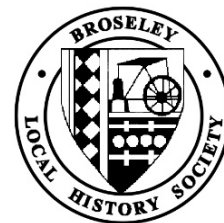


NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



NOVEMBER 2018

www.broseley.org.uk

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

5 Dec *Annual Dinner.*

2 Jan *A Tale of Two Churches*, by Graham Hollox.

6 Feb *(Almost) the Complete Archaeology of the Iron Bridge*, Spencer Gavin Smith.

6 Mar *John Wilkinson Revisited*, Richard Sells.

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new member:

John Harrison, Broseley.

Michael Burton & Sue Barnham, Broseley

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2018-19 are now due. They remain at £7 for single and £12 for joint members. Please send them to Janet Robinson (see end of this newsletter).

CHRISTMAS DINNER



Wednesday 5th December at The Lion, High Street, 7.00pm for 7.30pm £19.45 per person The Society's Christmas dinner is always an event which members look forward to. As in the past, it is to be held at The Lion Hotel in the High Street since it makes it easily accessible to most people. Please book your place by Friday 23rd November at the latest by completing the form on the back page and returning it with your payment to: Janet Robinson, 26 Coalport Road, Broseley, TF12 5AZ.

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PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Benthall Industries, Steve Dewhirst.

Most of the emphasis of Industrial development is concentrated on Broseley (including Jackfield) whilst Benthall has tended to be largely ignored. For example the Victoria County History devoted 22½ pages to industry in Broseley and 2½ to Benthall. Unlike Broseley the whole 844 acres of Benthall Parish was, until 1845, in the ownership of one family and they seem to have taken an active part in industry. The illustrated talk covered the different industries their location and what, if anything, remains today.

Corn Milling was probably the first industry in the parish. Beside Bridge Bank are the ruins of Benthall Mill which had a 60 foot waterwheel, one of the largest in the country. There has been a mill on this site from at least the 17th century. Some idea of how it looked can be visualised from visiting Daniels Mill just south of Bridgnorth. There was also a short lived windmill at Posenhall beside the road to Wenlock.

There was a lead smother at Bower Yard just upstream of the iron bridge. This was constructed in 1731 and worked until the late 18th century. Boats were also constructed at Bower Yard.

In the 17th and early 18th century coal mining was on a similar scale to Broseley with 30,000 tons of Benthall coal being shipped down the Severn in 1645. There were however fewer seams than in Broseley and thus the industry had declined by the early 19th century. Examples of shallow mines, known as 'bell pits', can still be seen in Workhouse Coppice and Ash Coppice (bluebell wood). Small scale extraction continued into the early 20th century, the coal being used for burning lime and at Benthall Potteries. Some ironstone was mined and clay was also mined for use in the brick works and at Maws tileworks. Footrid spring, the entrance to which can be seen just above the old New Inn, was a level driven into the hillside to drain the clay workings in Clay Meadow.

There was one large brickworks, known as the 'white brick works' just upstream of the bridge. It operated from the early 1800s until the mid 1950s. The works made ordinary and refractory bricks but in the 1930s started to manufacture drainage pipes. Clay was dug in the woods above the site and the remains of tramways and horizontal mines can still be seen. The site is now a picnic area with a small interpretive display.

Pottery was one of the major industries in the parish. The first large pottery was the Haybrook Pottery (1735) followed by Benthall Pottery (1772) on the opposite side of the road to Wenlock. Benthall Pottery is perhaps

most famous for Salopian art wares but it also produced domestic pottery as well as commemorative items. In the 1930s it was converted to produce drainage pipes which it did until 1982. The Benthall Pottery site is now Morris Corfield's agricultural machinery dealership. The old works manager's house still remains, and the Haybrook site is used by them for storage. In the 1840s there was also a short lived pottery on Floyer Lane which is now covered by a bungalow.

