



# NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society  
INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY

May – 2024

Issue: 61

## MEETINGS

Meetings of the Broseley Local History Society are normally held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Broseley Social Club, High Street unless otherwise announced.

## New members: 2

Mr Philip & Mrs Liz Hosie from Weston Lullingfields

CONTENT	
BLHS Programme	Page 1
New Members & Subscriptions	Page 1
What's On Elsewhere	Pages 1-2
Previous Meetings	Page 2
Articles	Pages 3-6
The Morgans Family	Pages 3-5
Congregational Burials	Pages 5-6
Linley & Benthall Parish	Pages 6-7
Broseley Bowling Green	Page 8
Miscellaneous & Mailbox	Page 8
Ellen R. Hughes & Steve Downes	Page 9
Recommendations & Distribution	Page 10
Contacts	Page 10
BOOKING FORM (Ludlow visit)	Page 11

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thanks to your memberships subscriptions we can offer you monthly talks, a quarterly newsletter, and a yearly journal. Subscriptions to the History Society run from October to September of each year, and can be paid either in cash or by cheque (£10 for a single entry and £15 for a joint subscription ) contact details for the membership secretary can be found on page 8.

[We would like to encourage you to opt for the digital version if you can, this would help us to keep our postage fees low ; please let the membership secretary know about your choice. Many thanks in advance.](#)

## What's On Elsewhere?

Broseley Local History Society is affiliated to the British Association for Local History and receives every quarter their newsletter and Journal, both of which are available at our meetings (the Local History News is also available online at the BALH website)

## BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

News from the British Association for Local History (BALH):

[Local History News: No. 150 Winter 2024](#)

CAMDEN AROUND THE WORLD: Camden History Society (London) has recently completed a project researching global CAMDEN locations and with the assistance of many contributors have produced the Camdens Worldwide webpages An Interesting article on The Welsh Women's Peace Petition 1923-4 and a plea for transcribers.

THE SARAH SIDDON'S FAN CLUB THEATRE COMPANY, a most unusual local history society and balh member; based in Southampton the members are local history enthusiast and historians who 'love drama and to perform'. Their interpretation of local history is through shows, walks and Halloween, often with 'audience participation'; how different is that, sounds like fun!

ORIGINAL WILLS post 1958: There is a government consultation regarding the 'storage & retention of original wills from 1858', the proposal being a move to digital only storage. There is a petition against the proposal, initiated by genealogist

## BLHS PROGRAMME 2024 (TALKS & EVENTS)

[by Neil Clarke](#)

**Please note:** check our website or our Facebook page to confirm, that the event you wish to attend is still going ahead.

May.1 - *Buildwas Abbey*, Jenny Edwards.

Jun.5 - Walk in Jackfield area (leader Steve Dewhurst)  
7.30pm outside Maws Craft Centre

Jul.6 - *Ludlow guided tour* (see details on page 11)

**August: N/A**

Sep.4 - *Posenhall Reservoir*, Peter Cross

Oct.2 - *Early Maps of Shropshire Part 2*, Pat de Haan

Nov.6 - *Debunking the Iron Bridge*, David de Haan (joint with Friends of IGMT, in The Glass Classroom at Coalbrookdale)

Dec.4 - *Annual Dinner*

Richard Holt, who said 'Whilst I .. welcome digitisation as a means of access to original wills it is NOT a method of preservation.'

Following on from the Six Nations Rugby competition, Gloucestershire's Heritage Hub has published a 'comprehensive history of Gloucester Rugby club' in 5 volumes.

PRIORY HOUSE, Much Wenlock has recently been added to Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register. SHROPSHIRE ARCHIVES have recently accomplished the digitisation of more than 500,000 items; they have also introduced a series of talks 'Off the Shelf' on the last Thursday of every month at 2.00pm. The next listed one is on 25th April about Oakhurst Hall, Oswestry, future talks see website or contact the Archives.

The Local Historian (54/1):

Articles: Estate Mapping; Mistress Longe & Master Stephan Tudor London business woman; Claigmar Vineyard in Finchley; Thomas Rennison & his Grand Pleasure Bath; Belfast's Penal History;

Publications: Brickmaking & Brick Building in the West Midlands (1437-1780); Birmingham's Accident Hospital and fabulously titled "Knitted Swimming Trucks, tales of a Birmingham boy in the 50's & 60's"

Don't forget to check out the BALH website where back issues of Local History News and book reviews, together with interesting short talks and articles are available

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The first quarter of 2024 produced a trail of well attended and successful talks followed by the public's questions.

We all learnt a lot about the Broseley Church Bells by Ginette Pardoe, The Closure of our Local Monasteries by Neil Clarke, John Wilkinson Part 2 by Richard Sells and Early Maps of Shropshire Part 1 by Patricia De Haan.



