

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



FEBRUARY 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

- 1 Feb *From My Postcard Collection*, Ray Farlow
- 1 Mar *John Wilkinson and the Ironbridge (Annual Wilkinson Lecture)*, David de Haan
- 5 Apr *At the Coalface*, Stewart Braddock and Malcolm Peel
- 12 May *James Clifford, Entrepreneur*, Rose Hewlett (Joint meeting with FIGM)
- 7 Jun *Summer walk in Apley Park*
- 1 Jul *Annual Outing: Quarry Bank Cotton Mill, Styal, Cheshire (Form at rear of Newsletter)*

N.B. The May meeting is on Friday 12th

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

- Miss J M Bould, Shrewsbury
Simon Harris, Broseley
Mr & Mrs Whittles, Broseley
Mrs Gillian Simmons, Broseley

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PREVIOUS MEETINGS

On the 2nd of November members came together with the Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum for a joint meeting to hear Vivian Bellamy talk about the History of Much Wenlock, obviously a popular topic as a large audience assembled.

The Anglo Saxon origins of the town are explained by the fact of its geographical situation. It sits in a bowl which means that water drained into it, thus affording a regular supply. In addition there were woods and fertile hills for sheep grazing. All of this was exploited by the people who founded the Abbey in 680. Its Abbess was Milburga, the daughter of a Mercian sub-king, Merewald of Leominster, during the Mercian Supremacy, 600 – 900. She was an intelligent and clever young woman and was sent by her father to be educated near Paris. There she learned, amongst other things, the skills of administration, and she returned with power, both political and religious. A contemporary document of the time, an illustrated manuscript without the gold adornment usually considered in later times as the norm for this kind of writing, told of her importance and the sizeable area that she controlled. There is some debate about whether Milburga was the first woman bishop, being depicted with the mitre of her male equivalents. Her power was certainly the same.



Educated in France, Mildburga was noted for her humility, and according to popular stories, was endowed with the gift of healing and restored sight to the blind. She organised the evangelisation and pastoral care of south Shropshire.



The Guildhall built in 1540

After the Norman Conquest a monastery was founded and Cluniac monks arrived in 1180. By 1395 the annual contributions which had been paid to the French Mother House in Cluny were transferred to the coffers of the English kings. A Romanesque façade remains in the Holy Trinity Church of Much Wenlock behind the present tower. Wenlock Priory had a 12th century infirmary which is now part of a private house. Adjoining that is a building dated 1425, with a Great Hall, both still having original features and building materials from the time.

Henry the 8th closed the Priory in 1540, which had an enormous impact on Much Wenlock and its community, many of whom relied on it for employment and other benefits. The Guildhall was built in 1540, the structure going up in three days. It remains a civic building where council meetings are held. Burgess plots lined the streets and may still be seen now at the backs of the buildings.

The Tudor period was one of stability and prosperity for Much Wenlock. In the 1580s substantial properties were built in the vicinity, such as Benthall Hall, Wilderhope Manor, Shipton Hall and Morville Hall. These buildings shared common features, having multiple gables and mullioned windows.

Much Wenlock was a centre for selling goods and just about anything needed by local people could be bought. At the market, under the Guildhall, cows, nails and food were all available!

The Industrial Revolution brought great change to the town and it began to lose its importance and influence, previously considerable. However, by the 1840s the improvement in roads and the advent of railways meant that tourism arrived. It was considered a good example of the 'Picturesque', a craze for ruined buildings and dramatic or beautiful landscape. These visitors benefited the local economy.



William Penny Brookes was an English surgeon, magistrate, botanist, and educationalist especially known for inspiring the modern Olympic Games, the Wenlock Olympian Games and for his promotion of physical education and personal betterment.

