

Newsletter

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society

Incorporating the Wilkinson Society



May 2010

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

- 2 June A Summer Walk around Broseley Jitties, see below for details
- 3 July Trip to the Derwent Valley, Derbyshire, see overleaf for details
- 1 Sept *Shropshire Writers*, by Gordon Dickins
- 6 Oct AGM and talk by John Challen *Blist's Hill Ironworks*
- 3 Nov *Memories of the Coalport Branch* by Neil Clarke – joint meeting with the FIGM in Coalbrookdale
- 1 Dec Christmas Dinner

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Mr & Mrs Elcock, Broseley
Simon Pennington, Broseley
Andy Wellings, Broseley

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Summer Walk round Broseley Jitties

Wednesday 2 June

Meet at the Cricket Club car park, Woodlands Road, for 7.30 pm start



The Summer Walk will take place on Wednesday 2 June around Broseley Wood's historic jitties. The guided walk will start at 7.30 pm from the Cricket Club car park in Woodlands Road (**not** the Pipe Museum as previously advertised) and will follow the recently launched Jitties Trail. An audio tour suitable for download onto an Mp3 player or mobile phone is available free from the Society's website www.broseley.org.uk, click on Town Trail and follow the instructions.

The walk should take not longer than 1½ hours and refreshments will be available at the Cricket Club at the end of the walk. The Trail does, however, include steps and some steep slopes and for those

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unable to tackle these the Cricket Clubhouse will be open from 7.30 pm where a short presentation based on the actual Trail will be screened.

Members wishing to take part are asked to complete the form on page 13 and return it to Gillian Pope, Rivendell, 2 Dark Lane, Broseley TF12 5LH, tel: 01952 883960 by not later than Saturday 29 May. There will be a small charge of £2.50 a head to help cover the cost of refreshments, which will include a free glass of wine.

Visit to the Derwent Valley

Saturday 3 July

Derwent Valley World Heritage Site, Peak District
Coach and admission to mills: £15.55

Ploughman's Lunch (optional): £6.95

Dep: 8.30 am Broseley Square

8.40 am School Road, Coalbrookdale

Ret: Approx 6.30 pm

The visit will begin in the village of Cromford. There will be a guided tour of the Cromford Mill, which was bought and restored by the Arkwright Society in 1979, before moving on to Masson Mill in time for lunch. The Museum houses a unique and comprehensive collection of authentic textile machinery and the tour will include a newly renovated Victorian workshop. Visitors, however, are warned – it is said that Sir Richard Arkwright's ghost still haunts his beloved Masson Mills!

It was in Cromford in 1771 that Richard Arkwright built the original successful water powered cotton spinning mill, a first step towards what was to develop into modern day full scale factory production. The mill, with its powered machinery, large workforce and factory village, became a model for others both in Britain and abroad. Today, Richard Arkwright's achievements are acknowledged throughout the world with mills using his technology having been restored and preserved as museums in Germany and America.

This trip is open to both members and non members and those interested should complete the form on page 13 and return it, together with their payment, to Michael Pope, Rivendell, 2 Dark Lane, Broseley TF12 5LH, tel: 01952 883960, by not later than Saturday 12 June. Cheques should be made payable to Broseley Local History Society.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Watermills in the West Midlands

Watermills in the West Midlands was the title of the talk given by Tim Booth in March. Tim, who is a former chairman of the Midland Wind & Watermills Group, first came to Shropshire in the 1970s in search of the old mill at Brown Cle. While in the area he stumbled across the derelict Wrickton Mill on the Burwarton Estate and promptly fell in love. The mill was owned by Lord Boyne but Tim was not only keen to see it restored but extremely determined. Eventually, after considerable negotiation, Lord Boyne was persuaded to lease it to him for a period of 15 years for a peppercorn rent, the condition being that he make it wind and waterproof within three years. Now fully restored it is painted up in Burwarton Red and occasionally open to the public.

