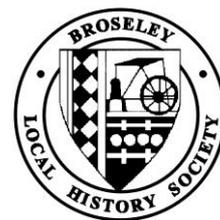


NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



NOVEMBER 2014

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

- 3 Dec Annual Dinner
7 Jan *Broseley Pipes* by Rex Key
4 Feb *Ironbridge Institute Library* by John Powell
4 Mar *Abraham Darby III* by Michael Darby

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

- Mr. Chris Wilson, Broseley
Mr. Arwyn Jones, Broseley
Mr. David Springett, Broseley
Mr. Lee Roberts, Broseley
Mr. Brian Weston, Broseley

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Wednesday 3rd December

The Lion, High Street, 7.30pm for 7.45pm

£18.95 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 28th November at the latest by completing the form on page 11 and returning it with your payment to:

Janet Robinson
26 Coalport Road
Broseley
TF12 5AZ.

Cheques should be made payable to the Broseley Local History Society.



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PREVIOUS MEETINGS

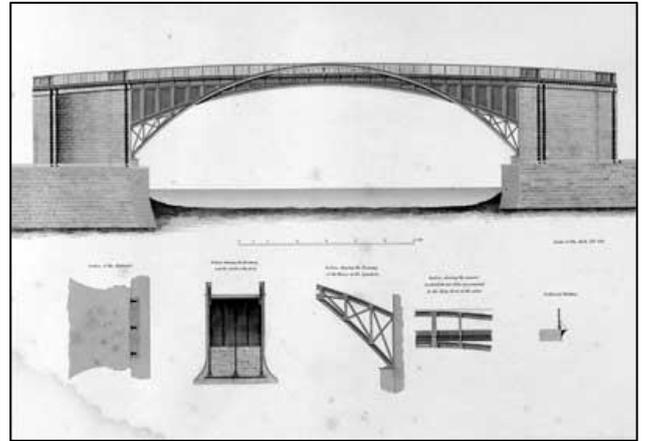
Floods On The River Severn

The first meeting back after the summer break saw David de Haan speaking to us about floods on the River Severn. His talk began by explaining how the river came to be flowing on its current course before concentrating on floods within the Gorge.

The River Severn began life as two different rivers. One river had its source in the Welsh mountains near Welshpool and flowed out to the Irish Sea along the Dee Estuary. The other rose near to Wolverhampton and flowed through Bridgnorth and in a southward direction to the Bristol Channel. Then 18,000 years ago the Ice Age spread down as far as Shrewsbury. When it started to melt 15,000 years ago the exit for the river rising near Welshpool was still blocked by ice, as a result a large lake was formed. This has been called Lake Lapworth (Aqualate Mere near to Newport is a remnant of Lake Lapworth and its outflow to the west forms the River Meese which joins the River Tern, a tributary of the River Severn). To the north of the lake was the ice cap and to the south was the limestone ridge of the Wenlock Edge. Eventually the lake overflowed the ridge cutting a deep groove into the limestone near Ironbridge. This created Ironbridge Gorge. The lake then drained leaving behind the course of the River Severn as we know it today.

The Gorge has a long history of flooding problems with notable events occurring in 1795, 1941, 1946, 1947, 1960, 1964, 1965, 1968 and more recently in 1998, 2000 and 2014. Perhaps the greatest flood was that of 12th February 1795 when the river froze and then melted quickly. This, coupled with heavy rain fall in the Severn catchment area, caused the river to rise over 20 feet in height. There is a plaque attesting to this on the front of the O'Leary's for Lunch cafe on the left as you turn onto Dale Road in Coalbrookdale.