Victorian times brought resurgence in the town's fortunes, largely due to the birth of its famous son, Dr William Penny Brookes. He was born in 1809, lived in the town all his life in a house opposite the church and died in 1895. He was a great benefactor of Much Wenlock, although he is largely remembered for the Games he introduced, based on the original Greek Olympic Games. The Corn Exchange was built with money he raised, and in 1862 the railway arrived in the town. He planted trees, the most well-known being the Linden Walk. In addition he organised art classes which allowed women to attend, and some of the students went on to be employed at Coalport as artists painting the elaborate designs on the china. He also raised the money to refurbish the Council Chamber. Although he is today largely remembered for re-introducing the Olympic Games in Much Wenlock, he was a man of many parts and obviously very proud of his home town and instrumental in its betterment. At one point Much Wenlock was the largest English Borough, but this changed in the 20th century.

Christmas Meal

In December the Society held another successful Christmas dinner at the Lion Hotel, after which Janet Robinson tested member's knowledge of all things Shropshire with a fun quiz of trivia. How many of you would have been able to answer all of these questions? (answers will be in the next edition of Newsletter)

- 1) Who was the General Secretary of the TUC who was born in Hadley, Telford?
- 2) What was commonly known as "Ludlow's bad luck"?
- 3) Which two streets in Shrewsbury are linked by Grope Lane?
- 4) What is special about the Arbor Tree in Aston on Clun?
- 5) Where in Broseley would you find a Strong Room?
- 6) By what name was the 40 stone Coalbrookdale puddler, William Ball, better known?
- 7) Which Scottish architect was appointed Surveyor of Public Works for the County of Salop in 1787?
- 8) What was the name of the vessel in which Charles Darwin sailed as the ship's naturalist?
- 9) Which town held the last bullfight in Shropshire in 1833?
- 10) Where in Shropshire did the Willow Pattern plate originate?
- 11) Why is the Three Tuns in Bishops Castle well known?
- 12) What is the traditional Shropshire toast?
- 13) In which town was Francis Moore (Old Moore) born?
- 14) What is known as "Old Oswestry"?
- 15) In which town were wooden rails in use in 1605 for carrying coal from pits to the River Severn?
- 16) Which famous jockey was born in Oakengates in 1904?
- 17) Patrick Bronte, father of Emily, Charlotte, Anne and Branwell, was curate of a Shropshire church in 1809. Which one?
- 18) Which king defeated Hotspur at the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403?
- 19) How many listed buildings are there in Broseley? a) 7 b) 23 c) 38
- 20) What is the name of the physician and botanist who discovered the medicinal properties of digitalis, extracted from foxgloves?



Members enjoy their Christmas meal at the Lion Hotel

The Battle of the Somme

At the first meeting of the New Year Janet Doody gave a talk on The Battle of the Somme. A full account of Janet's talk was published in this years Journal, of which you should all have received a copy by now.

Jackfield Rectory Fire – Outbreak Caused By Oil Apparatus

While researching one of her many fascinating subjects Janet Doody came across the following article from the Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News, dated 19th March 1932

At about 4.45pm on Wednesday an outbreak of fire occurred at St. Mary's Rectory, the residence of the Rev. F. J. R. MASON (Rector of Jackfield). The fire broke out in the bathroom, which was occupied by the Rector at the time and was caused by the back-firing of an oil apparatus, the Rector's clothes ignited. He rushed downstairs to extinguish his clothes, and in doing so he was rather badly burned about the hand. He then returned to the bathroom and found that the room had taken fire, and he immediately went with all speed in his car for help and to call the local fire brigade.

Information of the fire quickly reached P.C. Dodd (Broseley), who hurriedly cycled to the Rectory after first calling to Mr. George Meredith, a member of the fire brigade, who quickly followed to the scene and gave most valuable assistance at the most critical moments.

Fortunately at that time many people were coming home from the works in the neighbourhood, and soon a large crowd had assembled from whom P.C. DODD organised a bucket brigade, while other assisted in removing furniture from the burning house to the Rectory Grounds.

