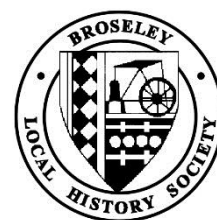


NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



MAY 2017

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

- 7 Jun *Summer walk in Apley Park*
1 Jul *Annual Outing: Quarry Bank Cotton Mill, Styal, Cheshire*
6 Sep *The Birmingham Brass Industry, Vin Calcutt*
4 Oct *WW1 Postcards, Diana Clarke*

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

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NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Janice Stephenson, Wrockwardine Wood
Ruth Crofts, Broseley
Carolyn Molyneux, Broseley
Sarah Bonner, Broseley



If you want to book a place on the trip to Quarry Mill, then fill out and return the form on the last page of the February edition of Newsletter



PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Ray Farlow's Postcard Collection

Janet Doody writes –

A larger than average audience gathered for this much awaited evening and was not disappointed; using just a fraction of his collection Ray took us on a journey through the East Shropshire coalfield area prior to the development of the Telford New Town.

The tour began as something of a personal journey for Ray starting on his home territory of Dawley, with photographs of the main street, showing the Captain Webb Memorial, which has over the years completed its own tour of New Street! And including the Park and Church, Holy Trinity, which often confuses family historians as it is sited adjacent to Little Dawley, whilst the Thomas Telford designed church of St. Leonard's Malinslee is probably closer to Dawley centre. From there we travelled through Horsehay, past what was once the Horsehay Works (through many changes of name) now diminished to just the office buildings, into Doseley, and the parish church containing the resting place of the Shropshire Giant, William Ball; steaming on through Malinslee and Stirchley Railway stations to Market Street, Oakengates. Along the Holyhead Road to one of the many sites belonging to the once huge global corporation of the Lillleshall Company, followed another once large industrial complex of Sankey's Castle Car Works in Hadley.

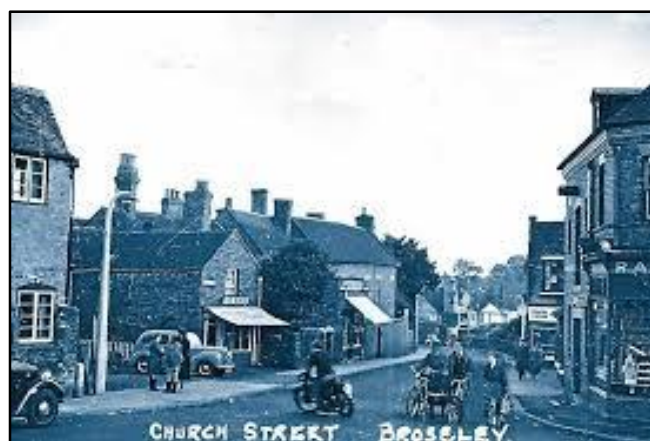
From here we travelled south to Madeley and Park Avenue showing the original location of the War Memorial; another that over recent years has sought sanctuary in a few locations! A very early illustration of Kemberton Colliery Mine Rescue Team was next, then the Hay Farm, now the Great Hay Hotel and down the Hay Inclined Plane. Moving south over the river via the Coalport and Jackfield Memorial Bridge, passing Harry Reynold's Fun Fair with its swing-boats and on upstream to the Haynes Memorial or "Free" Bridge, on the way glancing right to Madeley Wood and my own infant and junior school, now housing.



And so to Broseley passing the said too be haunted "Red Church" through Church Street past The Lady Forrester Hospital with recovering WW1 soldiers and just glancing at the Foresters Arms, no time to pause or listen to the wonderful photograph of the Broseley Orchestra – was your ancestor a member?

Ray has amassed well over 6000 postcards relating to Shropshire and is still collecting; some are unused but many have been posted and sometimes contain intriguing messages. Comments from the audience included the often bizarre choice of subject for the cards, especially those images relating to industrial topics; not something that would produce a profitable print-run today. However, around the time of the First World War few had cameras, photographs in newspapers did not appear widely until the 1930's, so locally produced images were exciting something perhaps we find hard to understand today.