Aqualate Mere, a remnant of Lake Lapworth



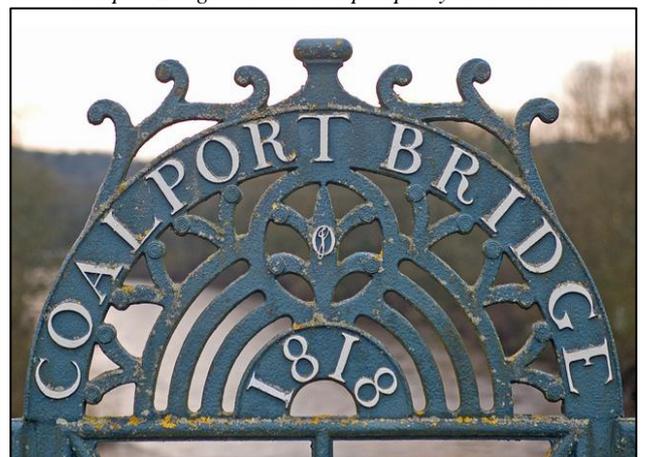
Telford's Iron bridge built over the River Severn at Buildwas in the county of Salop in the years 1795 & 1796

The plaque states that the flood waters rose to the top of that plaque from the river's normal level.

The Great flood of 1795 badly damaged the medieval stone bridge at Buildwas. The bridge was built by the monks of Buildwas Abbey in about 1318 and had been repaired in the early 1790s under the guidance of Thomas Telford who was, at the time, the Shropshire county surveyor. It was decided to replace the bridge and Telford made the bold decision to use cast iron, improving on the original bridge that was sited just downstream. Movement of the banks led to Telford's bridge being replaced in 1905 by another "hog-backed Pratt truss" bridge and that in turn was replaced in 1992 by the present bridge. The present bridge is still subject to movement of the surrounding ground but has expansion gaps to allow for this.

Coalport bridge was constructed in 1777 from two spans of timber and was also a victim of the 1795 flood. It was rebuilt as a single span structure with a wooden deck on cast iron arches. In 1818 the wooden deck was replaced by a cast iron one with cast iron parapets by John Onions. The Ironbridge itself remained unscathed by the flood which was a great testament to its designers and builders.

Coalport Bridge with cast iron parapet by John Onions





Door at The Boat Inn, Jackfield, showing the height of record flood levels

Although the flood of 1795 was the most catastrophic there have been deeper floods, and the three highest known floods to date are:

1st November 2000 – 19’6”

19th February 1946 – 19’5”

21st March 1947 – 19’1”

At the Boat Inn, Jackfield, you will find, on the outside of the far right door of the pub, a series of water marks with dates showing the height of the floods. Historically, a major flood has caused significant damage on average once every ten years, but time between floods can vary significantly. There has been a recent and dramatic increase in the number and severity of floods. Since 1998 there have been eleven flood events causing serious property flooding and damage. Records indicate that our winters are getting wetter, and summers drier. Whilst this may be a result of the long-term natural cycle, we cannot exclude that it could be a consequence of global warming. In the autumn of 2000, the worst flooding for over 50 years caused widespread damage along the length of the River Severn. Ironbridge and the rest of the gorge was badly affected and was extensively flooded several times in the space of six weeks.



Temporary flood defences being erected on the Wharfage

Starting in February 2004 the Environment Agency along with the local authority implemented a portable barrier which is erected along the Wharfage at times of flood. At its peak, the flood water has reached a depth of one metre against the barrier. The barrier helps to prevent floods from damaging homes and businesses, though some have argued that this is now increasing water levels in more rural areas.

People will continue to debate whether the floods are caused by climate change, building on flood plains, mismanagement of the river or any other numbers of factors, but the floods have been happening since the river has been flowing and will continue to do so in the future. Although devastating to some the sight and power of the river in flood draws many to the area to witness the spectacular waterscapes throughout the Ironbridge Gorge and across Shropshire.



The swollen Severn flowing beneath the Ironbridge



The Severn in flood at Leighton.

Picture courtesy of Shropshire Star

Annual General Meeting

On Wednesday 1st October the Society held its Annual General Meeting which was well supported by members.

The chairman Gillian Pope gave a report on the activities of the Society during the past year during which members had enjoyed a varied and interesting programme. She thanked all members of the Committee for their hard work during the previous twelve months.