The Broseley brigade upon arrival were hampered in their work – owing to the somewhat isolated position



The former Jackfield Rectory now a Bed and Breakfast

of the house – by an insufficient supply of water, the nearest fire hydrant being some few hundreds of yards away, and the only water available was from the small service laid on to the premises.

The Iron-Bridge fire brigade followed, and later the Wellington brigade, who most promptly responded to the call. The strenuous efforts of the workers enabled them to confine the fire to the portion of the house adjoining the bathroom, which was gutted and the staircase leading to the upper storey was burned also. Considerable damage was done to the timbers of a large portion of the roof above, causing the collapse of the roofing tiles, this being a great source of danger to the helpers during the progress of their work.

By 7.00pm the fire was extinguished and the house was considered sufficiently safe to be left.

Much sympathy is felt with the Rector and his wife in their misfortune.

Broseley Heritage Centre Project Update

On Saturday 26th November 2016 the Broseley Heritage Centre Project Group held a consultation day in All Saint's Church along with an options display giving people an opportunity to see the options for the Heritage Centre and help determine the scale of the project in the church. Two of the consultancy team, including the architect from Donald Insall Associates and three members of the Heritage Centre project group, hosted and discussed the scheme proposals with members of the community. The exhibition remained in church for a fortnight and was then put up in the Library Five options were displayed ranging from a simple kiosk to a large centre within the church. Members of the community were asked to fill in a response and feedback form on which they could express their views on the proposals and give their own comments and suggestions. A number of respondents also completed post-it notes with comments on and some people emailed the project

team afterwards with opinions. Very positive and encouraging opinions were expressed and the analysis revealed that the majority of people favour the Heritage Centre being developed at the back of the church with the area being re-modelled to create space for heritage displays and toilet and kitchen facilities with maybe a mezzanine level above the west door making the Kemp window accessible for people to view. The Project group has since met and considered the best way forward is to begin discussions with the architects and the PCC about how the initial ideas to re-model the back of the church could be developed. This process could be funded by a stage 1 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Brodie Family

Michael Pope writes -

If you go into St. Mary's Church at Jackfield you will find, in a dark little corner behind the organ, a memorial set into the brickwork. The inscription on it reads as follows - In memory of Alexander Brodie Esq, Iron master of Calcutts who died June 10th, 1830 aged 66 years. The date and his age are in Roman Numerals.

The memorial records the life of Alexander Brodie II, iron-master of the Calcutts Foundry which was situated just several hundred yards away. For some years he lived at The Rock House on Ironbridge Road now the home of the former chairman of our Society John Freeman. This memorial presumably was moved from the Red Church after St. Mary's was built in 1863 with money given in memory of George Pritchard of Broseley, sometime High Sheriff of Salop. Other items from the old Red Church include the Pulpit and the panelling which separates the chancel from the vestry.

The Brodie family came from the Scottish Borders near Peebles where Alexander's uncle went from being an apprentice blacksmith to become a rich iron-master in the Ironbridge Gorge in the late 18th century. They lived on the Traquair Estate, the main house now being the oldest inhabited house in Scotland. It is open to the public and well worth a visit. Alexander I was born on the 27th of February 1733. He apparently fell out with his father and ran away to London with 17/6p in his pocket. In London he became a master blacksmith and subsequently made his fortune. In 1760 he married Miss Mary Howard. They had two children but both died in infancy. In 1764 he patented a heating stove one of