Haughmond Abbey /Picture courtesy of John Armagh

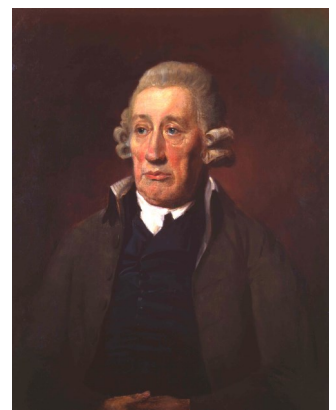


Wenlock Priory House / Picture courtesy of P.J. Marriott-Wikipedia

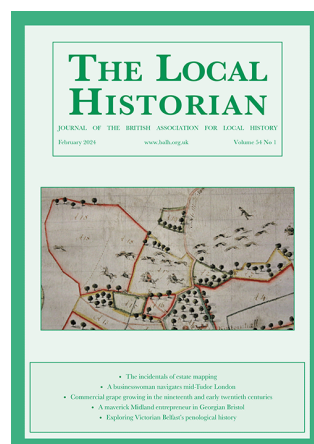
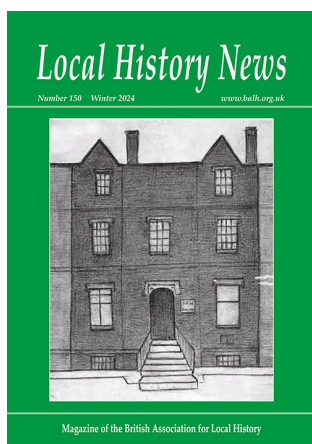
**Author: Janet Doody - March 2024**



Picture courtesy of Ginette Pardoe



Picture courtesy of IGMT



Picture courtesy of Jocelyne Barbier

## ARTICLES

### 1). The Morgans of Tregynon and Broseley by Steve Dewhirst - January 2024

Source:

Bwtch-y-ffridd: <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/11224/>

Forden: <https://www.congregational.org.uk/find-a-church/church-finder/77/ebenezer-1>

#### Richard Morgan 1791-1865

Richard had a 127-acre farm called Bronhafod in the parish of Tregynon a few miles north of Newtown, Montgomeryshire.

Memorials St Gwynnog, Abeshafesp: *Sacred to the memory of Anne, Wife of Richard MORGANS of Bronhafod in the Parish of Tregynon, who departed this Life August 13th. 1854, Aged 66 Years. Lingerin sickness did me seize, And no Physician could me ease; I sought for means but all in vain, Till God did ease me from my pain.*

*Here lies the body of Richard Morgan late of Bronhafod, Tregynon. Who died 25<sup>th</sup> Jany 1865 aged 78 years. Mine eye also is dim by reason of sorrow and all my members are as a shadow.*

#### John Morgan Senior 1817-1903

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1840, he married Mary Stephens (b1820) the daughter of a farmer at Abeshafesp few miles south of his father's farm. At this time John aged 23 was a servant at a house called The Bank in Abeshafesp. The census of 1841 (1<sup>st</sup> June) lists him as an agricultural labourer living with his wife and his 6-month-old son Richard. Richard's birth was registered in q4 1840 so Mary must have been pregnant at the time of their marriage.

Between 1842 and 1846 the family moved to Chirbury where John was still employed as an agricultural labourer. In 1851 there were four more children John Jr. (8), Ann (5), Elizabeth (2) and Mary 1 month. By 1855 they had moved to Buildwas where Jane was born and the next year, they were in Broseley. On his death in 1904, he is said to have worked for Southorn's for 45 years which if it is correct means he started in 1849. This contradicts the census, so he probably started working for them soon after the census was taken.

On moving to Broseley the family moved into a house on Simpsons Lane next to the Cross Keys. In 1861 John Sr. was still listed as an agricultural labourer, his wife Mary was a charwoman, and Richard and John Jr. were coal miners. Other children were Ann (15), Elizabeth (12), Mary (9) Jane (6) and Martha (5). In 1871 John Sr was listed as a labourer (Southern's pipeworks) and visiting were his mother-in-law Mary Stephens (63) and Mary Ann Stephens (21) Ten years later his occupation was a Tobacco pipe Packer. In 1891 at the age of 74 he was a Tobacco pipe case maker and two of his granddaughters Alice Mary (6) and Harriett (4) Garbett were at the House. The 1901 census lists him as an invalid at the same address, his wife Mary having died in 1894.

1904 DEATH of an OCTAGENARIAN. —There has just quietly passed away one of the oldest inhabitants of Broseley in the person of Mr. John Morgan, senior, Simpson's Lane, Broseley Wood. Deceased was in his 88th year and had been a consistent member of Broseley Congregational Church for 52 years. He was the last connecting link between the early and latter days of that church. He had been in the employ of Messrs W. Southorn and Co., Broseley, for 45 years, during which time he had been a devoted and faithful servant. —On Saturday his remains were laid to rest in the graveyard adjoining Broseley Chapel, within whose walls it was his delight to worship. At the special request of the deceased the Rev. Henry Gardiner of Tettenhall conducted the service in the chapel and at the graveside. Appropriate hymns were rendered by the choir, that sung at the graveside being, "Now the labourer's task is o'er". As evidence of the respect entertained for the deceased a large concourse of people were present to witness the obsequies. A large number of beautiful wreaths were sent by relatives and friends, including one of a very choice description from Lancashire. —On Sunday evening the organist (Mr. G. Tonkiss) gave an excellent rendering of the "Dead March", the congregation standing. (Wellington Journal 15<sup>th</sup> October 1904).