There is no doubt that Ray will have to sift through his collection once again, for I am sure like myself you all look forward to another presentation of Shropshire through old postcards



Pictures courtesy of Ray Farlow and Shropshire Star

Annual Wilkinson Lecture

John Wilkinson and the Ironbridge by David de Haan

By the second half of the eighteenth century commercial and industrial activities on both sides of the Severn Gorge in the Coalbrookdale area were rapidly increasing. The nearest bridge was 2 miles away at Buildwas so a ferry was used for people and goods to cross over the river. This proved to be dangerous, especially in winter and unreliable in dry summer periods. In 1774 discussions between industrialists, iron masters and land owners began to take place about the possibility of building a bridge spanning the river in the Gorge. On September 15th 1775 the first formal meeting regarding the project was held here in Broseley.

Wilkinson was involved from the beginning and had previously had discussions with his friend, Thomas Farnolls Pritchard, about the idea of building an iron bridge in the Severn Gorge. Pritchard went on to design the bridge and an Act of Parliament to build a bridge received Royal Assent in the spring of 1776.

A full account of David's talk will be published in the 2018 BLHS Journal.

At The Coalface

Stewart Braddock Writes -

The Granville Boys were in attendance at the Broseley Local History Society on Wednesday 5th April to give an insight into the working lives of the modern miner and also to explain the conditions that the miners, their wives and children had to endure during the Victorian period.

The presentation was well attended with about 60 members taking their seats for the meeting. The speakers Malcolm Peel, Cliff Hewitt and Stewart Braddock each spoke for approximately 30 minutes and with the aid of the projector and their knowledge they gave a very comprehensive and informative presentation to all.

The subject of mining in the local area of Broseley was contained in the early stage of the presentation showing detailed slides as to the location and names of the local mines.

The presentation took the approved route of early exploration and of how coal was found and mined, conditions underground, child labour and the long hours worked that were sometimes in complete darkness and with no health and safety measures as such.

This was followed with an overview on transport systems used underground from very early days when young boys pulled the tubs of coal out, through the period where pit ponies were used, this ceasing only in 1996 to everyone's surprise, up to modern day automatic skip winding.

An explanation of the dangers of volatile mine gases and explosions was given along with escape breathing apparatus, use of the canaries and a fine display of miner's lamps which were on display for the appreciative audience.

The evening finished with a pictorial display, with explanations, of the modern day machinery of the type that was used by the speakers during their working lives, the power of these cutting and loading machines was

breath-taking, some of the larger machines taking cuts of coal nearly 40 feet thick in the Warwickshire seams.

The boys had brought a fantastic collection of memorabilia with them and many members of the audience took time to view these and ask questions as to their uses.

Questions were put to the boys during and after the presentation which they responded well to.

The Granville Boys would like to thank Broseley Local History Society for the opportunity they were given to share their fantastic memories and information with them, but more importantly for the very kind donations the audience gave totaling nearly £50 towards the Telford Mining Memorial Fund.



Iron sculptures

The November 2016 issue of Newsletter carried a report on the iron sculptures which had been donated to Broseley by the Ironbridge Power Station. At that time, only two of these had been installed while the remaining four were still waiting to be brought up from Ironbridge. Now, however, all six are in place around the town and the map shows the approximate positions of the sculptures.

These sculptures were built from scrap metal by Gerry Foxall in the early 1980s and were donated by him to the Ironbridge Power Station. However, upon its closure in 2015 these had to be found a new home and Broseley was lucky enough to be chosen as a suitable site for them.

Their new positions, on the Pritchard Memorial plinth, Cape Fold, Wilkinson Avenue, the library car park, All Saints' churchyard and Haycop Rise, the new Dark Lane housing development, are all within easy walking distance of the town centre and, in a move to emphasise the town's mining and industrial history, will form part of the Broseley Town Trail.