Traquair House, approximately 7 miles southeast of Peebles, is claimed to be the oldest continually inhabited house in Scotland

which he erected in one of the State rooms at Windsor Castle where the Queen's needlework was kept. He also produced a model of a ships hearth or cooking stove and two were installed on the Fortitude of 74 guns and the Minerva of 38 guns. He went on to provide stoves for the whole of the British navy which was a vast improvement for providing food for the men on board ship. In his old age he went back to his old home in Scotland and wanted to give something back to the place where he had been brought up. He built the first woollen mill in Innerleithen - Brodies mill – in 1792. That was the beginnings of the famous woollen industry in that area. When he came to Shropshire he lived at what is now The Calcutts Guest House. In 1799 the December copy of "The Commercial and Agricultural Magazine" speaking of the first Alexander Brodie said, "in 1786 Mr Brodie purchased the Calcut mines, stock, houses etc near Broseley: from which the government receives large supplies of cannon, and the country in general, iron of the best quality. Mr Brodie may justly boast of possessing one of the most complete boring machines for cannon in Europe". He also had a share in the Hazeldine Foundry in Bridgnorth and was a partner in a foundry in Manchester. Another John Wilkinson! Alexander I had six brothers and a sister and when he died on 16th January in 1811 he left his Estate to his 13 nephews and nieces. He left each one of them the sum of £13,000 each, a considerable sum at the time. When he died he was living in Upper Tooting and was buried at Chiswick. Subsequently his nephews and nieces had memorial plaques erected in both the church at Chiswick and at the church at Traquair in Scotland. One of these nieces Lilius married Thomas Cochrane and they lived in King Street in Broseley.

When Alexander I died he was succeeded by his nephew, Alexander Brodie the second who was born



Mrs Brodie

in 1764. He married a Miss Griffiths of Broseley and, as mentioned, they lived at Rock House. He died in 1830 and was buried in All Saints Churchyard in Broseley.

I partially tell this story because my wife has a connection with the Brodie family. Her grandmother, Edith Hewlett, as a teenager, went to London in 1901 and became a ladies maid to one of Alexander's descendants George James Brodie and his wife Theresa Sophia. They had a London House at 77 Lexham Gardens in South Kensington. Edith remained with the family until Mrs Brodie's death. She then returned to her home in Buildwas. On her marriage to Archibald Oswell, Mr Brodie presented her with a set of silver fish knives and forks as well as a gold bracelet which had belonged to the late Mrs Brodie. Gillian still has them as family heirlooms and as a connection with the Brodie family.

12th Annual Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival 29 April – 07 May 2017

The Festival is an annual event in early May, and is rapidly becoming one of the biggest in the West Midlands and one of the best in the country. Each year the festival celebrates local events (this year the 50th anniversary of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust). Walks are changed each year and new ones are added so something new is always guaranteed.

Before you stop reading, thinking that is only for people with big rucksacks, walking poles and expensive boots, that is definitely not the case. The Festival is 2 events in one. On offer are 32 walks which are themed, ranging from 2 to 10 miles, and 25 walks which are longer.

The Themed Walks

Join one of the experienced and knowledgeable walk leaders to learn about a specific part of the Gorge. Walks are as diverse as a 2 mile stroll around a pit-mound in Madeley, looking at the nature and industrial history of these man-made landmarks, to an 8 mile walk to the historic town of Broseley, including the recently acquired Gerry Foxhall statues.

Within the Gorge itself you can be transported back to the time before the Iron Bridge was built and find out why the area became the centre of the Industrial Revolution. Over 4 miles you will learn about the Industrial importance of the River Severn, the canal network of the late 18 century and later the railways.

Although the area is a UNESCO world heritage site the way nature is reclaiming the Gorge must not be overlooked. Much of the land in the area is managed with the support of the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust, who lead a range of walks between 3 and 6 miles through the woodlands and nature reserves of the Gorge.

For people who cannot walk during the normal working day then there are also some 4 mile walks at 6pm on Tuesday – Friday, each in a different part of the Gorge with a different theme; one finishing in a pub! These are complemented by several 8 mile walks that are timed to be easily accessible to people with responsibility for taking and collecting children from school.

The Long Walks

These walks are for more serious walkers and the aim is to provide a challenging but enjoyable day out. They range in length from 10 to 21 miles and mainly involve walking away from roads. Some include steep ascents. You will need to carry enough food and water for the whole day. There are walks of over 20 miles every day, apart from Wednesday; a 15-17 mile walk each day.

