

Newsletter

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society

Incorporating the Wilkinson Society



May 2006

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- 3 Jan Members Evening at which members will be invited to take part in a slide presentation on Historic Shropshire
- 7 Feb *Perceptions of the Industrial Revolution* by Diana Clarke
- 7 Mar *Bridgnorth and the River Trade 1660-1760* by Malcolm Wanklin
- 4 Apr Annual Wilkinson Lecture – *Thomas Farnoll Pritchard* by Julia Ionides
- 2 May *An Oral History of Broseley*, Ken Jones shares recordings of people's memories of the town

Further details may be obtained from Neil Clarke (01952) 504135.

MEETINGS

Meetings of the Broseley Local History Society are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm 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 7.30 pm to allow speakers a prompt start.

Visitors are welcome but are asked to give a donation towards Society funds.

PROGRAMME

- 7 June Visit to the Lawns – see page 2 for details
- 8 July Coach trip to Bristol – see page 2 for details
- 6 Sept Memories Evening – *Health Care in Broseley*, led by Martin Brooks
- 4 Oct Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk by Mary McKenzie entitled *Shropshire Archives, the Centre and its Collections*
- 1 Nov *Memorabilia of a Broseley Family* by Michael and Gillian Pope
- 6 Dec Christmas dinner

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Linda Jukes, Ironbridge
Anne Plant, Broseley
Peter Plant, Broseley

TREASURER NEEDED

Steve Dewhirst, who has been treasurer of the Society for a number of years, will be resigning this position in October. Although not an onerous task, Steve says that work commitments are making it increasingly difficult for him to continue in this position.

He will, however, remain an active member of the Society and is happy to continue doing the website as well as share his wealth of information on all things historical in the area.

The Society is, therefore, looking for someone who would like to become more involved by 'keeping the books'. If anyone is interested, please contact Gill Pope on (01952) 883960, or speak to any member of the committee.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Visit to the Lawns

On Wednesday 7 June Mel Mars will be giving members a tour of the Lawns, his historic house and grounds which was once the Broseley home of ironmaster John Wilkinson.

Mel is keen to learn more about the house and the various people who have been associated with it and asks that anyone who can help contact him on (01952) 884142.

Numbers are limited, so if you have not put your name down, phone Gill Pope on (01952) 883960 as soon as possible. There is no entry fee, but a donation towards refreshments would be appreciated.

Visit to Bristol

Saturday 8 July

Depart: 8.00am Broseley Square

8.15am Coalbrookdale

Museum car park

Return: Approx 9.00 pm



The response to this trip has been tremendous and all places are now fully booked.

John Powell, Librarian at the Ironbridge Institute, Coalbrookdale Museum, will be acting as guide in the famous Temple Meads

Railway Station, after which the party will board the *mv Beehera*, a glass roofed tourist boat, to cross the harbour to the *ss Great Britain*. Drinks will be available at the bar and, for those who have booked and paid, there will be a ploughman's lunch on board.

Robert Turner of the restoration project team will be the guide on the *ss Great Britain*, the world's first screw propelled liner, while the talk at the May meeting by Shane Casey and Richard Baister on the construction, career and conservation of the ship will undoubtedly add enjoyment to the visit. Following the tour of the *ss Great Britain*, John Powell has offered to lead an optional quayside walk.

Besides the special Brunel exhibitions there will be the added attraction on the quayside of the broad

gauge locomotive 4-2-2 replica *Iron Duke* on loan from the National Railway Museum.

The tour will also visit the famous Clifton Suspension Bridge before returning home.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Lord Dundonald

The Annual Wilkinson Lecture was this year given by Paul Luter who, in offering a brief account of the life of Lord Dundonald, highlighted some of his successes.

Lord Dundonald was a man with a very acute mind able to research and implement his ideas in a wide field of interests. An aristocrat during the Age of Enlightenment he put his education and capital to very good use. He had a deep interest and understanding of many associated chemical developments and markets and worked with many of the great chemists, metallurgists and industrialists of the time.

The full text of this talk will appear in the 2006 issue of the Society's Journal.