#### **Children**

##### Richard 1841 – 1895

Born in Abeshafesp in 1851 he was staying at his grandparent's Brongafod farm. Having moved to Broseley with the family in 1861 he was employed as a coalmine labourer. He married Sarah Boden in 1868 at St Mary's Great Malvern and in 1871 he is listed as a labourer living at Upper Forge, Coalbrookdale. By 1881 he had moved back to Broseley where he was employed as a Railway Carter and was living at Perrys Row, Broseley Wood. In 1891 they were at Quarry Road Terrace, and he had now become a horse shunter on the railway presumably at Ironbridge and Broseley Station. After his death, the family moved to Charnock Richard near Chorley, Lancs (by 1901) and his wife Sarah died there in 1920.

##### Ann 1846 - 1893

Born in Chirbury she remained unmarried and lived at the family home in Simpsons Lane. She was employed as a Tobacco pipe maker, presumably at Southorn's Works. In 1891 she was listed as a Tobacco pipe trimmer.

##### Elizabeth 1849 - 1907

Born in Chirbury she remained unmarried and lived at the family home in Simpson's Lane. She was employed as a Tobacco pipe maker, presumably at Southorn's Works. In 1891 she was listed as a Tobacco pipe saggerer.

##### Mary Ann 1851 - 1930

Born in Chirbury she remained unmarried and lived at the family home in Simpsons Lane. She was employed as a Tobacco pipe maker, presumably at Southorn's Works. In 1891 she was listed as a Tobacco pipe finisher.

Jane 1854 - 1931

Born in Buildwas she married Edward Garbett in Q3 1884. Before her marriage, she was employed as a Tobacco pipe maker, at Southorn's Works. Edward was a general labourer in 1891 but by 1901 he had become a caster at Coalbrookdale. They lived at 11 Quarry Road, Broseley.

Martha 1856 - died 1937 (Barton upon Irwell)

Born in Broseley she married John Wilkes Q3,1883 Before her marriage she was employed as a Tobacco pipe maker, presumably at Southorn's Works. In 1901 John was listed as a tile layer but in 1911 he was a dealer in Grocery, Boots and Drapery and they lived at 19 Quarry Road. He died in 1929,

Sarah Hannah 1862 – died?

Born in Broseley she married Willaim Davies Q3 1889. No record of her or her husband has been found after this date.

John Morgan Junior 1843-1923

John was born about 1843 in Abeshafesp and had moved with the family to Chirbury in 1851. By 1861 they had moved to Broseley where he and his elder brother were coalmine labourers. He moved to Tewkesbury and in Q3 1868 he married Ellen Stallard (Pershore district) who was born in Kemmerton, Gloucestershire in 1843. In 1871 they were living in Tewkesbury where he was employed as a labourer in a Brewery Stores. A year later they were in Aschurch, Gloucestershire but by 1872 they had moved to Broseley. In 1881 they were living in Quarry Road and John was employed as an Encaustic tile fireman. By 1892 they had moved to 14 King Street at the junction with Legg's Hill living in what had been the Globe public house. In 1901 only Ernest was living at home, and he was now a Potato dealer. They had adopted Elizabeth Ann Todd (Lottie aged 11) who had been born on the Isle of Man. In 1911 the same members of the family were living at 14 King Street. By this time John was of employ, and Ernest was a labourer in an Encaustic tile works. Elizabeth Annie had assumed the Morgan name and is listed as a housekeeper.

Ellen died on 14 May 1913 and is buried in the family grave at the Cemetery and in 1921 John had moved in with his sister Mary who lived in his late father's family home in Simpsons Lane. He is listed as a retired Flooring tile fireman with his last employer being T & R Boote at Burslem. John died on 10 Nov 1923 and is buried in the family grave at the Cemetery.



Pic 1



Pic 2



Pic 3

**Pic 1:** Congregational Cemetery Memorial by S.Dewhirst

**Pic 2:** Broseley Congregational Chapel c1960 shortly before demolition

**Pic 3:** Broseley Cemetery Memorial by S.Dewhirst

**Children**

Three children died in infancy who were presumably so young they were not given names. On the 1911 census, they had to record that only three of their 10 children were alive and a year later Ernest died. None of the children seem to have married so there were no grandchildren.

Ellen Elizabeth 1870 Tewkesbury— d1964

She was baptised in Tewkesbury on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1870. She is listed as having no employment in 1891 but by 1901 she was a ladiesmaid along with 4 other servants with the Frank family at Partridge Green, West Sussex. In 1921 she was visiting the Frank's at Southwold but is listed as having private means. Ellen E. Morgan is recorded as dying at Cheltenham in 1964.

John Richard 14/11/1871 As church—d1943

In 1891 he was an assistant moulder in an iron works but by 1901 he had moved to Swadlincote and was at employed Rose Hill Pottery, Woodville as a Pottery Placer. He never married and lived the rest of his life in Swadlincote where he was always lodging with others.

Ernest 1873 Broseley—d 14 Nov 1912

In 1891 he was a Tessellated tile presser, in 1901 he was a Potato dealer and in 1911 a labourer in an Encaustic tile works. He did not marry and lived with his family until his death. He is buried at the cemetery in the family grave.

Winnifred 1879 Broseley—d 19 June 1888

Buried Congregational chapel graveyard.

Martin James 1880 Broseley—d 13 Dec 1889

Buried Congregational chapel graveyard.