While some people may regret no longer seeing the old kibble bucket, which has for some years been on the Memorial Plinth in the Square, this has now been moved to the Maypole Green in Broseley Wood and will also form part of the Town Trail.

Jan Lancaster



Pritchard Memorial plinth



Library car park



Cape Fold



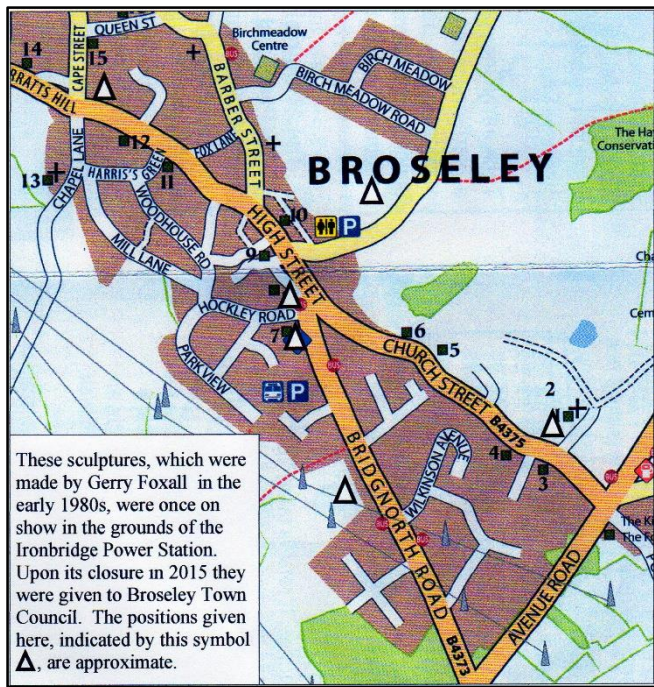
All Saint's churchyard



Wilkinson Avenue



Haycop Rise



Map showing the locations of the sculptures around Broseley

Motor Racing at Coalport

This photograph in the archives of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust shows the start of a race from Coalport Bridge (the Wood Bridge) up Coalport Road to Broseley and is said to have taken place in 1911. The Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News on the 13th May 1911 announced that the Sutton Coldfield Automobile Club had chosen Coalport Hill as the venue for their annual hill climb to take place on 20th May. A large entry was expected with six classes for both cars and motorcycles. The hill, it continued is “a most sporting character ... where some thrilling riding should be witnessed”.

The following week on 27th May the following report was printed:

SUTTON COALFIELD HILL CLIMB

This club held its hill-climb at Coalport Hill, near Iron-bridge on Saturday afternoon, the hill being situated on a private road near the Severn, over which a toll bridge is erected. The surface of the hill was very much cut up, being inches deep in dust, especially at the top corner. A little way up the hill there is an awkwardly placed bridge, which has to be taken on the skew, and near the summit there is an extremely acute hairpin bend, the angle being about 120 degrees. In consequence of the bad surface it was decided to run the motorcycle events before the cars had made the road any worse. The arrangements of the climb were well carried out, and some most exciting sport was witnessed by a large crowd. The lightweight class was won by H. V. COLVER on a chain driven 2¾h.p. Enfield. In the class for single cylinder touring machines H. WALDREN



(3½ Triumph) was first on time; while in the next class, for the T.T. models, J. Woodhouse (3½ Precision) made fastest time. The unlimited class was won by W.D. South (7h.p. Indian), who came up the hill at tremendous speed. There were many spills during the afternoon, and in the lightweight class quite half the riders must have fallen. Altogether the climb was a great success, and much credit is due to the club.

Boxing Tournament at Broseley

Boxing during the first half of the 20th century at a local amateur level appears to have been extremely popular as this report from Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News on 3rd July 1932 illustrates.