Clay pipes were made by the Roden's and later Southorn's at the Pitt's Yard located at the junction of The Mines and Bridge Bank. Later this became the Salop Pottery run by the Woolfson, Rowe & Co in the 1920s. A Stoke on Trent company worked the pottery briefly in 1950 after which it finally closed. The site is now a small residential development.

The Benthall Ironworks comprised a major complex of furnaces, water powered mills and forges stretching down the Benthall brook. It was started in the 1770s and run by William Bancks, John Onions and the Harries family who owned the estate. The furnaces were blown out by 1821 but the works continued as a foundry until 1851. Maws took over the site to manufacture tiles. They built their new works at Jackfield in the 1880s, the Benthall works being demolished some time later. Two bungalows now stand on the site and there is a horizontal clay mine lined with tiles in the garden of one of them.

The major extractive industry was that of limestone quarrying. This was for use in ironmaking as well as being burnt for use in agriculture and making mortar. The large scars along Benthall Edge comprise many quarries where the exposed limestone was quarried. The steep dip of the limestone beds meant the quarrying was only commercially viable along this narrow strip. The main phase of working was in the 18th and early 19th centuries but no written details remain from this time. Two later concerns which mainly burnt lime are



Limestone Tramway bridge at side of track leading to Benthall Edge

however better documented.

By 1800 the Benthall Ironworks constructed a tramway from quarries on the edge to lime kilns in Workhouse Coppice and then to the furnaces on Bridge Road. This was later operated by Price and Hill but closed in 1854 when the partnership dissolved. Fragmentary remains of the kilns can be seen in Workhouse Coppice as well as a cutting and bridge along the lane leading to the woods from Spout Lane. At the end of the lane the tramway turned left and in the quarry are the remains of other lime kilns.

Perhaps the best known quarry is that at Patton's Rock. Originally called Tykes Nest this was working from the late 18th century. The Patten family had been involved in the industry from at least 1764 and continued to be so until 1860s. There was a railway incline which ran from the quarry to lime kilns in Bower yard opposite the Severn Warehouse. When the Severn Valley Railway was built in the 1860s a bridge was built so the incline could run under the tracks. There is another bridge over the incline for a footpath which runs along the bottom of the edge. Remains of the incline, bridges and kilns can still be seen. There seems to have been little activity between the 1870s and the 1920s when the quarries were re-opened. The re-opened quarries only worked for a few years but there are remains of a possible crusher on the quarry floor, a new incline to lower quarries, new lime kilns next to the railway and a siding from the railway.

1918 The end of WW1. Janet Doody.

At the beginning of October Broseley Local History Society held its AGM. The business part of the meeting was concluded speedily so that the audience could listen to the above subject, the talk being given by Janet Doody.

The dominant memory of the year was the continuing fighting in the Great War. The last great battle was Passchendaele, both sides being exhausted. Ten men named on the Broseley Memorial had been killed by then, amongst them two of the six Boden brothers fighting for their country.

The main event of 1918 was the Armistice on the 11th of November when hostilities ceased. This was a cease fire, not surrender, and got a muted reception at home. However, other events were occurring too. The famous World War 1 poet, Wilfred Owen was killed on the 4th of November, along with Arthur Sneyd, a local man, aged 19, just before the guns fell silent.

The Russian Revolution had happened and the Royal Family of the Romanovs was murdered in July 1918. Kaiser Wilhelm the 2nd of Germany abdicated and went

to live in the Netherlands. The RAF was formed as an independent force, now the oldest in existence.

The advent of Spanish flu (which actually came with soldiers from the USA) brought the severe illness to every continent, killing more people, possibly about 50 million, than the Great War. Broseley was not immune, local people succumbing to the disease.

Some women finally got the vote, after years of campaigning, but only those who were also over the age of 30 were eligible. In Shropshire boundary changes had created four new constituencies.

Dr Marie Stopes published her book 'Married Love', a controversial and scandalous treatise on sex and birth control which was widely condemned by churches, the medical profession and even the press. It was hugely successful, selling 2,000 copies within a fortnight of first coming out.