The treasurer, Jim Cooper, reported that the Society was in a sound financial position in spite of increases in the cost of postage and would be able to keep the price of subscriptions the same as last year.

Janet Robinson, the Membership Secretary, informed the Meeting that the Membership total now stood at 199 and again appealed to members to pay their subscriptions for the coming year.

All the members of the Committee agreed to stand again for the ensuing year and were re-elected en bloc.

The chairman thanked the outgoing presidents, Vin Callcut and Joan Griffiths for their support over the past two years. Eric Cox and Rosemary Clegg were appointed to act as presidents for the next two years.

To conclude the Meeting the chairman thanked all members of the Society for their enthusiasm and support for the Society in helping to promote the fascinating history associated with Broseley and the surrounding area.

The Meeting was followed by a talk given by Paul Luter entitled "John Wilkinson's work in Snedshill, Hollingswood and New Hadley." He outlined many of the places where Wilkinson had business interests that have since become part of Telford New Town – some of them not as well-known as Wilkinson's other industrial adventures.

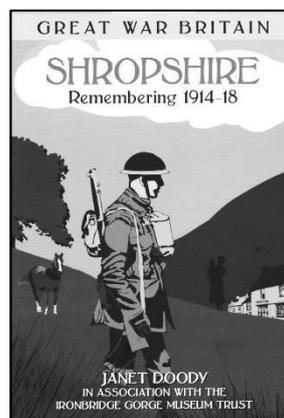
MEMBERSHIP

Membership subscriptions are now due. For those who have not yet paid there is a form on page 9 of the Newsletter that gives details of how to pay. Subscriptions are now £7 single and £12 couples.

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

BOOKSHOP

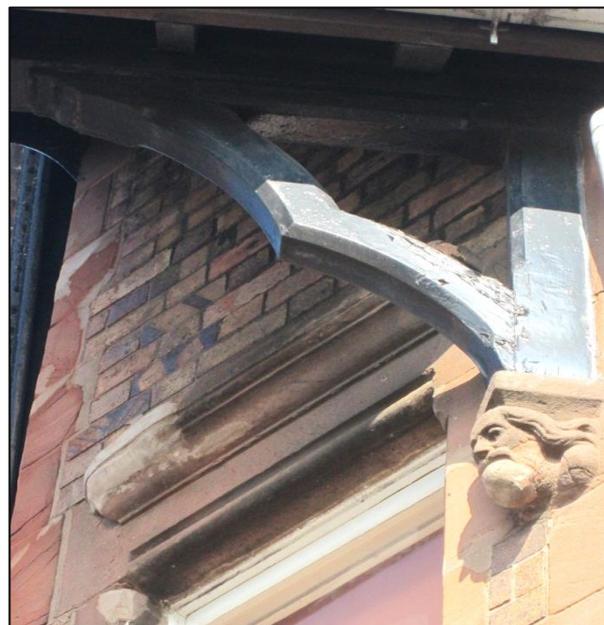
Shropshire – Remembering 1914-1918, by Janet Doody in association with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and published by the History Press is part of a series of books commemorating the centenary of the Great War and offers an intimate portrayal of the county and its people living in the shadow of the "war to end all wars". A beautifully illustrated and highly accessible volume describing local reaction to the outbreak of war and charting the experience of individuals who enlisted, using amongst others, the letters of brothers Bert and Cis Oaks from Broseley. It covers the changing face of industry; the work of the many hospitals in the area; the effect of the conflict on local children; the women who played a vital role on the home front and concludes with how the county and its people coped with the transition to life in peacetime once more.



The Great War story of Shropshire is told through the voices of those who were there and is illustrated throughout with evocative images loaned by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and others kindly loaned by local people.

WHERE'S WELLY?

Editor: Where in Broseley can this bearded fellow be found? The answer will be printed in February's copy of Newsletter.



JOHN WILKINSON BALLAD

The following ballad was found in Roy Palmer's book, "The Folklore of Shropshire" published by Logaston Press.

The Author of the ballad is unknown. Maybe one of our members could shed some more light on its origins?