A benefit boxing tournament was held on the Broseley Cricket Ground on Monday before a large crowd. Each bout was of an interesting nature, and keen interest was taken in the six rounds exhibition between Harry Evans of Shrewsbury and Hal Goodall of Jackfield, when some delightful boxing was seen.

In a four rounds contest Young Dodd (Broseley) out pointed Young Bufton (Little Wenlock) after a hard set-to. Young Cis Hill received the referee's decision in what might have been one of the best fights of the evening against young Johnson of Madeley. Both boys warmed up to their work from the start, but were over-anxious, and had to be spoken to by the referee at the beginning of the second session. The second round was a stirring one, with Johnson gaining ground, but towards the end of the round he was disqualified for hitting low.

A sporting bout by the Oakley Nippers earned great ovation from the crowd, as also did the contest between young Reeves and Norman Oakley, which ended in a draw. A splendid contest was that between young Ernie Jones, a local boy and young Sid Goring of Ironbridge. This was a very fast fight, with Jones always keeping the upper hand. He hit more solidly, and dropped Goring for a count of five in round two. Jones received the verdict on points after a very good fight.

The referees were Mr. Walter Rickers (Madeley) and Mr. HARRY EVANS (Shrewsbury). Mr. C.V. Davis was M.C. and Mr. J. Beaman, timekeeper. The committee and members of Broseley Cricket Club gave good assistance in the arrangements.

The Rev. C.S. Jackson (Broseley) addressed the spectators, and spoke of the cause for which the tournament had been organised. Mr. Jackson said that he hoped there would be many more tournaments organised in Broseley, as they had an ideal place for it, adding that any sport which brought people into the open air for a couple of hours, and gave such enjoyment should be encouraged.

Does anyone have photographs of any of the mentioned pugilists or remember their achievements?

Janet Doody

Christmas Quiz Answers

It seems a long time ago now since the society Christmas meal and the quiz on all things Shropshire that provided the entertainment afterwards. For those of you who were not there on the evening a copy of the quiz questions was printed in the February edition of Newsletter. The answers to the quiz are printed below. How well did you do?

1. Len Murray
2. Victorian market building, now demolished
3. High Street and Fish Street
4. Decorated with flags each May (tree dressing)
5. Broseley Social Club (once a bank)
6. John Bull (Some people also said the Wrekin Giant)
7. Thomas Telford.
8. The Beagle
9. Oakengates (Some said Dawley)
10. The answer was given as Caughley Pottery. This was also contentious as plates had similar motifs but no bridge with figures crossing.
11. It brews its own beer
12. "To all friends round the Wrekin!"
13. Bridgnorth
14. The Iron Age hill fort

15. Broseley
16. Sir Gordon Richards
17. All Saints' Church, Wellington
18. Henry IV.
19. 38
20. William Withering

Where's Welly?



Editor: This month I have headed downhill from Broseley and found this interesting building. Do you know where it is and what it was in a former life?

In the last edition of Newsletter, we were trying to identify the poor old ramshackle house shown below. Many of you will have guessed that it was Monewood house, just off Ironbridge road. It can be seen through the trees (on the left, just past the end of Dark Lane as you head up towards the cemetery) at this time of year but in a few weeks it will be hidden from sight for another summer.



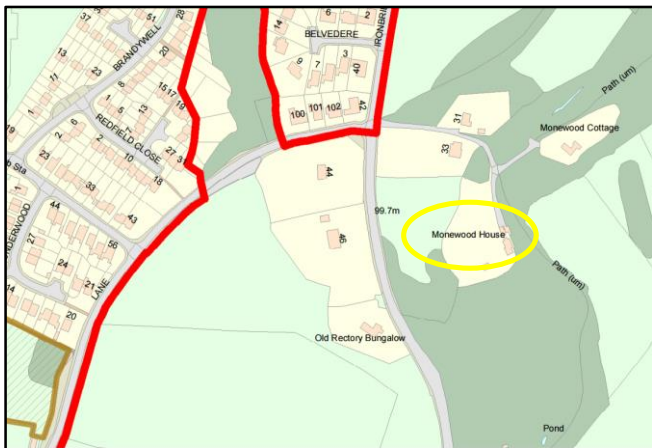
Monewood House in spring 2017

One of our members told me that his children had music lessons there towards the end of the 1990s but their teacher later sold the property and moved to Bridgnorth Road. A search of the Shropshire County

Council planning website shows that a planning application (BR/99/0575) was submitted in August 1999 for the erection of a replacement dwelling. This application was refused and no appeal was made. The reasons for refusal were not stated.