There was social unrest and the police in London went on strike after a PC, who was a union organiser, was sacked. This was an underground movement, a union being forbidden by the authorities. They got a pay rise, pension rights for widows but no recognition of a union.

Ration cards were introduced, and a decision was taken to open a soup kitchen at Bank House to serve Broseley and Jackfield. It was a great success but clients had to pay for their food. Lord and Lady Forester contributed generously even supplying rabbits at a low price !

There were no international football matches played during the war, but local teams, including women's, continued to take place. The oldest man in Broseley, Josiah Wase, died at the age of 97.

By the end of Janet's fascinating talk we realised how much had happened in 1918, and that it had indeed been 'a momentous year'.

Jennie Osborn

SOCIETY PRESIDENTS

At the Annual General Meeting of Broseley Local history Society in October two new Presidents were elected for a two year term of office. The Committee put forward the names of John Willock and Hilary Callcut.

John, who lives in Leamington Spa, has been a member of the Society for many years and in spite of living quite a distance away has supported the activities of the Society.

John and his wife Janet have always joined us for our annual Christmas Dinner, whilst staying at The Lion

Hotel overnight. They have also joined us each year for the Society outings in July.

John is a committee member of the Caughley Society and has contributed articles to our annual Journal. The articles have been connected with Caughley and Thomas Turner and the Newdigate Connection.

John's latest article for *Ars Ceramica*, the journal of the Wedgewood Society in New York has just been published and features an extended article entitled 'John Randall: Coalports Charismatic Painter of Birds'. In the article John has ensured that the Severn Gorge and Broseley are well mentioned and he has included over thirty illustrations of Randall's work.

John says that he will endeavour to support and advance the aims of Broseley Local History Society in any way that he is able.

Hilary Callcut was born and grew up in Llandudno but her maternal ancestors are from Shropshire. After graduating from Newcastle upon Tyne University she spent many years teaching in Hertfordshire and London. A change of career path took her into training management and she spent the rest of her working life expanding the role of the Information Technology training department of Islington Council.

Hilary and her husband Vin moved to Church Street, Broseley (Gerald Instone's old house) in 2002 and having received such a cheerful welcome, have enjoyed life in Broseley ever since. The scenery and industrial history were the initial attractions together with the ease of motoring to North Wales and elsewhere in the U.K.

Besides the Broseley Local History Society meetings each month, Hilary enjoys art classes every Tuesday and always looks forward to something new to think about.

What's On?

Wednesday 21st November

Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust
The Montgomeryshire Quakers A talk by storyteller Carol Pearce, 2.30pm in the Glass Classroom, Coalbrookdale.

Tuesday 11th December

Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust
50 years of Bus Services in Telford: 1968 - 2018 A talk by Glyn Bowen.
2.30pm in the Glass Classroom, Coalbrookdale.

Thursday 6th December

Madeley Living History Project
Madeley's Railways A talk by Neil Clarke, 7.00pm in the Anstice Hall

Tuesday 15th January 2019

Tuesday 15th January 2019

Shropshire Family History Society
1918 - *A Significant Year- Armistice, Influenza and Votes for Women*, A talk by Jan Doody.

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

Please reply to Steve Dewhirst – the email address is on our web site.

From Margaret and John Davies.

We are struggling to find a starting point for our research. We are trying to discover any facts about a practise by possibly religious groups that gave charity to Jersey non conformists from Broseley non conformist. Were any people coming from France to Jersey who needed help? We think there was a chemist in Broseley who gave help to non conformists around the 1830s. His name was Jesse Oakley.

We will check your Broseley newsletter for any reply with eagerness.

Hope you can help

From Peter Taylor

Valentine Vickers 1802 Valuation

I was very excited to see that the transcription of the above contains a reference to my ancestor, Thomas Taylor, along with his pipe factory in Broseley Wood. Previously we had thought that the family had left Broseley for Birmingham by 1800.

I am not sure what the first column of the spreadsheet relates to as his entry is one of several numbered as "34". The accompanying description states that there is no map so I am unsure what this means – are you able to enlighten me?