*You workmen of Bilston and Bradley draw near,
Sit down, take your pipes, and my song you shall hear,
I sing not of war or the state of the nation,
Such subjects as these produce nought but vexation.*

*But before I proceed any more with my tale,
You shall all drink my health in a bumper of ale,
Fill it up, and without any further parade,
John Wilkinson, boys, that supporter of trade.*

*May all his endeavours be crowned with success,
And his works, ever growing, prosperity bless,
May his comforts increase with the length of his days,
And his fame shine as bright as his famous blaze.*

*That the wood of old England would fail, did appear,
And though iron was scarce because charcoal was dear,
By puddling and stamping he cured that evil,
So the Swedes and the Russians; may go to the devil.*

*Our thundering cannon too frequently burst,
A mischief so great he prevented the first,
And now it is known they never miscarry,
But drive all our foes with a blast to old Harry.*

*Then let each jolly fellow take hold of his glass,
And drink to the health of his friend and his lass,
May we always have plenty of good beer and pence,
And Wilkinson's fame blaze a thousand years hence.*

INSTONE BUILDING

The Instones Building in the Square has recently been having something of a facelift. The building was erected in 1900 by Richard Alfred Instone (R.A. Instone) great, great, grandfather of Patrick Smitherman who now occupies the building. Patrick, managing director of Harwood The Estate Agent of Broseley was having some redecoration done to the front of the building when some old stained glass panels were discovered. Realising the historic value and beauty of these glass panels Patrick has been having them cleaned and repaired where necessary and plans to leave them unveiled from now on.



Close Up Detail of One of the Glass Panels



The Instones Building

John Scott Gallery at Jackfield Tile Museum



A new decorative tile gallery at Jackfield Tile Museum, near Ironbridge is now home to a world-class collection of British decorative tiles donated by private collector, Mr. John Scott. The 1,300 individual tiles and 310 panels, never before seen by the public, feature a roll call of prestigious design names including Pugin, Dresser, Morris, De Morgan and Bawden. The new gallery has elevated the Museum's status as the holder of one of the world's most comprehensive collections of British decorative tiles.

Pieces originate from the mid-19th century through to the mid-20th century and offer a fascinating insight into the design aesthetics of the past, ranging from one-off pieces from private homes to ornate panels from hospitals and other public buildings. The dedicated gallery is a brand new addition to the museum, requiring the renovation of what was originally a workroom in the Craven Dunnill tile factory.

WHAT'S ON?

Mon 17 November

Newport in WW1

Janet Doody, Newport History Society, 7.30pm
Baptist Church, Water Lane, Newport, 01952 810656

Wed 19 November

Railways of East Shropshire

Neil Clarke, Wellington History Group, 7:30pm
Wellington Library, 01952 402459

Wed 26 November

Pains Lane Races

Jim Cooper, Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum,
7:30pm Boardroom Coalbrookdale, 01952 433522

Tue 2 December

Archaeology at IGMT: A Year in Review

Shane Kelleher, Ironbridge Gorge Museum, 6 pm
Museum of the Gorge, 01952 435946

Fri 5 December

Natural Festive Crafts (£15)

Cadi Price & Kate Chetwood, SGCT, 10:00am –
3:00pm, SGCT Darby Road, 01952 433880

Tue 16 December

The large engineering exhibits and the stories around them

John Challen, Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum,
7:30pm Boardroom Coalbrookdale, 01952 433522

Mon 19 January

Ancestry taster session

Wellington Library 2pm – 4pm. Ring 01952 382990
to book a place

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/calendar.html>

MAILBOX

I read with interest the short article in the recent BHLS newsletter about the Revd. WA Warner and wrote to Bill Seabury who very kindly sent me a copy of the booklet. There is another Warner family link to Broseley and in particular The Fernery in Church St, via Revd. Warner’s nephew Oliver Martin Wilson Warner.