Thomas 1883 Broseley—d 4 Mar 1890

Buried Congregational chapel graveyard.

Sidney Edward 1887 Broseley—d 14 Apr 1890

Buried Congregational chapel graveyard.

Elizabeth Ann Todd 1889 Isle Of Man—d 5 Dec 1917

Possibly Elizabeth Ann Todd who was born at Douglas in the Isle of Man in 1889 to Maria Todd an unmarried mother. She was baptised on 21 December and in 1891 they lived with her grandmother Mary at 7 James Street Auchan. Known by the family as Lottie she was adopted between 1891 and 1901. She remained with the family and did not marry and in 1911 is listed as a Housekeeper's help. Lottie is buried at the cemetery in the family grave. The family had strong links with the Broseley Congregational church. The closest place of worship to Brongafod, the birthplace of John Senior, was the Congregational chapel at Bwtch-y-ffridd about 1.5 miles away which also served Abeshafesp. At Chirbury there was only a C of E church the nearest chapel was probably that at Forden about 4 miles away.

## 2). Congregational burials by Steve Dewhirst - January 2024

Jane Bowen wife of Charles Bowen 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr 1894 aged 56 years.

Jane Marsh was born Leebotwood in 1835 and married Charles Bowen of Llanllwchaiarn on 29 April 1861 at Leebotwood. His father was a farmer of 196 acres at Longnor Park.

Charles was born in Newtown in 1834. His father was Thomas Bowen a farmer and in 1841 they lived at Ladywell Street in Newtown. In 1851 Charles was living with his grandparents Maurice and Mary Bebb at the 110-acre Rock Farm, Llanllwchaiarn. The 1861 Census records his father running Rock farm now 222 acres with Charles working on the farm.

In 1871 Charles was farming 60 acres at Dolfor, Gwestdd, by he had given up the farm by 1881 the family were lodging at the Plough in Wellington where Charles was listed as an unoccupied farmer. They moved to Broseley soon after and in 1891 he was working as a tile presser living in Railway Terrace, Jackfield. By 1900 he had moved to Derby where he married Maria Draper and set himself up as a Grocer. He died in 1918 at Derby.

### Children

Elizabeth Emilly	1867-1952	
Mary Corfield	1870-1883	
James Walter	187301936	
Sarah Mildred	Q2 1874	baptised Llanwyddelan
Charlotte March`	Q1 1878	baptised Llanwyddelan
Mary Corfield	1870-1883.	Buried with her mother Mary on 13 <sup>th</sup> February 1885.

Sarah Hill 1832 - 1865

She was born in Shifnal to John and Ann Hill. They were still living in Shifnal in 1841 where John was a painter. By 1851 the family had moved to Broseley living on Duke Street John is listed as a Painter and Glazier and Sarah as a dressmaker. They were still at Duke Street in 1861 but John was now a master Glazier who in 1861 employed his son Richard and Sarah was still living with the family. Sarah died unmarried on 16th January 1865. *Precious in the light of the Lord is the Death of his Saint*

Thomas Howells 1823 -1900

Ann Howells ? – 1861

Mary Williams 1828 - Oct 1902

Thomas Howells was baptised on 27th April 1823 in Holdgate a small hamlet in Corvedale. In 1841 the family were living at Brookhampton to the east of Holdgate. His father Thoms snr. had died and his mother Mary aged 50 is listed as a publican with Thomas (15) being employed as an agricultural labourer. In 1843 he married Ann Evans, a native of Broseley in Shrewsbury and by 1851 he had trained as a cordwainer and moved to Broseley where his family were lodging with his father-in-law Thoams Evans a coalminer in Hockley Road. In April 1861 he was clearly doing well for himself as his is listed as a shoe manufacturer and was living on Barratts Hill. His wife Ann had died earlier in the year and his mother had moved in with the family. In 1863 married Mary Williams.

Thomas continued to live on Barratts Hill until his death in 1900, styling himself as a Master shoemaker in 1891. The house was rented and when it was sold in 1902 it was described as a Messuage or Dwelling House with yard and outbuildings. There was a cottage at the back of the dwelling on Padmans Alley both properties together were the subject to an amercement rent of 6s 8d to Lord Forester.

Thomas was said to have been a devoted member of the Congregational Church. He held the office of treasurer for several years, was a senior deacon up to the time of his death and had been superintendent of the Sunday School for 40 years.

Mary died in 1902 and is also buried in the family grave.

### Children

Edwin 1850-1927

Shoemaker -married Hephzibah Churchman 4/7/1882

Isaac 1852

Mary Ann 1856

Selina 1858-1862

John H 1866-1926

Frederic Charles 1864-1933

He was probably taken under the wing of Henry Powell Dunnill who was a prominent member of the Congregational Church. In 1881 he is listed as an Encaustic tile designer presumably working at Dunnill's and married Harriet Davies in 1885. By 1891 he had moved to Ruabon, and he then moved to Clifton (Lancs) where he worked for Pilkington's' returning to Broseley in 1912 to become manager of the Craven Dunnill works. They lived at Field House on Queen Street.