An Evening with Ron Miles

The April meeting, *An evening with Ron Miles*, certainly lived up to expectations, with Ron giving his usual entertaining performance. Left to choose his own theme, he showed an eclectic mix of slides from his extensive collection. Below is a selection of these.

This representation of a boat made of cast iron riveted plates was built some 25-30 years ago by Ralph Pee, one of the founders of the Society. The original, named The Trial, was launched at Willey Wharf by John Wilkinson in the early 1790s. No actual plans of this boat survive but, according to Ron, Ralph made use of old cocoa tins when he built this model and launched it at Willey New Pool





This shed and gate now stand at Blists Hill

The shed is the actual Shelton Toll house built by Thomas Telford and was situated on the outskirts of Shrewsbury – almost certainly on the Welshpool Road. It was moved to its present site some 27 years ago by volunteers, one of whom was Ron Miles himself, and was rebuilt by Ray Johnson

The gate, which came from mid Wales, was one of several, there being one at each toll house on the A5 to Holyhead. The motif, which was designed by Telford, depicts sunrise and sunset and was to encourage workmen to do a good day's work



The toll house at the foot of Jiggers Bank before the railway went through in 1862, with Cherry Tree Hill going off to the right

Below, the road to Jiggers Bank today

Old photographs courtesy of Ron Miles



The launch of the ss Great Britain in Bristol in 1843

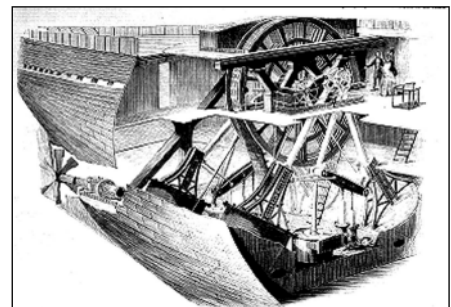
The *ss Great Britain* – its history and conservation was the subject of a talk given in May by Shane Casey, curator of the *ss Great Britain* and a marine archaeologist, and Richard Baister, project manager for the renovation of this historic ship. The story they told will certainly add to the enjoyment of the Society's forthcoming trip to Bristol, which includes a tour around this ship.

Brunel's *ss Great Britain* was a ship of many firsts – the world's first large iron ship, the first to be driven by a screw propeller and the first to run scheduled services. She was also something of a white elephant.

Built in 1843 to sail between Bristol and New York she was designed as a luxury liner, but her capacity of only 252 passengers meant she was never really commercially viable. Added to this was the fact that it proved impossible for her to sail from Bristol and she had to start her westward journeys from Liverpool, thus defeating Brunel's intention of linking her with his Great Western Railway.

Her career as a luxury liner, however, was cut short when in 1846 she ran aground in Dundrum Bay in Northern Ireland and although her hull was not badly damaged and she was refloated some nine months later, her engines were ruined and had to be replaced.

Her original design was as a paddle steamer, so the drive mechanism was adapted to take a screw propeller





After a refit she was ideally suited for the expanding Australia route



Being towed up the Avon to her final resting place in her original custom built dry dock

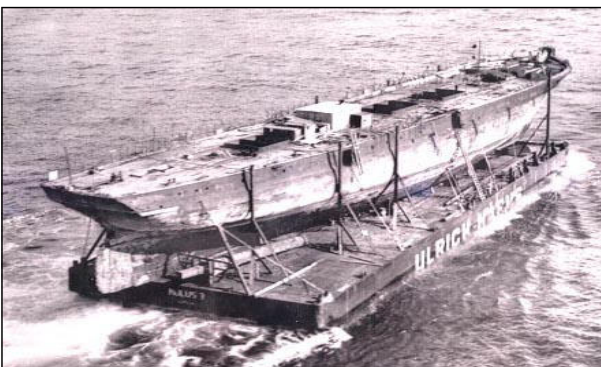
She subsequently changed hands and underwent a complete refit. With her passenger capacity now almost tripled, and with three different classes of travel, she was ideally suited to service the growing Australia route and emigrants, gold seekers and merchants could now sail to the other side of the world in less than 60 days.