Following my father’s death in 2007 and while clearing the house out, I found two letters and two Christmas cards written to dad from Oliver Warner – a well-known naval historian and writer. The first letter he wrote was addressed to The Occupier – in it Mr. Warner explained his interest in The Fernery. He bought the house from Elizabeth, the widow of Mr. Henry Rogers Botwood (Bankers Clerk) of Broseley & Hon Sec & Treasurer of Broseley Lawn Tennis Club (1895 Kelly’s Directory) and moved to Broseley to be near his uncle, the Revd. WA Warner. In the letter he described the house as it was in his time.

Below is an extract from a letter dated 1 June 1971 from Oliver Warner to Fred Davies:

“You will be surprised to get a letter from a total stranger, but when you hear the reason you will perhaps understand. Last year, I had the chance to re-visit Broseley and I took the opportunity to go past your house, for a very special reason, and I was delighted to find it so flourishing to outward appearance.....For in 1925, when I was a very young man indeed, I bought the house...it was then known as the Fernery. My uncle, the Rev, Wynyard Warner, was at that time Rector of Broseley and I wanted to be near him: he died the following year.....When I bought it, it had no drainage or modern conveniences, these were put in by Mr. Hill, a local builder. So were a gas stove, and a small Ideal boiler. I had the garden cleared and was very happy there for a year, when I took a job in London and let it to a Dr MacDonald and afterwards sold it by auction”

His letter goes on to describe one or two rooms in the house and his regret at having to use so large a room for the bathroom but he doesn’t explain why this was so. I can only assume it was ease of water and drainage, being above the kitchen.

The next letter was a reply thanking my father for writing so fully about the house and being pleased its name had been retained. When Mr. Warner bought the house the gardens were full of ferns and rockeries. I have photographs taken of the house and garden in 1911 – they were entered into a photographic competition and published in The Bugle. My father must also have mentioned my grandfather, James Davies.

Extract from letter dated 16 June 1971 from Oliver Warner to Fred Davies:



The Fernery in Church Street

"I do indeed remember your father well, and with great affection, and I did write 'A Secret of the Marsh' in the big room, which was then my study. I also remember you as an infant (my father was born in 1926) and how proud your father was of you. He only once reproached me, and then with some reason, though not with entire justice. When we left Broseley in 1926, it was with the hope that we might return, at least in the summers. We had 2 offers for the house, one to rent it, Mr. MacDonald and another to buy it, from a schoolmistress who had wanted it a long time. I made the wrong choice, and your father told me this was so. It is therefore poetically just, I feel, that what is obviously a right one has now been made....."

I wonder where you garage? I used an old, small shed at the Rectory for my 1924 bull-nosed Morris-Cowley, which I wish I still had. I sold it for 35/- in 1931!"

Dad must have sent Mr. Warner photographs and plans of the house. He responded in a Christmas card which came with a signed copy of his latest book.

Having bought The Fernery at auction in 1930, my grandfather rented it, and following his death, my grandmother, Lily Davies (nee Vickers) continued to rent it out until mum and dad moved in 1955.

If anyone has any more information relating to the house during this period – which can be used to piece more of the history together I would love to hear from you.

I'm not sure if you can help. I've moved into 37a High Street, opposite Broseley Tyre Centre. Apparently it used to be called Bedlam House. I'd be very interested in learning some of the history

1901 and 1911 Census

of the house and trying to locate some old photos. Any assistance would be great.

Rachel McGrath

Steve Dewhirst Writes:

I think I know the house but I have never heard it called Bedlam House. However I do not know which one is 37 and which is 37a. You can see the property on the Tithe map as plot 232. <http://www.broseley.org.uk/TitheMap/Broseley%20Tithe%20Map%2010.jpg>

The apportionment lists it as being occupied by Jeremiah Baker who appears to have been a draper according to an 1835 directory. Attached is the census for 1911 for number 37. There is no 37a listed. Also attached is the 1901 census

I have just returned from a visit to Amsterdam, where I visited the Museum Van Loon (www.museumvanloon.nl). They were just opening an exhibition of eighteenth century family portraits by the artist Adriaan de Lelie (1755 -1822) and those of his contemporaries.