Fred and Harriet Howells, left outside Field House (*Broadhurst family*) Picture courtesy of S. Dewhirst

## LINLEY PARISH IN 1922 by Janet Doody –Feb 2024

A small parish of just over 640 acres, of which 5 acres are water, in 1911 there was a population of 61, the children attend schools at Broseley and Barrow. The Linley railway station is in Astley Abbots parish on the Great Western Railway's Severn Valley Line. The ancient parish church of St. Leonard and rectory is annexed to Broseley and the Rev Alfred Charles Howells B.A. of the Royal University of Ireland has held it since 1910.

### Notable Residents:

**Rev Alfred Charles Howells**, Rector was born on 5 July 1898 ; he married Alice Gertrude Orpwood at St. Peter Le Bailey, Oxford in 1939, then moved to Little Wenlock, where he was not only the Rector but ARP for Dawley R.D.C., whilst his wife was the village representative for WVS in the Borough Of Wenlock; by 1954 they had moved to 12 Woodhall Avenue Pinner, when Rev Howells died on 3 April 1954 at Edgware General Hospital.

**Miss Alice Harper** of 90 Linley Green was born at Coalport on 15 Oct 1859 to Edward and Caroline; in 1911 Alice and her widowed mother were living at Linley Green, where Alice worked as a dressmaker. Alice was still there in 1939, with her nephew Harry Harper who was working as an estate clerk, Alice died at the Beeches Hospital, Ironbridge on 21 June 1951.

**Sir Edward Hotham Broughton Rouse** of Linley Hall was born on 23 August 1893 to William St. Andrew Rouse-Boughton & Eleanor; he was educated at Eton College and succeeded as 5<sup>th</sup> Baronet Boughton-Rouse of Rouse Lench, Worcestershire & Downton Hall, Shropshire and as 13<sup>th</sup> Baronet Boughton of Lawford Parva, Warwickshire on 9 Sept 1937. He attained the rank of Major in the 15th Hussars and also fought in WW2 and between 1940 & 194 held the office of High Sheriff of Shropshire. Sir Edward married his first wife Alys Ismay on 7 Nov 1916 and following their divorce he married Elizabeth Hunter on 10 July 1948. He retired to Anchor Gate, Seagrove Bay, Seaview, Isle of Wight and died on 17 June 1963 at The Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital.

**Thomas Grierson**, head forester to Lord Forester; was born on 16 July 1868, in 1939 he and his wife Mary lived at Linley Green where he was estate forester, and where he died on 8 September 1947

**Henry Haycox**, farmer of Hem Farm, Linley was born at Stottesdon on 16 August 1875 to John and Emma and baptised on 3 October 1875; died 31 October 1947 at Hope Gate, Stanton Lacy and was buried at St. Peter's, Stanton Lacy.

### Leigh Nevett 1872

#### LEIGH NAVETT / SAMUEL & ELIZA NAVETT 1872

This must be for their son Leigh as it does not correspond with the death of Samuel or Eliza. There is no record of the birth of Leigh. The name in all the documents is Nevett rather than Navatt.

### Samuel Leigh Nevett 1820 - 1882

Samuel Nevett was born at Coalport on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1820 at baptised at Broseley (non-conformist) his parents being Enoch and Ann. He married Eliza James in q2 1845. He was a grocer in Sibley Lane near the High Street.

In 1880 he was living alone in lower Church Street and listed as a retired innkeeper having run the Queen's Head in Ironbridge. He died 29<sup>th</sup> December 1882 and left a personal estate of £648 15s 8d.

### Eliza James 1824 - 1873

Elizabeth James was born at Uckington to Willam (day labourer) and Sarrah James and was baptised 25<sup>th</sup> of June.

### Children

- Clementine 1847 - 1831

Married Elijah Burton (1849-1893)

One daughter who married Richard Thomas Garbett and emigrated to Canada.

- Florence 1850

Married 1870 to Thomas Davies a blacksmith. In 1871 they were living in Church Street. They seem to have left Broseley by 1881

- Bertha Eliza 1857 -

Married Francis Henry Botfield 13 Apr 1876. By 118 they had moved to Wednesfield where they ran the Talbot Inn.

- Mary Leigh 1861 – 1862

**Henry John Norgrove**, farmer of Linley Farm was born on 19 July 1860 also at Stottesdon to Henry and Ann, and baptised on 12 August 1860. He married Mary Elizabeth Oakley on 30 January 1887 at Bromsgrove, farming initially at Bourton and moving to Linley Farm by 1901. On retiring they went to Nordley where Henry died at Orchard View, Nordley on 29 November 1949.



*Linley Station / Picture courtesy of BLHS*

### **BENTHALL PARISH IN 1922 by Janet Doody-Mar 2024**

The parish covered some 835 acres, the highest point of Benthall Edge, Tykes Nest being 417 feet above the river Severn. Benthall Pottery Company that produced Salopian Art Pottery is close to Benthall Hall and a water corn mill was still in operation having an unusual overshot wheel measuring some 60 feet in diameter and situated close by the Ironbridge. Benthall Hall is a 16<sup>th</sup> century country house retaining much of its original oak interior and 17<sup>th</sup> century staircase. St. Bartholomew's church, adjacent to the Hall, was built in 1667 and 'suffered' some alterations in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The vicar since 1902 was the Rev. William Arthur Terry; (story of Rev & Mrs Terry is in the Society's Newsletter no. 59, November 2023). There was a mission room at Hill Top which was used as a Sunday School, whilst the children attend schools at Broseley.