In 1855 the ship was chartered by the British Government to transport troops to the Crimea and to the Indian Mutiny. Once released from this contract, however, she returned to the Australian route, in 1861 carrying the first ever English cricket team to tour Australia.

By the late 1870s the ship was no longer suitable for passengers and she was converted into a three masted sailing ship transporting coal from Wales to San Francisco, returning with cargoes of wheat. Running into trouble around Cape Horn on her third trip she was forced to seek shelter in the Falkland Islands.

There she was used as a coal hulk for a number of years before, in 1970, being towed back to Bristol for renovation where she was reinstalled in the same dry dock in which she had originally been built.

Ready for the tow back home to Bristol in 1970

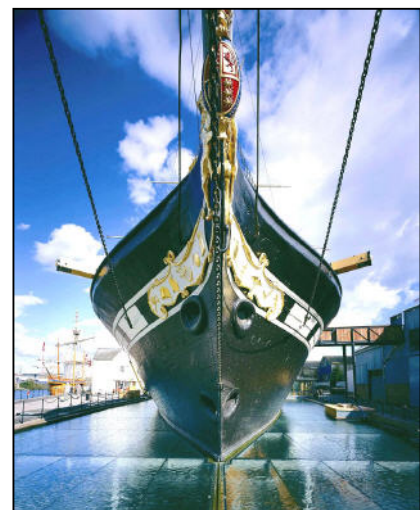


By this time, the ship was very badly corroded and a huge amount of work was required to restore her to her original state. The first thing was to contain the corrosion by creating a controlled environment and this was done by constructing a giant airtight chamber around the ship's lower hull. By using glass sheeting covered with a thin layer of water the ship appeared to be afloat, while visitors could go down into the dry dock and view her undersides as well as the famous propeller.

The aim of the renovation was, as far as possible, to take the hull back to its original condition, although certain areas were so badly corroded that they had to be patched before being refinished. In doing this, partial stamps on some of the iron plates were revealed, indicating that they had been manufactured in Coalbrookdale.

In all it took over 35 years and £11,5 million of Heritage Lottery Fund money to complete her restoration and although she will never sail again, Brunel's *ss Great Britain* is still a proud monument to one of Britain's greatest engineers.

Afloat on a sea of glass, the ss Great Britain is still a proud monument to one of Britain's greatest engineers



Photographs courtesy of the ss Great Britain Trust

THE LAVENDER LADY

A profile by David Lake

Natalie Hodgson is the creator of the PYO Lavender Field in nearby Astley Abbots, an enterprise which she took up at an age when most of us see ourselves as beyond such ventures. Having lived a life characterised by originality and a lively mind, when asked for this profile she suggested we wait until she was dead so we could write about her more frankly. One can see why there are no dull moments with Natalie!

Natalie, who can trace her family history back to Lord Dundonald, Wilkinson's contemporary and the subject of Paul Luter's recent lecture, once gave a talk to the Wilkinson Society on John Wilkinson.

Natalie hails from Coventry and was educated at Sherborne. She went on to study at the Sorbonne, where she perfected her French, and then to Dresden for 'a smattering of German'.

So the war saw her joining the Political Warfare Executive at Woburne Abbey to devise 'black propaganda', a fearful concoction of truths, half-truths and downright invention aimed at destroying enemy morale.

Those involved in this activity were from various countries, often prisoners of war, with each nationality being separately housed – put together they could have killed each other. She was in the German section with Sefton Delmer who subsequently wrote a book about it.

Each day would start with a meeting about possible topics – a recent raid, the suffering of little Heidi, something on the immorality of the German cause or how to avoid call up to the German army. Then there would be intercepted mail to read as well as the German newspapers, obtained through Swedish and Swiss sources.

Although a cultural tragedy, Natalie says the destruction of Dresden by the RAF was a necessary blow to the German's ability to supply

their Russian front as well as to their morale. Dresden was an irreplaceable railway centre, and subsequent criticism of Bomber Harris was shabby treatment indeed. Churchill's insistence on unconditional surrender was a lesson learned from the unsatisfactory conclusion of the First War.