I came across a painting in the exhibition of a dutch family who were visiting the Willey Foundry in Broseley, which showed the family posing in front of

a blast furnace (with lots of smoke and flames) and being shown an object (presumably an ingot by one of the workers).

I was naturally interested because of the name and the unusual choice of subject and location of the portrait. On Googling the Willey foundry I find that you have done a considerable amount of research on the subject and would probably be interested to know that a picture showing part of the foundry exists in Amsterdam.

Unfortunately, I did not take a photo at the time but I am sure that the museum would provide you with one.

Please let me know how you get on.

Alan Willey

Steve Dewhirst wrote to the Museum Van Loon:

I have just received the mail shown above. Alan informed me that in the exhibition of paintings by Adriaan de Lelie there is one showing the foundry at Willey. This is an exciting find as there are no known illustrations of this works.

The ironworks was run by John Wilkinson who was known as "Iron Mad Wilkinson", and he was one of the great entrepreneurs of the late 18th century. The Willey works was where the first Boulton and Watt steam engine was installed to blow air into the furnace and as such is a very important site. Unfortunately all that remains at the site are a few associated houses. Willey is about three kilometres from the famous Iron Bridge and the associated World Heritage Site.

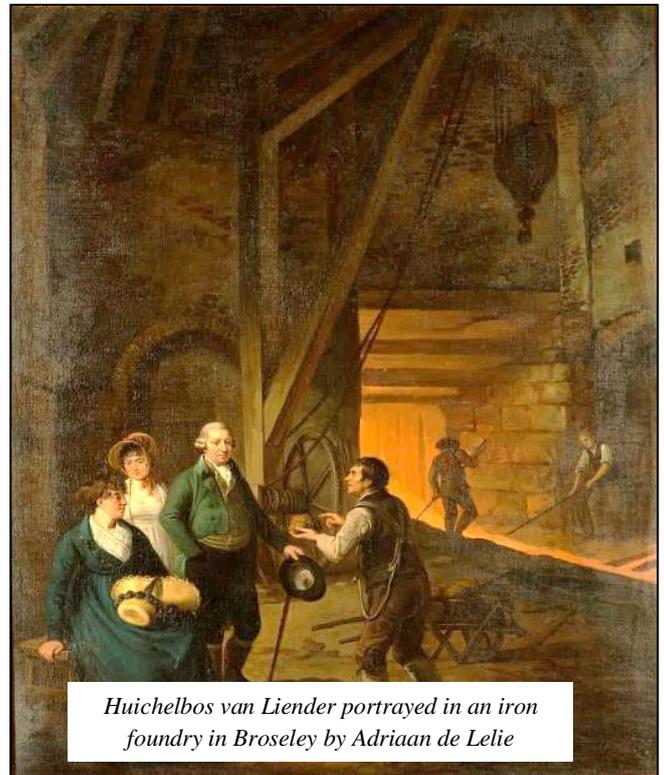
Do you have any further information about the painting and would it be possible to obtain a photograph of it? Presumably the family mentioned were on a tour of England and it would be fascinating if we could find out why they visited the works.

Should you wish I can provide more information on John Wilkinson and the works.

Valentijn Carbo(Museum Curator) replies:

I'm delighted to see that one of the paintings on the exhibition has your attention. I'm happy to provide you with more information.

In 18th century Holland the middle-classes commissioned many portraits. These trade and craftsmen often had their portraits painted featuring the attributes of their trade or profession. A large part of this group of clients was actively Republican.