**William Beriah Allen** was farmer and manager of Benthall Pottery Company; which he had taken over on the death of his father. William was born on 21 December 1873, attended St. Oswald's College, Ellesmere before Hertford College, Oxford University. The family lived in the house next to the works and where William died in 1922. The business was sold in 1923 to Donald Prestage of Prestage & Broseley Tileries.

**Richard Clinton** of the New Inn, Bridge Road, was born in Sheinton in 1864, he was also chairman of the local Potato Show which was held at the New Inn; Richard died on 24 September 1928.

**John Doorbar**, farmer of Hungerdale; John was born in 1840 at the wonderfully named Ruston Spencer in Staffordshire; he married Prudence Brassington there at St. Lawrence church on the 18 May 1863. John died at Hungerdale on 22 March 1924.

**Colin Dyas**, farmer, Little Posenhall Farm: Colin Owen Dyas was born on 9 August 1891 in Shifnal, in 1911 he was boarding as a farm pupil at Posenhall Farm with William Bishop. Colin married Jane Taylor in 1935 and they were living at Little Posenhall Farm in 1939; he died 14 April 1969 at Upper Wyke Farm, Shifnal.

**Thomas Griffiths** of Bridge House was born on 5 June 1891 to Thomas and his wife Alice; Thomas junior, a timber merchant and continued to live at Bridge House until his death in 1971. Executors of **Joseph Oakley** decd., of Benthall Farm; Joseph had died on 7 March 1909, but his family continued with the tenancy until the death of Ellen, wife in 1923. Their son, also Joseph did not renew the lease and in 1939 was living at Sheinton Hall Cottages.

**George Potts**, solicitor of Benthall House, was born in Benthall but by 1939 had moved to Mill Lane, Broseley; George died in 1945.

**Robert Walkinshaw** farmed at Hillside Farm, was born in Scotland on 9 September 1849 and by 1891 had taken the tenancy of the farm. Robert died in 1919.

**Arthur Wilde**, farmer, of 13 The Benthall Villa, was born 25 Jan 1870, on 28 May 1898 he married Mary Ann Mears at Barrow. In 1939 he described himself as small holder and milk producer, Arthur died 28 May 1941



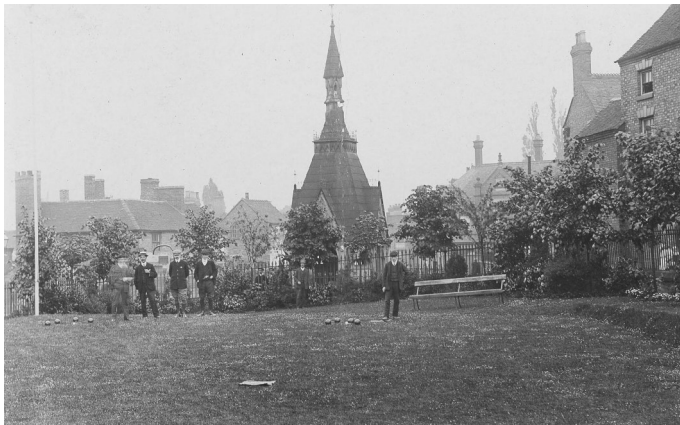
*Benthall Pottery Workers / Picture courtesy of Ken Molyneux*

## BROSELEY BOWLING GREEN by Janet Doody-Feb 2024

"A beautiful bowling green, belonging to the members of the Victoria Institute was opened this week. It is situated in the centre of the town and is in the 'pink' of condition, Mr T. Jones is Secretary of the newly-formed club"; so printed the Wellington Journal & Shrewsbury News on 4 May 1907.

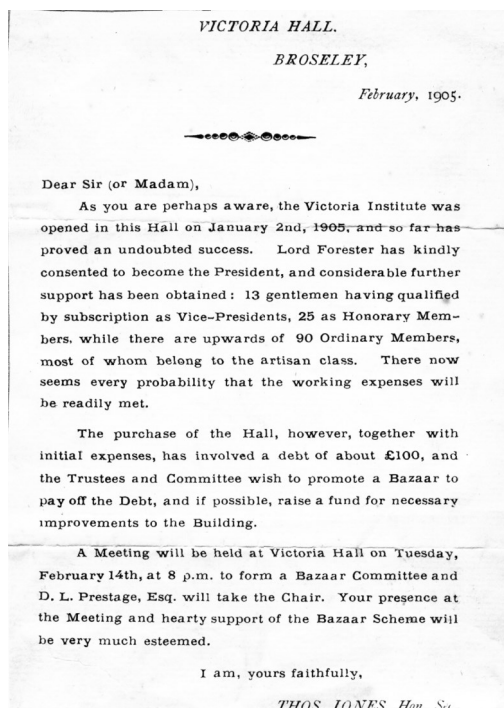
Later that same year Jackfield Brass Band gave a Sunday concert on the bowling green, of 'high-class' music under the band master Mr George Aston, to a 'large number of appreciative listeners'. A dance was held on the 'beautifully laid out ground', again the Jackfield Brass Band provided the accompanying music. Then on Hospital Sunday in September the band once again played to the crowds.

