

**THE
JOURNAL
OF THE
WILKINSON
SOCIETY**

No. 8 1980

Price 30p

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Editor : N.J. Clarke

THE WILKINSON SOCIETY

The Society was formed in 1972 to meet the demand for an organisation to preserve the material and documentary evidence of Broseley's industrial past. Since an important part in this industrial past was played by John Wilkinson, who lived for a time at "The Lawns", it was decided that the organisation should be known as The Wilkinson Society.

The aims of the Society are :-

- (i) to act as custodian of any relevant material and information and to make such material and information available to interested individuals and organisations ;
- (ii) to promote any relevant preservation activity and to assist individuals or organisations in such activity where deemed appropriate ;
- (iii) to provide a link with the community of Broseley for individuals or organisations undertaking local historical research.

Any available material will be added to the existing collection of Broseley and Wilkinson relics at "The Lawns", Church Street, Broseley. This collection is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays between Easter and September, from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m., or at other times by appointment.

Administration of the Society is by an annually elected committee. Membership is open to anyone interested in the Society's aims and activities. These activities include illustrated lectures, social evenings, researching and exhibiting the collection, field trips and coach tours. Members are kept informed by newsletters, and this annual Journal presents articles on the history of the Broseley area, John Wilkinson, and industrial archaeology in general.

NOTES AND NEWS

The Year's Activities (1978 - 79)

The sixth Annual General Meeting was held at the Cumberland Hotel, Broseley on 27th October, 1978. At this meeting Mr. N.J. Clarke indicated that he would wish to retire from the Chairmanship at the end of the season. The existing committee was re-elected for a further year. In order to simplify the annual subscription system, the Adult Subscription was fixed at £1 per head, uniformly, and the Junior Subscription was raised to 50p. After the close of business, Mr. John Cragg gave a most interesting talk on "The Broseley Association for the Prosecution of Felons".

The next meeting was on 10th November, 1978. Mr. W. Smith, of The Polytechnic, Wolverhampton, gave an illustrated lecture on "The Bradley Ironworks of John Wilkinson". After the meeting Mr. S. Smith, Deputy Director of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, showed members an 18th century oil portrait of John Wilkinson recently acquired by the I.G.M.T.

The joint meeting with the Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum took place on 8th December, 1978 at the Severn Warehouse, Ironbridge. The subject was "Thomas Telford, the Uncommon Genius". Members enjoyed particularly an amateur colour cine film made on the Caledonian Canal in the late 1930's.

The usual Social Evening was held at "The Lawns" on 9th February, 1979. The theme was "Decorative Tiles", and some very unusual specimens were brought along by members for our inspection.