Steve Dewhirst replies:

I am glad the transcription was of interest. As far as I know there are no maps associated with the Tithe valuations for this period. I think they were commissioned by the local vicar to calculate the tithe income. I think Broseley was particularly complicated as it was an expanding town and it not fit in with the old system of Tithes being based on agricultural use.

I am not sure exactly what the number means but I assume it was and index number. The book is in name order but the clerk would have gone to each property and found out who lived there and what land, if any, they owned/farmed.

Peter replies:

Perhaps I can tell you a little more about Thomas Taylor although it is unclear exactly which of my ancestors this valuation relates to.

Thomas Taylor, born in Broseley in 1728, inherited a pipe shop from his father, also called Thomas, when he was only twelve years old. It is uncertain when he died as there are several burials in the Broseley PR which could be him. His eldest son was also called Thomas and his occupation had not been known although he had married a pipemaker's daughter and several of his children went on to be pipemakers in their own right. The valuation could therefore refer to Thomas Taylor II, if he lived to an old age, or Thomas Taylor III, perhaps more likely.

The family home, during the 17th century, was known to be the first cottage in Benthall (on the left as you left Broseley on the main road) but then was part of the manor of Broseley. The current building on the site is a later c.1800 cottage. Thomas Taylor I (1693-1740) also used the alias Syner, as his ancestors had done, and this is where the name Syners Hill comes from.

The 1802 valuation is the first piece of information we have that locates the pipe shop to Broseley Wood.

The family turn up in Birmingham by 1816, Gloucester by 1824, Chester in 1830 before settling in Shrewsbury by 1835 where they ran a pipe shop for nearly a century.

We have recently put on the web site transcriptions from the ledgers of Valentine Vickers which cover people and land in Broseley and the surrounding area for the period 1793 to 1822. Have a look at <http://www.broseley.org.uk/tithe.htm>.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Chairman</i> | Gillian Pope |
| <i>Secretary</i> | Dot Cox |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Jim Cooper |
| <i>Membership Secretary</i> | Janet Robinson 26 Coalport Road Broseley TF12 5AZ 01952 882495 |
| <i>Programme Secretary and Journal Editor</i> | Neil Clarke |
| <i>Newsletter Editor</i> | Jennie Osborn |
| <i>Publicity</i> | Michael Pope Janet Doody Richard Sells Steve Dewhirst |
| <i>Website</i> | www.broseley.org.uk |
| <i>Email</i> | steve@broseley.org.uk |

To see this *Newsletter* in full colour visit the website at www.broseley.org.uk.

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.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

At the time of this newsletter going to print the Society does not have a new editor. I would like to thank Steve Dewhirst for producing this newsletter alongside organising and producing the Annual Journal. I am extremely grateful to him as I feel the newsletter is such an important way of keeping our members in touch with the Society.

Gillian Pope, Chairman.

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CHRISTMAS DINNER AT THE LION HOTEL BROSELEY



Wednesday 5th December 2018
7.00pm for 7.30pm

Please reserve me _____

place/places at a cost of £ 19.45 a head

Name/s _____

I enclose cheque/payment for £ _____

Add _____

payable to Broseley Local History Society

Please return to Janet Robinson

26, Coalport Road, Broseley. TF12 5AZ

BY FRIDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2018

TEL _____

Please indicate your choice of starter and main course from the menu below. Give one tick for each person

STARTER

MAIN COURSE

French onion soup _____

Roast Turkey with stuffing and cranberry sauce _____

Smoked salmon and prawn cocktail _____

Roast topside of beef with Yorkshire pudding

and horseradish sauce _____

Melon with seasonal fruits _____

Salmon with hollandaise sauce _____

Duck and port pate with

Broccoli and 3 cheese pasta bake _____

toast and salad garnish _____

Stilton and vegetable crumble _____

Christmas pudding and brandy sauce

or

Selection of desserts

Coffee with mince pies

Please indicate any dietary requirements