If you would like more information look for our leaflets, check out the website

<http://www.ironbridgewalking.co.uk>

or contact the Visitor Information Centre in Ironbridge 01952 344424

or email info@ironbridgewalking.co.uk



Editor: I have been out and about again but this time closer to home. Do you know where this poor old cottage is situated and why it now lies derelict?

In the last edition of Newsletter we were looking for the home of the little fellow below. I'm sure you all guessed that he is the Green Man at Linley church. The church is almost completely Norman in style. It is constructed in sandstone with tiled roofs. The plan consists of a nave, a narrower and lower chancel, and a west tower. The tower is in two stages on a plinth, with pilaster buttresses supporting the lower stage. In the bottom stage is a straight-headed west window, and small round-headed windows on the north and south sides. The upper stage contains double bell openings. These are set in recessed twin arches, and above them is a corbel table. On the summit is a pyramidal roof with a weathervane. In the nave is a Norman south doorway with simple imposts and a tympanum decorated with zigzag bands. The blocked north doorway, also Norman, has a tympanum carved with a Green Man, a figure with its legs apart and foliage extending from its mouth. The windows in the nave are straight-headed. The windows in the north and south walls of the chancel are small and Norman. In the east wall of the chancel are three round-headed windows dating from the 19th-century restoration.



What's On?

Thur 2 March

Medieval Weapons (with replicas)

John Minshall, Wrekin Historical Group, 7:30pm St Georges Parish Rooms, 01952 613331

Wed 15 March

Dothill's Past

Geoff Harrison, Wellington History Group, 7:30pm Wellington Library, 01952 402459

Wed 12 April

Tyrannosaurus Egg Hunt - Family Walk

Severn Gorge Countryside Trust 10:00am - 12:00pm
Cost £2.00 per person, Coalbrookdale Community Centre, Wellington Road, TF8 7DX NB: Bring a snack and wellingtons. To reserve your place, please email; bookings@severngorge.org.uk

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

I visited Broseley about 20 years ago seeking family history information. I stayed at Ivor Southorn's Cumberland Hotel and had a lovely few days in town, including the church and local library.

I am still researching my family history in the area, and I would be very interested in hearing from any of your members who might have a genealogical interest in families named Crumpton (or Crompton), Ball, Powell, Hood, Leach (or Leech), Phillips, or Speake, my maiden name.

Diane Campbell, California

You have been recommended as a possible source of information regarding the history of houses in Broseley. I live at 23 Duke Street, opposite the Methodist church (the cream half of the building). I understand it was a coaching inn in the 1700's and would love to find out more about the property. Could you help please?

Emma James

Steve Dewhirst replies-

I have been in touch with a friend who is very knowledgeable about local pubs and his comments are below

May I offer a number of thoughts:-

1, 1700's - I have not looked at the bricks of which 23 Duke St is built, but my guess is that the house is most likely to be 1850-ish [or a little earlier] considering its size and location.

2, Inn - An Inn was what we would call a hotel. That is it had to provide accommodation for travellers. I have severe doubts, in the light of the size of the building, whether it would meet that criterion.

3, Coaching house - One of the elements of a coaching house was that it needed, for obvious reasons, to have stabling. It may be that there was stabling on the site of what is now a bungalow, but usually it would be attached to the house concerned.

4, Route - We know that [Mail] coaches which ran through Broseley came up Bridge road, down Benthall Bank and up High Street. It would be no easy task to drive a coach [and four] round to Duke Street.