After Germany's surrender Natalie moved to Naval Intelligence, planning the invasion of Japan, studying possible landing beaches and the location of defence installations, but this was ended by Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

About this time the authorities became concerned about the attitude of Russia, and the whole German Foreign Office library on Russia – six Dakota loads – was brought over to England. As Natalie knew some Russian she was engaged in the study of this material.

Just before the war Natalie married Bengy Hodgson. He finished his war service with the rank of Brigadier and in 1952 they and their three children, Robin, Duncan and Idonea, moved to Astley Abbots House. Robin is now Lord Hodgson of

Astley Abbots, being honoured for political service as chairman of the voluntary wing of the Conservative party, contrasting considerably with his mother's more left wing views. She was an Independent County Councillor for many years and during the 1960s and '70s worked as a librarian in Wolverhampton Central Library.

Natalie is passionately (she says reluctantly) fond of the great garden she and Bengy created, with a special interest in her herb garden. In the study of bees, both honey and bumble, she has an international reputation and managed an apiary that ran to some twenty hives.

She is presently completing what is surprisingly her first book, an account of Edward Coke who, as a lawyer and legislator, brought us considerable freedoms, but as a family man insisted on his daughter Frances marrying a tragically unsuitable husband. The book will be launched at the end of May.

GARDEN OPEN DAY

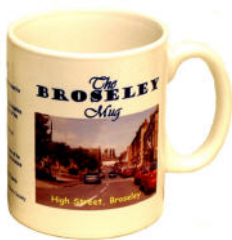
Gillian, chairman of the Society, and Michael Pope recently held an open day at their garden at Rivendell, Dark Lane. Despite the cold weather, the occasion attracted a great deal of interest and their display of tulips, spring flowers and garden ceramics was much admired. The money raised, over £1,000, will be divided between the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and All Saints' Church, Broseley.



Just one of the attractive vistas in the garden of Michael and Gillian Pope

THE BROSELEY MUG

Broseley now has its own personalised mug. James Hurdley of E Davis in the High Street, has produced a mug using information from the Society's website to promote the town.



Among other information it boasts that Broseley is famous for many things besides being the home of John Wilkinson. It had one of the world's first flanged wheel railways

and was as well known for its clay pipes and china pottery as it was for its ironworks.

In 1630 there were just 27 houses in the town, with possibly 33 more on Coalfield Hill, the road which eventually became the High Street pictured on the mug.

Local buildings of note include Benthall Hall, Broseley Hall, The Lawns, All Saints Church and various Georgian shops and residential properties.

Available from E Davis at a cost of £5.99.

SO WHAT'S GOING ON IN LADYWOOD?

Members of the Society have expressed concern over the nature of the work recently carried out in Ladywood, the woodland area to the south of the Iron Bridge, and in particular the planting of short stretches of hedge in places where there is no historical precedent for this. This woodland, along with other grass and woodlands around the Gorge, is managed by the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust for the enjoyment of the public. Here, the Trust explains the thinking behind the work carried out and the benefits which will ultimately be gained.

The tree work carried out in Ladywood was a major part of the Trust's 2005/6 Tree Safety Programme. Through this work the Trust is aiming to create a graded woodland 'edge' with a thriving native understorey of trees and shrubs such as hazel and hawthorn.

The Trust was faced with a number of significant challenges at Ladywood :

- A great many trees by the roadside and footpaths required attention because for many decades, prior to the Trust being handed responsibility, there had been an absence of a coordinated approach to woodland and tree husbandry.
- Tree cover along much of the Ladywood work area covered the road completely, hindering the passage of vehicles including coach traffic to the principle car park by the Iron Bridge. The cover also hid pedestrian traffic on a busy section of highway with no available footpath for much of its length.
- The comparatively rapid advance of sycamore trees and their abundant regeneration was swamping out trees and regeneration more native to the site like oak, ash, alder, elm and hazel.
- The invasion by Japanese Knotweed and its encroachment into the wonderful woodland ground flora of bluebells and yellow archangel.
- Flytipping, litter and abandoned vehicles.

What has been done?

- Some trees have been removed for overwhelming tree safety reasons, others have



Work being undertaken in Ladywood was a major part of the Trust's 2005/6 Tree Safety Programme

been selected for removal because they were suppressed and poorly formed and would not have formed sound trees in the long term.