However by 1921 the bowling green had disappeared to be replaced by gardens and the war memorial, I wonder what brought about the demise of the Victoria Institute's Bowling Club and its 'beautifully laid out ground'?

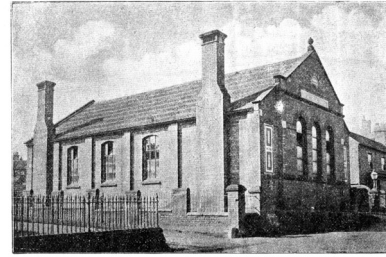


Picture courtesy of BLHS

## Some more illustrations on the Victoria Institute... (Pictures from BLHS collection)



## 1908. VICTORIA INSTITUTE, BROSELEY.



**President:**  
RIGHT HON. LORD FORESTER.  
**Vice-Presidents:**  
Dr. Boon, Dr. Collins, J. A. Downes, Esq., E. W. Shorting, Esq.,  
Dr. Fox-Edwards, D. L. Prestage, Esq., G. C. Heywood, Esq.,  
C. Jenkins, Esq., E. B. Potts, Esq., F. H. Potts, Esq., and  
A. A. Exley, Esq.  
**Hon. Members:**  
Messrs. H. E. Clark, T. Doughty, J. Davies, E. R. Instone, R.  
A. Instone, W. Jones, G. B. Ledger, E. H. Ledger, Rev. G. F.  
Lamb, J. Nicklin, G. Potts, H. J. Rushton, A. Scott, W. G. Slaney,  
C. T. Smith.  
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D. L. Prestage, Esq., R. A. Instone, Esq.  
**Committee:**  
M. J. Nicklin (Chairman).  
W. Francis, H. E. Clark, A. Scott, W. Edge, H. H. Wase, A. Smith.  
**Hon. Treasurer:** J. A. DOWNES, Esq. (Lloyds Bank).  
**Hon. Secretary:** T. JONES.

A. C. WILLIAMS, General and Commercial Printer, Audlem, Cheshire

## B.L.H.S MISCELLANEOUS

**MANY THANKS** to Society member Joan Griffiths and committee member Gill Pope for tracking down copies of the booklet of the Rev Wynyard Alexander Warner; this has now been added to the Broseley Local History Society book collection.

## FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

To those of you into family history research, you will be pleased, nay delighted to know that the G.R.O. (General Register Office) has now made digital images of birth and death certificates (but NOT marriage certificates) available at the cost of £2.50; instead of £11 for an actual certificate.

## BENTHALL DIG

Unfortunately the dig that was supposed to happen in April has been postponed. As soon as we get another date for it we will let you know. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Steve Dewhirst ([steve@broseley.org.uk](mailto:steve@broseley.org.uk)) To keep updated consult our website page [www.broseley.org.uk](http://www.broseley.org.uk) and/or our social media page [www.facebook.com/BroseleyLocalHistorySociety/](http://www.facebook.com/BroseleyLocalHistorySociety/)

## MAILBOX

Cian Flaherty is researching relatives, the Onions family of Broseley - specifically Isaac Henry (Harry) Onions (1860-1916) and Emily Catherine (Kate) Evans (1857-1953) and their descendants - and would be interested to hear from anyone who remembers the family or who has knowledge of them. The Onions ran a bakery on Church Street and were tenants of Barratts Hill Farm. Contact : [steve@broseley.org.uk](mailto:steve@broseley.org.uk)



**FROM THE BROSELEY SOCIETY'S PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION by Janet Doody March 2024**

**CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE OF ELLEN REBECCA HUGHES (1885- 1974)**

Ellen was born in Salthouses, Jackfield on 6 July 1885 to Henry Dixon Hughes and his wife Isabella and was baptised at St. Mary's, Jackfield on 30 August 1885. She was the eldest of 10 children born to Henry and his second wife Isabella nee Stephan.

The wonderfully illuminated certificate was presented to Ellen on her confirmation at St. Mary's on 25 March 1900. By 1901 she was employed as a live-in general servant to Alfred Potter and his family who lived at the Tuckies. Alfred was an 'Art Tile Painter' working at Maws; he and his family later emigrated to Ohio in the United States.

In 1910 Ellen married William Henry Gittens, a fireman at the encaustic tile works and their home in the 1911 census was a 4 Church Alley, Broseley. By 1939 they were living at 154 Salt-house, Jackfield, then later they moved to Bridgnorth Road, Broseley. Ellen died in 1974 and William in 1961.