Huichelbos van Liender portrayed in an iron foundry in Broseley by Adriaan de Lelie

The Republicans were demanding more individual freedom and more influence in the government. The Dutch painter Adriaan de Lelie portrayed a remarkable number of these republicans. Jan Daniel Huichelbos van Liender (1732-1809) was a merchant from Rotterdam. In 1787 he became a member of the 'vroedschap', a city-council that advised the mayors, who headed the council. The same year he fled to England due to the counter-revolution, however he came back soon for business. The so-called Batavian revolution meant his political comeback was as a member of the parliament on behalf of the city of Rotterdam. As well as in politics Huichelbos van Liender was also involved in the introduction of steam power in our country for drainage and industrial applications, as a member of the Batavian Society for Experimental Philosophy and later as representative of Boulton & Watt in the Republic. It is in this context, as an enlightened citizen dedicated to his homeland, he had himself portrayed by Adriaan de Lelie. The painting depicts Huichelbos van Liender with his half-sister Petronella van Liender (1743-1821) and family friend Adriana Reepmaker (1773-1855) in an iron foundry in Broseley. A worker shows iron or coal and in the background are two workers. In 1776 Huichelbos van Liender visited the foundry of John Wilkinson in Broseley to see with his own eyes the newly installed steam engine designed by James Watt (1736-1819). The painting is a testimony to this visit. Remarkable is the fact that Adriaan de Lelie borrowed



“The inside of a Smelting House at Broseley, Shropshire” by Wilson Lowry

the composition of the painting from the print, “The inside of a Smelting House at Broseley, Shropshire” by Wilson Lowry (1762-1824). This print is part of six large prints on the industrial Iron-Bridge area, published by Boydell in 1788. That year Huichelbos van Liender visited London and probably bought the print. Adriaan de Lelie imagined what was most characteristic of an iron smelter and positioned the figures in the foreground. It is uncertain whether the two women really accompanied Huichelbos van Liender in Broseley.

Eveline Koolhaas Grosfeld published an article on this painting by Adriaan de Lelie. You can find an abstract in English on this website: <http://achttiendeeuw.wordpress.com/tijdschrift/eerder-verschenen/jg-28-1996-1-2/>

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>	Andy Wellings
<i>Publicity</i>	Michael Pope Jan Lancaster Janet Doody Richard Sells
<i>Website</i>	www.broseley.org.uk
<i>Email</i>	steve@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: pandjrobinson@hotmail.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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2015

Subscriptions are now due for the year 2014-2015. If you have not paid please complete the form below and return to Janet Robinson, Membership Secretary BLHS, 26, Coalport Road, Broseley, TF12 5AZ. 01952 882495

The cost of a year's subscription is now £7 or £12 for couples.

Cheques should be made payable to Broseley Local History Society.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone.....

I enclose £.....

E.Mail (If you would like to receive Newsletter electronically).....

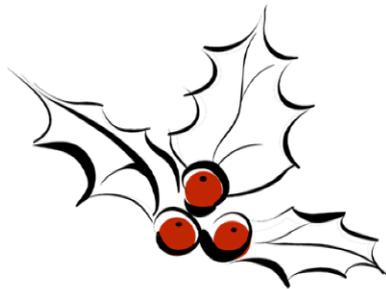
Newsletter

*Would like to thank all those
who have contributed to this
publication during 2014 and
wishes both them and
all its readers a*

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year



CHRISTMAS DINNER, THE LION, HIGH STREET, 3 DECEMBER 2014

Please reserve me _____ place/s for the Society's Christmas Dinner at a cost of £18.95 a head

Name/s: _____

Add: _____

Tel: _____

I enclose cheque/payment for
£ _____ payable to
Broseley Local History Society.
Please return to Janet Robinson,
26 Coalport Road,
Broseley, TF12 5AZ
By Friday 28th November

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

STARTER

Spiced parsnip & honey soup with crusty bread.

Platter of smoked salmon & king prawns with
thousand island dressing.

Seasonal melon with fruit coulis.

Duck & port pate with toast and salad garnish.

Brie & beetroot chutney tart.

MAIN COURSE

Roast turkey with stuffing & cranberry sauce.

Roast topside of beef with Yorkshire pudding
& horseradish sauce.

Roast loin of pork with apple sauce & stuffing.

Fillet of salmon in a cranberry, orange & port
glaze.

Goats cheese, chestnut & redcurrant roulade

Mushroom stroganoff.

Christmas pudding & brandy sauce

or

Dessert selection

Coffee with mince pies