This does not sound helpful for Mrs. James. However this does not exclude another possibility. There were a number of Ale or Beer houses in Broseley the location of which remain obscure. Such establishments could be licenced in payment of One Guinea to Wenlock Corporation. It is not unknown for widows, for example, to engage in that type of activity. In the light of Mrs. James saying that she understands that the house was a pub it may be that she has, already, some information which may be of value to us. I think that it would certainly be interesting to learn how her research develops

You can look at the tithe map of 1838 on our web site <http://www.broseley.org.uk/TitheMap/Broseley%20Tithe%20Map%2010.jpg>

I think your house is 252b and the index shows this as a house and garden. You can find the link to the index at <http://www.broseley.org.uk/tithe.htm>.

You can also look at old maps from 1882 using this link

<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/find/#zoom=14&lat=52.6156&lon=-2.4798&layers=64&b=1&point=52.6152,-2.4720>

My wife and I moved to Broseley last year with the purchase of Whitewalls, Harris's Green (No.3). We were told the house used to be a coach house dating back to 1856, but since joining the History Society in September, we have been told that the house used to be the 'Work House' in Broseley.

We have done a little bit of research ourselves and noted that there used to be a work house in Harris's

Green around 1734 - 1850. My wife also found some information that reads the property was also a small school?

We would really like to know more information about the house, it's history, etc and wondered if you or anyone in the society could help us. I have seen a picture in the social club that shows our property the in 1930's and our property deeds only go back to the late 1800's.

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<i>Chairman</i>	Gillian Pope
<i>Secretary</i>	Dot Cox
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jim Cooper
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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

BROSELEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY.



SUMMER OUTING ----- SATURDAY 1st JULY 2017.

This year our Summer Outing will be to Quarry Bank, Styal, Cheshire, now in the ownership of the National Trust.

In 1769 Richard Arkwright started a revolution in the textile industry when he invented a machine that could spin cotton using water power. This was followed by another watershed when the patents protecting his invention were challenged and overthrown, opening the way for a huge expansion in factory-produced yarn. One of the first to take advantage of the new opportunities was a young man by the name of Samuel Greg. He found a suitable site for a water-powered mill in the isolated Bollin valley some 10 miles south of Manchester. It was here that he built his first mill, completed by 1784. The tranquillity of the river valley gave way to the clatter and bustle of Samuel Greg's cotton mill at work. Among the shaking, hissing machinery, men, women and children toiled six days a week to earn a meagre living. As the mill prospered, it was enlarged, and a little village; complete with school, shop and two chapels; was built in the early nineteenth century to house the growing labour force.

This village, together with the four-storey red-brick mill, has now been completely restored and provides a marvellous example of what life was like for many people at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. This year the elegant white Georgian house next to the mill where Samuel Greg lived will be open to the public for the first time together with one of the worker's cottages in Styal village. There are also extensive grounds with picturesque gardens where recently the large greenhouse has been completely restored.

Although none of the original machinery survives, Styal has now been restored as a working museum of the cotton industry. At its heart is a giant iron water-wheel, the most powerful in Britain, which drives spinning machines and looms. A demonstration shows how cotton was transformed, first by hand, later by machine, into spun yarn and calico cloth. Items can be purchased in the mill shop.

There are two Caf  s – one at the Mill serving hot lunches and afternoon teas and another in the Upper Garden. There are also areas where you can enjoy a picnic.

The coach will leave Broseley at 9 a.m. from the Broseley Square Bus Stop. There is ample free parking in the car park next to the Library in Bridgnorth Road. Entry to Quarry Bank will cost  13-50p, payable at the Entrance, but will be free for members of the National Trust. We aim to be back in Broseley between 5 and 5.30 p.m.

BOOKING FORM

SUMMER OUTING TO QUARRY BANK MILL, -----SATURDAY 1st JULY 2017

NAME/S -----

ADDRESS. -----

POST CODE. ----- TEL. NO. -----

NO OF PERSONS @   13 per head. For coach only ----- .

TOTAL PAYMENT. -----

Please make cheques payable to Broseley Local History Society and return this form, together with payment, by not later than June 24th. to Michael Pope, Rivendell, 2 Dark Lane, Broseley. TF12 5 LH Telephone No. 01952 883960.