From there Tim became interested in other watermills in the Shropshire area. Apparently it was the Romans who had first brought watermills to Britain and by the Domesday survey of 1086



Photograph courtesy of Tim Booth

Now restored and in working order, Wrickton Mill on the Burwarton Estate is occasionally open to the public

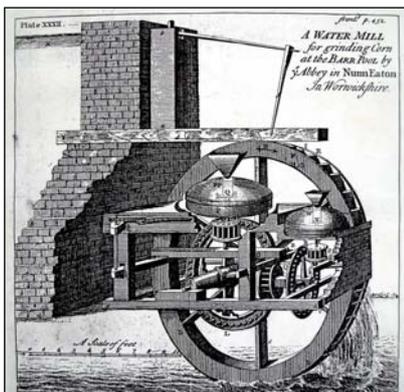


Tim Booth, left, lets Eric Cox into the secrets of milling at a recent open day at Wrickton Mill

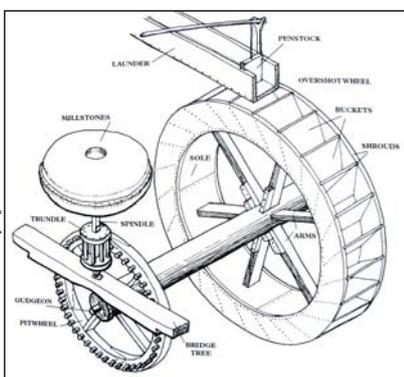
there were around 6,000 in the country, some 95 of which were in Shropshire. Each mill had a value, though this decreased the nearer it was to the Welsh border – marauding Welshmen apparently being regarded as an occupational hazard. At the time of the Domesday Book Cleobury North, for instance, was valued at four shillings. These mills were owned by the various estates and leased to the miller who could pay the rent in various ways – these included cash, sticks of eels (there being 25 eels to a stick) or even pigs.

Watermills were worked by various types of wheels, the most common being undershot and overshot. Those north of the Severn, being situated in much flatter countryside with little fall on its streams, mainly had mills with undershot wheels, while those to the south could use the much more efficient overshot.

During the mediaeval period there was no alternative for the peasants but to have their grain ground at the estate mill and because the miller would always take his cut this was regarded by them as a form of taxation. Once this system began to break down, however, they could choose which miller to use and the mills were forced to become much more competitive.



A mediaeval corn mill in Nuneaton in Warwickshire



Overshot wheels were more efficient than undershot and in Shropshire were mainly to be found south of the river Severn

Stones for grinding white flour were built from smaller pieces of French burr stone from the Marne Valley



Photograph courtesy of Tim Booth

In the early days, millstones had been made from whatever local stone was available. Later, as transport methods improved, stone was shipped in from other parts of the country, the most popular being Peak stones brought in from Derbyshire. Because of their abrasive nature, however, these were not suitable for producing white flour. A much better stone for this purpose was the French burr stone which came from the Marne Valley in northern France. Unlike those made from Peak stones millstones made from this material had to be built up from small sections, cemented together with plaster and bound with an iron band.

Early mills required a separate water wheel for each pair of stones, but with increasing competition came the need for increased efficiency. Improvements began to be made in waterwheel technology and by the 19th century it was common for a single waterwheel to drive as many as four stones.

Nowadays, of course, modern electrically operated mills have made watermills largely redundant and most of them have fallen into disrepair or even disappeared altogether. To keep their memory alive Tim has published a booklet entitled *Watermills on the River Rea in South Shropshire** which identifies 31 mill sites used within the last 250 years along this less than 20 mile stretch of river. That there were so many in such a small area is testimony to just how important to the local people watermills were and how well exploited were the resources to be found in this county.