- The strong well formed stems have been left to grow on and will provide good specimen trees for years to come, such as the naturally regenerated ash near the Ladywood hairpin bend.
- Many sycamore stems, which were identified as problematic from a safety point of view, have been felled. This will reduce their presence and progression into the wood and also provide the light levels required to encourage natural regeneration of native tree species.
- Substantial planting has been undertaken along the road edges. This planting will complement the regenerating areas of hazel behind the new planting and on the raised sections of roadside embankment. In a few years' time it will form a valuable and vital habitat for woodland edge bird, butterfly and other insect species.

The new hedges at Ladywood have been planted using a woven membrane to control invasive weed growth, a technique which has already been proven on other Trust sites



Creating habitat – new hedgerow planting

Besides the nature conservation value of this planting, it is hoped that these new hedges and woodland edge management will deter and reduce the amount of litter left along the edge of Ladywood. The use of a natural barrier was felt more appropriate than extensive use of bollards.

The hedges have been planted using a woven membrane. This means there has been no need to use man made chemicals to control invasive weed growth that would otherwise compromise the young trees. The planting technique has been proven on other Trust sites to establish young plants more quickly and with much smaller failure rates.

The work will also facilitate the Trust in firstly controlling and then, over the coming years, eradicating Japanese Knotweed from its established footholds along the road edge.

What will happen to the timber?

All the timber felled in Ladywood will be used to support the Trust's Ironbridge Woodlands Product Project. This is a unique community project that provides sawn timber, at no cost, to a series of local schools for student course work and activities as well as to Care Ironbridge, a registered charity dedicated to supporting people with learning difficulties. The clients at Care manufacture high quality garden furniture and household products from the timber to raise money for their community needs.

The future

Provided this area is managed well, a vibrant, ecologically dynamic woodland 'edge' will result from the activities of this past winter.

FRIENDS OF SHROPSHIRE ARCHIVES

Local History Conference

Steve Dewhirst manned the Society's stand at the recent Local History Conference, held at the Shire Hall in Shrewsbury, which had been organised by the Friends of Shropshire Archives.

The first lecture, which was given by George Baugh, was on the Sutherland and Lilleshall collections which have been jointly purchased by Shropshire and Staffordshire for £2 million, while the afternoon was devoted to an amusing lecture on the Domesday book, the essence of which was always to go back to the original documents.

The event was supported by a grant and from this each society, including the BLHS, was presented with a cheque for £100 to spend as it wished.

BROSELEY PAST AND PRESENT

The Society had a presence at this charity event recently when David Lake manned a stand displaying memorabilia from both World Wars. The event was held to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Relief in recognition of the support given to Ivor Southorn, former owner of the Cumberland Hotel, during his final illness.

The display included a conjectural model, built by Ralph Pee, of John Wilkinson's New Willey Ironworks as it might have been in around 1790. This was Wilkinson's first greenfield site, where he was able to put his new ideas into practice, and which formed the foundation of his continuing success with his later ironworks.

A conjectural model of Wilkinson's New Willey Ironworks, built by Ralph Pee, a founder of the Society



WHAT'S ON?

Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

17-21 July, National Archaeology Week, Coalbrookdale

Join an excavation, help process artefacts and find out more about the industrial archaeology of the Ironbridge Gorge.

Open Air Theatre and Concerts, Blists Hill

24 June - Concert with the AD Concert Band

19 July - The Railway Children

30 July - Romeo and Juliet

Bring a picnic and rug.

2 July Working Horse Day, Blists Hill

5-6 August Living Van Rally, Blists Hill

A look at travelling fairs, and their impact on the lives of Victorian country folk. Witness a gypsy wedding as it was a hundred years ago.

For information on times and prices contact the Tourist Office on (01952) 884391 or visit www.ironbridge.org.uk.

Severn Gorge Countryside Trust

This summer the Trust will be running a programme of practical conservation activities, short courses and guided walks. All the activities are free and no experience is necessary as training and supervision are provided.