Source: [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) / [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

Many thanks to Ellen's great grandson, Neil Gittens who provided personal information and photographs

**STEVE DOWNES (1877-1958) by Janet Doody-Mar 2024**

In an undated article by Dennis Mason, 'immortal' Steve Downes was mentioned as 'one of Broseley's best-known and best-loved characters. Dennis described him as 'an old countryman' with a quaint and outdated turn of speech, like a character from a Thomas Hardy novel. Steve would 'entertain' with old songs, such as The Village Pump, accompanied by his violin or accordion and had joined the repertoire of the Tower Octet, the Broseley hand-bell ringers Dennis wrote:

*"Steve deserves an article on his own. He was an old countryman with a turn of speech which must have been quaint and outdated more than half a century before that time. He always reminded me of one of Thomas Hardy's characters. Mary Webb, had she been alive then would have loved him.*

*Steve a bachelor who worked on one of the district's outlying farms, often came to The Foresters Arms and after a pint or two would entertain the customers with old songs which must have disappeared elsewhere a century before. The two favourites were The Village Pump and The Old Grey Mare, both of which appeared to have dozens of verses!*

*In earlier days Steve accompanied his songs with a violin, but this had fallen into disuse and his instrument had become the accordion, which he called his 'maachine'! Steve's voice reached notes of which an operatic tenor would have been proud.*

*Everyone in Broseley knew Steve, but it came as a surprise when he was added to the Tower Octet's outside concerts. The chief trouble was getting Steve off the stage, few of the audiences had ever seen anyone like him before and certainly never forgot him! Steve's capacity for putting away sandwiches, sausage rolls and cakes added considerably to the catering bill, but he provided value for money."*

Nick Downes from the Broseley High Street Grocery shop comments: **'Steve was our paternal great grandmother's brother. He had 3 sisters.... He had died before any of us siblings were born, but he was fondly remembered and talked about'.**

What a character! Does anyone remember him, or even better have a photograph? [Janet.doody@googlemail.com](mailto:Janet.doody@googlemail.com)

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### WHATS ON AT IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM TRUST?

- ⇒ 10<sup>th</sup> May: L.T.C. Rolt – Life, Work, Legacy Conference: to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the writer, biographer & much more! See IGMT website for details
- ⇒ 11th May – Vintage Sports Car Club Rally at Coalbrookdale
- ⇒ 11th – 12th May: Heavy Horse Weekend at Blists Hill
- ⇒ 25<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June: Victorian Food Week
- ⇒ 29<sup>th</sup> May: Friends' Talk: Maw & Co., Biggest and Best? 7.30pm Coalbrookdale
- ⇒ 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> June Dog Show at Blists Hill
- ⇒ 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> June Blists Hill Sports Weekend
- ⇒ 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June Fashion Through the Ages 6.00pm Enginuity
- ⇒ 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June Steam Punk Weekend at Blists Hill
- ⇒ 3<sup>rd</sup> July: Pride & Prejudice Live – Hotbuckle Productions present Jane Austen as never before! 6.00pm covered bays' Coalbrookdale
- ⇒ 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> July – Brass Band Festival at Coalbrookdale

Volunteers always needed in all departments, including Broseley Pipe Works! For volunteering details contact Lesley Walker, volunteer officer, [Lesley.walker@ironbridge.org.uk](mailto:Lesley.walker@ironbridge.org.uk)

### **Ironbridge Walking Festival: 4<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> May**

Walks from 21 miles to 3 miles, take your pick! Check website for details <https://www.ironbridgewalking.co.uk/>

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## **DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS & SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Thank you to those members who have indicated they would be happy to have electronic copies of the Newsletter. If there are any other members who would prefer it this way please contact the membership secretary, **Janet Robinson**, see her contact details on the Committee's list (right column).

Those of you would prefer to have it in its printed form can continue to look forward to receiving it through the post. Many thanks.

## **Broseley Local History Society Committee**

### **Committee Members**

<b>Chair</b>	Neil Clarke
<b>Secretary</b>	Dot Cox
<b>Treasurer</b>	Reha Deric
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Janet Robinson 26 Coalport Road Broseley TF12 5AZ <b>01952 882495</b> <a href="mailto:janetc46.jr.jr@gmail.com">janetc46.jr.jr@gmail.com</a>
<b>Programme Secretary and Journal Editor</b>	Neil Clarke
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Jocelyne Barbier
<b>Publicity</b>	Jocelyne Barbier
<b>Research</b>	Steve Dewhirst Janet Doody Richard Sells
<b>Other Members</b>	Gillian Pope Margaret Hazeldine Kathryn Warren
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.broseley.org.uk">www.broseley.org.uk</a>
<b>General Email</b>	<a href="mailto:steve@broseley.org.uk">steve@broseley.org.uk</a>
<b>Social Media</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/BroseleyLocalHistorySociety/">www.facebook.com/BroseleyLocalHistorySociety/</a>

To see this *Newsletter* in full colour, go to

<https://www.broseley.org.uk/news.htm>

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Printed by MDT Reprographics

# **BLHS SUMMER OUTING: LUDLOW GUIDED TOUR**

**Saturday 6th of July 2024**

The tour will approximatively last between 90 and 120mn and will start in Ludlow at 10am, meeting point is at the Cannon by the Castle

## **Booking Form (Reply by 5th June)**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POST CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. NO: \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NO: OF PERSONS \_\_\_\_\_ @ £5 PER PERSON

Cheques to be made out to [Broseley Local History Society](#)

Please return completed forms to: **Margaret Hazeldine**

Email: [margarethazeldine@gmail.com](mailto:margarethazeldine@gmail.com)

Telephone Number: **01952510736**

Address: **School House Farm, Sheinton, Nr. Much Wenlock SY5 6DN**

**PLEASE NOTE:** NO TRANSPORT IS PROVIDED THEREFORE PLEASE COMPLETE THE SECTION BELOW:

I / We need transport: YES / NO - No, of Persons: .....

I/We can help with transport: YES / NO - No. of Persons: .....