**This booklet is currently out of print but is due to be reprinted next year when copies should be available direct from Tim Booth, telephone: 01384 560258.*

Illustrations courtesy of Tim Booth

William Withering



The subject of this year's Wilkinson Lecture was William Withering, physician and botanist, and the man who first prescribed digitalis for the treatment of heart disease. Born in Wellington, Withering was a contemporary of John Wilkinson and a member of the Lunar Society. The talk was presented by George Evans, President of Wellington Civic Society and the author of several books on the Wellington area. While the full text of his talk will appear in the 2010 Society Journal, this synopsis is courtesy of Diana Clarke.

George Evans introduced William Withering as a man representative of the Age of Enlightenment, a polymath with an astonishing range of interests. As a physician, botanist, chemist, geologist and anti-slavery campaigner, Withering was also a 'lunatic', a member of the Birmingham based Lunar Society, where he met such illustrious people as Erasmus Darwin, Joseph Priestley and Matthew Boulton. Withering is famed as the man who discovered how best to treat heart conditions with digitalis, a derivative of the foxglove, a form of which is still prescribed today to coronary patients.

Withering was born in 1741 and would have learned the basics of chemistry and something of botany from his apothecary/surgeon father. He went to school in Ercall where he was taught Latin, the universal language of science and medicine. On leaving school he was apprenticed to his uncle, a doctor in Lichfield, before attending Edinburgh University from where he graduated as a Doctor of Medicine. On his return to Wellington he was offered a job at Stafford Hospital by Erasmus Darwin.

Throughout his medical career he made careful notes of the doses and effects of any drug he administered and it was this sense of method that set him apart in his profession. His next post was as Honorary Physician at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and it was while living at Edgbaston House in Birmingham that he joined the Lunar Society, where it is certainly possible that he met John Wilkinson. Withering conducted early

experiments into inherited diseases, dealt with and wrote about an epidemic of smallpox, and found time to campaign vigorously against slavery.

Among his many achievements was the publication of two editions of *Botany*, a comprehensive botanical survey according to the Linnaeus classification system, beautifully illustrated probably by his wife Helena Cooke. For this he was elected a Fellow of the Linnaean Society and the book remained the standard work on the subject for the next 100 years. His status was further confirmed by being invited to join a number of equally highly respected societies, among them the Royal Society.

Despite his standing in society Withering could be surprisingly contentious. He fell out with Jonathan Stokes, a fellow member of the Lunar Society and an associate and admirer of Withering, who felt he deserved some of the credit for his book *Botany*, while there was also an infamous dispute with Dr Robert Darwin of Shrewsbury, son of Erasmus and father of Charles, and medical practitioner for the wealthy of Shropshire.

Withering was, however, also a pragmatist. A known sympathiser with the ideals of the French Revolution, he and his home were obvious targets in the Birmingham Riots of 1791. He forestalled trouble by paying the local boxing club to defend his house, while himself contriving to be elsewhere.

William Withering died of tuberculosis in 1799 and his epitaph can be found in Edgbaston Old Church.

After his talk, George was asked if he would offer his famous *All Friends Round The Wrekin* toast. In introducing this, George said that the words were his version of the traditional toast but that there were many others. He also stressed that it was important to not just read the words. "There is no point," he said, "in proposing this toast unless it is declaimed loudly, and properly 'hammed up'. If it's not going to be fun, don't do it." So he did, and it was.

*Here's to Her Most Gracious Majesty The Queen
And to all her heirs and successors,
Especially the Noble Prince Charles
And his two jockies.*

*And here's to all the Lads and the Wenches
On the Land, on the Sea and in the Air;
England never did nor never shall
Lie at the foot of a Proud Conqueror.
And here's to All Friends Round The Wrekin
And may The Devil rain pebblestones
On the toes of our enemies
That we may know the Buggers by their limp.
All Friends Round The Wrekin!*

VICTORIAN PHARMACY

Members may remember the television series *Victorian Farm* which was filmed on the Acton Scott estate in Shropshire and screened on BBC 2. Now the cameras have returned to the area to film a sister programme *Victorian Pharmacy*, in which Nick Barber, Professor of the Practice of Pharmacy at London University's School of Pharmacy, can be seen making up popular Victorian remedies. *Newsletter* went along to Blists Hill Pharmacy to see the action.