The programme will start in July and will include grassland management at Patten's Rock Quarry, step construction at Sutton Wood, heathland management at the Crostan and Dale Coppice and wildflower planting at Lloyds Meadow. A monthly Green Gym, run by BTCV, will be available for those wanting to take part in practical activity at a gentler pace.

An autumn programme beginning in October will include hedge laying and coppicing at Benthall Edge and Workhouse Coppice, fencing, step building and planting at various sites as well as planting up a new community orchard at Coalport.

There will also be wildlife identification and surveying courses run by local experts, such as monitoring pied flycatchers and dormice in Benthall Edge Wood, glow worms in Shakespeare Meadow and butterflies and orchids in Patten's Rock Quarry.



Step building is just one of the activities the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust will be doing as part of their Autumn programme. Others include hedge laying and coppicing as well as planting up a new community orchard at Coalport

Anyone wanting to take this training further can sign up for an NVQ in Environmental Conservation. This flexible, mainly practical course is also free and will take one to two years to complete.

The Trust also has a leaflet on free guided walks, copies of which are available from local libraries and community centres, or contact (01952) 433880 or visit their website www.severngorge.org.uk.

This project has been developed with the Green Wood Centre and is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Madeley Parish Council and Broseley Town Council.

BOOKSHOP

The most Extraordinary District in the World: Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale, by Barrie Trinder (Phillimore 2005, £19.99)

This is the third edition of the anthology, first published almost 30 years ago, of contemporary descriptions and pictures of the Severn Gorge area in the 18th and 19th centuries. Not only was this corner of Shropshire changing the world at this time, it was indeed, as Charles Hulbert described it in 1837, 'the most extraordinary district in the world'.

As one would expect, there are numerous references in this book to the area on the south side

of the river. The first is from Samuel Simpson's 'The Agreeable Historian' of 1746, which describes Broseley as '...a very large and populous village on the Severn...about five miles distant from Bridgnorth...famous for a well which broke out in the year 1711, the water of which is of a wonderful nature and sends out a vapour or steam which will take fire, as the people near it order it...But the well hath been spoiled some years by an aqueduct to drain the coal works which abound here. This place is famous for making a great quantity of superfine tobacco pipes.'

The references to the Broseley area in this book span two centuries and cover its coal, iron and clay industries and the work of personalities such as Lord Dundonald, John Wilkinson and Alexander Brodie. The final local entry is from T R Perkins' description of his journey along the Severn Valley railway in 1927. 'Proceeding under the shadow of Benthall Edge...our course lies amid pottery works and brickyards as we run on to the station named Ironbridge and Broseley... Here we alight in order to view what is surely one of the world's treasures, for at this point the Severn is spanned by the first iron bridge ever constructed...Ironbridge, like most industrial centres, has few attractions; so we recross the river and ascend for a little distance the lane leading from the station to Broseley. Here is indeed a contrast: equally steep as on the Ironbridge side, the rough track climbs a thickly wooded glen, and we see ahead amid the trees a giant waterwheel, nearly as large as that at Laxey in the Isle of Man, and still in occasional use for working the machinery of an adjacent mill. It is a stiff climb of more than a mile to Broseley, a little town with some manufacture of coarse pottery.'

This third edition of the book has been completely revised and updated and now comes in an attractive larger format, incorporating full colour illustrations. Barrie Trinder has written an excellent introduction, which includes sections on the Severn Gorge and its reputation, the beginnings of industry, the focus of national attention, religious pilgrims, geologists, the beginnings of decline and continuing and reviving interest.

Neil Clarke

MAILBOX

It was interesting to see the item on Bleak House in the February 2006 *Newsletter*, and the Man from Shropshire. Perhaps readers would also like to refer to the detailed and cogent essay on the subject by George Baugh (the former editor of the *Victoria County History* for Shropshire) in *Staffordshire Histories*, edited by Philip Morgan, Staffordshire Record Society, 1999.

Baugh argues for a link with the Cook family, from Onecote in North Staffordshire, whose joys in the court of Chancery occupied most of the 1840s. Dickens began to write *Bleak House* in November 1851. The novelist, however, would probably have known of the case only through a pamphlet by William Challinor, a solicitor in the Cook marathon. Challinor's pamphlet criticised the 'inherent defects' of Chancery without actually naming the parties involved. Dickens seems to have taken the gist of the case and located the plaintiff in Shropshire. Joseph Cook sued 18 people altogether and the legacy and the farm at issue were totally consumed in lawyers' costs. The whole essay provides a fascinating background to the novel.