Monewood House in the late 1990s



Monewood House (circled in yellow) shown on the Broseley Town Plan

What's On?

Wed 24 May

Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum, The First World War under the Wrekin, Martin Phillips, 7:30pm, Glass Classroom Coalbrookdale, 01952 433522

Sun 28 May

Apley Farm Shop, Apley Bake Off, 10-4pm, enquires@apleyfarmshop.co.uk, 01952 581002

Wed 21 June

Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum, AGM followed by The Museum's Early Years, a personal perspective, Neil Clarke, 7:30pm, Board Room, Coalbrookdale, 01952 433522

Sun 16 Jun

Apley Farm Shop, Classic Motor Day, 10-4pm, enquires@apleyfarmshop.co.uk, 01952 581002

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/>

Benthall Hall

Benthall Hall is short of volunteer room stewards at the moment. The role would suit someone keen on local history, or even just someone who likes meeting visitors to the area.

Anyone potentially interested should contact Benthall Hall directly by sending an email to benthall@nationaltrust.org.uk.

People can enquire and have trial sessions without any obligation and prior knowledge isn't required.

Mailbox

I am researching how the limestone quarried at The Vineyards (Wyke) was transported. Was it taken down to the River Severn? Do you have any old maps covering this area? I have the 1883 map and later ones but wondered where I can find the tithe maps? Also I am unable to find local plans lodged with the land registry for this area. I hope you can help, Thanks,

Sally-Anne

Steve Dewhirst writes-

I think the quarries at the The Vineyards were associated with those at Tickwood and what was called the Wyke Limeworks. These were operated in the late 18th and early 19th century for fluxing stone for iron furnaces in the Severn Gorge. There was a tramway from the quarries down to the Severn. They seem to have gone by the 1830s, presumably when all the fluxing stone had been worked out. It is probable that the quarries continued to be used for agricultural lime after this date but this would have been transported by horse drawn cart.

I have only found the tramway on two maps:

The draft 1" OS map (I think this was 1827) shows a tramway from Tickwood towards the Severn. The adjacent sheet does not show the continuation to the Severn either because it had been removed when this sheet was surveyed or the surveyor/cartographer did

not include it. It is not shown on the published 1830 1st edition suggesting that it had been removed by the time it was published.

I found a map in Lincolnshire archives from the Hawley collection which appears to show the tramway running towards The Vineyards. This is attached to a deed of 1800.

In 2009 John Wooldrige arranged for permission with the owner of Tickwood Hall for us to search for the tramway and we believe we found the route to the Tickwood quarries. I am not sure who owns the land at The Vineyards so I have not been able to look at the remains on the ground to see if the route of the tramway can be found. Two interesting things came out of the research; the mention of a subterraneous passage (tunnel) and an inclined plane (on the Hawley map). I have not been able to locate either of these on the ground.

I was just wondering if any one knows how old this drawing is? I have done a close up to enlarge the detail in the foreground. The development is a bit scarce, is the wharf warehouse there? Does anyone have any ideas what it is depicting in the foreground? It shows the Ironbridge so presumably it must be 1779 onwards. The Tontine is also on there and that was built in 1784

Richard Sells



Steve Dewhirst writes-

It was done by James Fittler (1758-1835) after George Robertson (1724-88). Published Feb 1st 1788 by John & Josiah Boydell, Cheapside London.

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

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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