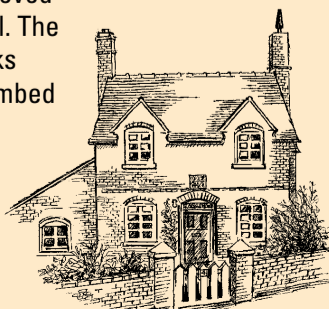
13 Walk back and turn right beside the Bank into

Harris's Green, which leads to the **Baptist Chapel**. Dated 1741 it was built by Isaac Wyke, a local surgeon, for the Particular Baptists: "A house", he said "to cure mad people". The first Evangelical meetings to be held on the Shropshire Coalfield



took place here. Wesley is believed to have preached in the Chapel. The adjoining Minister's house looks out over a landscape honeycombed with underground workings.

14 Near the bottom of Barratts Hill is **Tanglewood**, built in 1742.

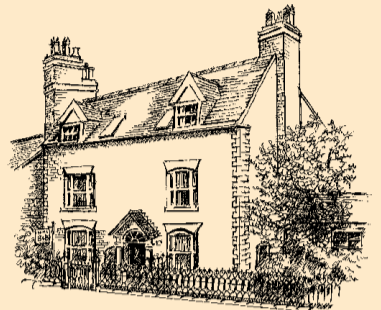


15 Return uphill and walk along Cape Street. **The Burnt House** – so called on account of a fire in June 1883 which partly destroyed the building – bears the inscription 'Inigo Acton built this in 1742'.



16 **Number 2** in Queen Street, with its visible timbered gable end stands as an example of many houses in Broseley which, behind their 18th and 19th century facades have a structure going back to the 17th century.

17 Turn back on yourself and turn right into King Street where **Orchard House**, behind its early 19th Century railings and gate, retains many of its 18th Century features.



18 **Broseley Pipe Museum (part of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum – access from Duke Street)**. "Will you take a Broseley?" became a familiar phrase to smokers in an era when a clay pipe of tobacco could be purchased across the bar of a tavern. There were hundreds of individual pipe makers in Broseley. The museum traces the history and process of making clay pipes. Opening times may vary – check the website for details.

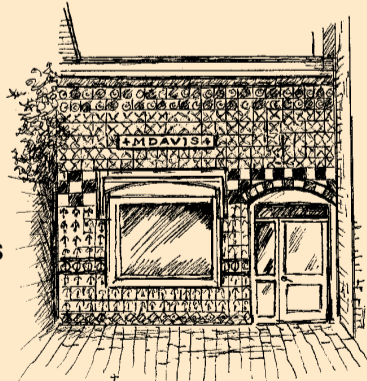


The Quaker Burial Ground, where Abraham Darby I is buried, is adjacent to the Broseley Pipe Museum.

19 Further down King Street is **Holly House**, the venue for the first meeting in 1782 of a newly constituted Court for the settling of small debts. Incensed – perhaps by outsider interference – the Reverend John Morgan, Rector of Willey and Barrow, is reputed to have torn up a copy of the enabling Act of Parliament and to have been pursued in consequence down King Street by creditors, we assume.



20 Next door, in one of those curious juxtapositions characteristic of Broseley, the front and inside walls of **'Powell's Shop'** are faced with a lavish if rather bizarre display of local tiles.



21 Around the corner is the former **Legges Hill School** on its steeply sloping site. It was opened in 1892 as the school for Broseley Wood. In its vicinity are pathways, known locally as *Jitties*, that lead off to rows of cottages interspersed with more imposing houses.