Mike Rayner (Cressage)
chrismikecress@beeb.net

I have found an entry in a family bible that a Richard Geary Doughty was a member of Broseley Parish about 1758. Have you any records this far back that might help me with more details? He was married to Eleanor who was born in 1759 and died 20 December 1825.

I am a member of Dorset FHS and would be pleased to help any of your members if necessary.

Gill
gill@doughtys.net

Steve Dewhirst replies:

The parish registers for Broseley up to 1750 are on the web and include Doughtys. After that you will have to contact Shropshire Family History Society or Shropshire Archives, whose links are on our website. The name Geary is also in the 1700-50 registers as well as the Willey marriage registers.

Doughty was a local name and the family was associated with the river trade and later owned a brick and tile works. I don't think any of them now live in the area.

I cannot find reference to Richard, but *Barges and Bargemen* by Barrie Trinder mentions Benjamin, John, Mary, Obadiah, Thomas and William.

Randall in his *History of Broseley* (1879) quotes: [204]

The name of Davies occurs 1601 and 1760, and **DOUGHTY** from 1706 to 1716; but the latter is found in old records of earlier dates. The name occurs attached to a deed respecting the partition of Shirlett after it ceased to be a forest, in 1625, and is there spelt Doughtie. In the churchyard is a tombstone to Daniel Doughty at whose death his three handsome daughters were sent for by their aunt who kept the Tobits Dog in St. Paul's Churchyard, London, and who all married well: one to a Mr. Campbell, a Surgeon, who from the unexpected death of several heirs apparent and presumptive, ultimately became Earl of Breadalbane, and she lived and died Countess of Breadalbane.

I found your Broseley website and it seems that Jackfield is part of it. I wonder if there are any records of Jackfield School because a birth certificate for Albert Victor Salvage, born on 13 March 1864, says his father is George Edward Salvage – schoolmaster. A few months later in 1864 George Edward Salvage is buried in his wife's home town of Bury St Edmunds.

Built in 1844 Jackfield School closed in the 1970s. The existing building is soon to be converted into a house.



I should love to know which school it might have been and when George Edward Salvage was originally appointed. Was there an outbreak of disease around 1864?

Caroline
genealogy@cfbeck.fsnet.co.uk

Steve Dewhirst says:

We do not have any records for Jackfield School and I am not sure if any still exist. The best place to try is Shropshire Archives (the link is on our website). Local papers may be of help but as these are not online, again this would mean a trip to the Archives. Some details of the school are in the VCH (there is also a link to this on the website).

Jackfield School was built in 1844 but was closed in the 1970s. The building still exists and will soon be converted into a house.

I have lived in Perth, Western Australia, for the last 30 years although I was born in Broseley Hospital on 17 January 1945. My birth name is Thomas.

I am looking for information on my mother's side. Her maiden name was Margaret Sarah Fletcher; she was born around 1900 and died in about 1956. I never met my grandparents, but now that I have three grandchildren I should like them to have some family history. Is there anyone who could help me do a family tree?

Janet Howley Cox
karenlewis65@optusnet.com.au

Tunks, Tuncks or Tonks? I am trying to find a George Tunks or similar. He was born about 1733 and married a Mary Yates in 1758. That is all I have and it is very frustrating. I hope you can help.

Mary Tonks
PIDGEMT1@aol.com

Please can you tell me where I might acquire information about the Broseley cemeteries? I am in search of my great grandparents' grave. My great grandmother, Anne Bates, died on 12 May 1902. My great grandfather, Enoch Bates, died on 13 April 1916. They are both buried in Broseley

Cemetery. Is there a "Cemetery Plot Map" available? Where are the Burial Records kept?

I am also searching for the grave of my great great grandfather, William Bates. He died on 16 June 1892, and was buried in the Red Church Cemetery. I know that that church was demolished in the 1960s but are there any headstones still remaining in that cemetery?

On several occasions when I have visited England I have searched for these graves but without success.

Anne Bagley
801 San Salvador Drive
Dunedin, Florida
USA 34698
Email: abagley@tampabay.rr.com

In response to the article by Tony Murphy on his experiences of being evacuated to Broseley during WWII which appeared in the May 2004 Newsletter, we have received the following request from Jacqueline Chute of Ann Arbor in Michigan.

Please forward this request to Tony Murphy, who wrote such an interesting recollection of being evacuated to Broseley during the 1941 blitz in your May 2004 Newsletter.

As the coordinator of the Chute Global Records: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~chute> we should love to hear from him, not only to help us fill in our records, but as part of our "Special Events in History" section. I know other Chute family members would find his recollections of that event very informative and moving.

Jacqueline Chute
Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
Chiara2@aol.com

Editor: Unfortunately the email address we have for Tony Murphy is no longer valid so we are unable to forward this request to him. So, Tony, if you are out there, please contact Jacqueline Chute in Ann Arbor, she would love to hear from you.

My family, the Mears and Foxleys, lived in Broseley from the 1860s to the 1960s – mainly farming on the Willey Estate at the Innett and Rowton.

I was very interested in your excellent website and the old Journal extracts. In one of them I saw, in a Council meeting report, mention of the death of my great grandfather William Mear. He was a member of the sanitary committee in the 1890s. I wonder if you have the relevant Journal for his death which took place on the 2 December 1901? I should very much like to know if there is any kind of obituary or funeral report.

Also could you tell me if the school logbooks for Broseley still exist?

Chris Steel
chris.steel@aldercarrhouse.plus.com

I was looking on the internet at websites relating to Broseley (as I live in Broseley) and found out that the actress Hermione Baddeley was born there (see links below). I thought it may be of interest to add to your site.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermione_Baddeley
http://www.geocities.com/favoritetvclassics_maude/actor_hermionebaddeley.htm

James Arch
james.arch@hmrcaspire.com

Following John Beddows' request for information on Bertram and Henry Beddows, who were both killed in World War I, and which appeared in the February 2006 *Newsletter*, he now writes to say he is making good progress.

On the history of both brothers I now have photographs from both France and Belgium. My family tree is also coming along, I am back to 1720 with Edward Beddow living in Broseley, where my family lived until the early 1900s before they moved to Garston, Liverpool. Most of my family in Broseley seem to have links to the brickworks, did they make bricks or was it tiles? They lived in Ladywood, Back Buildings, Coalford and Madeley Road.

Does the book by Joan Griffiths (née Beddows) have any references to Joan's Beddows history? I have started to document my Beddow(s) history on <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/beddowsfamily/index.htm>. It is very early days, there is a lot of information to

be recorded, and any suggestions and comments would be welcomed.

Thank you for the mention in the *Newsletter*, it was a surprise to see my request in print.

John Beddows
johnbeddows@hotmail.com

I am trying to find a photograph of a War Grave located at St John the Divine churchyard, Broseley. The person in question is Major Arthur Orlando Weld-Forester, Grenadier Guards, died 1 November 1914, buried Near South East corner of churchyard.

Philip Morris
philip150@btinternet.com

Steve Dewhurst replies:

The Forester's are buried at St John's Church in Willey village. The church was sold to the Forester Family in 1977 and is now used as a private chapel. I assume that a visit to the church would require permission of the family.

I am not aware of any pictures of the grave and would suggest you contact the estate office at Willey Park TF12 5JJ.

I recently found a clay pipe whilst walking on the beach at Conwy in North Wales. It is clearly stamped 'R. Smitheman, Broseley' and is in near perfect condition, with just a little rust staining. After putting a pipe cleaner through it, it's ready to smoke!

R. Smitheman is mentioned at least twice on your website, as acting secretary of your reading room institution and foreman of an inquiry into the death of an infant. Amazing.

I found the pipe at the point where the Conwy River meets the sea, where the sand banks shift constantly. Its condition suggests that it must have been buried for decades, as there is very little wear and tear evident.

Does anyone have any more information about Mr Smitheman or even a photograph?

John Hutchinson
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