An old building behind Blists Hill Pharmacy was converted into a Victorian laboratory, with old glassware, period soda siphon and dried herbs



Tom Quick, a PhD student from London University's School of Pharmacy, is faced with the task of making suppositories from the ingredients provided



In an old building behind the pharmacy Lion Television, who are making the series for BBC 2, had set up a Victorian laboratory, complete with glassware, old soda siphon and dried herbs. There a PhD student from London University's School of Pharmacy, Tom Quick, had been pressed into service to perform the task of the day – to make up a supply of suppositories in no more than 30 minutes. Given a Victorian copy of *The Art of Dispensing*, a quantity of cocoa butter, beeswax, liquorice and olive oil, Tom set to with a will. Finding the formula was easy, what he was not so familiar with was the terminology – how much, for instance, was 12 grains – and how do you use scales when you can't find the weights?

Nothing daunted Tom simply threw a bit of everything in together and, having warmed it all up, poured it into the moulds provided. The trouble was the suppositories stuck to the moulds and refused to come out cleanly. So with five minutes to spare Tom started again. This time he did get a better result, though possibly not one he could have sold in the pharmacy. Tackled afterwards about his apparent lack of culinary expertise, Tom said defensively that he cooked for himself all the time, but did admit that he never weighed anything!

From there the camera team moved into the pharmacy itself where Prof Nick Barber was set the same task. He approached the problem much more scientifically, working out what quantities to use to fill the moulds and quickly finding the

Prof Nick Barber of London University's School of Pharmacy successfully unmoulds his batch of suppositories



weights, which had been cunningly hidden in a drawer under the scales. Unlike Tom, he correctly used the olive oil as the lubricant for the moulds and not as one of the constituents. Well within his allotted 30 minutes he had produced a batch of very acceptable suppositories, although no one was volunteering to try out their efficacy!

As well as these scenes, the series will include weighing Baby on Victorian scales and offering topical treatments for such things as bruises, burns, coughs and colds.

Once completed the series is expected to be screened in the 8.00 pm slot on BBC 2 some time in the autumn.

BROSELEY IN BLOOM SUMMER FESTIVAL

Broseley in Bloom will be holding a Summer Festival on Saturday 19 June. During the morning there will be a variety of stalls as well as art and photographic exhibitions in the Victoria Hall, while there will be music, theatre, art and dance on the Memorial Green. There will also be a fancy dress competition for children based on a flower and nature theme with prizes for all entrants. In the afternoon there will be an Open Garden tour of gardens in the town; transport will be provided.

This promises to be an exciting event and an opportunity for visitors as well as residents to enjoy Broseley at its best.

Garden competitions are also being held throughout the town and details on these, as well as entry forms, are available from E Davis and Downes in the High Street and the Weekly Shop in Elizabeth Crescent.



Broseley Memorial Green in all its spring glory. Broseley in Bloom will be holding a Summer Festival here in June

COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES



Society chairman Gillian Pope gives the final turn of the screw to the plaque being installed at Alison House, 50 Church Street. Supervising are, from left to right, Vin Callcut, Hilary Callcut and Michael Pope

The latest of the commemorative plaques to be commissioned by the Society was recently installed at Alison House, 50 Church Street, Broseley, the home of Vin and Hilary Callcut. The plaque commemorates Frederick Hezekiah Hartshorne, 1815-1878, who once resided there and who provided a supply of water for Broseley.

A further plaque has been commissioned for the Birchmeadow Centre, once a Baptist Chapel partly funded by John Guest.

BROSELEY CEMETERY CHAPEL

Work on restoring the disused Victorian Chapel at Broseley Cemetery is continuing. The painting of the exterior woodwork has now been completed and the bell turret stabilised. The provision of a storeroom for Council staff has allowed the inside to be cleared out and arrangements are being made for the cleaning of the unique and highly decorative floor, believed to have been made from surplus tiles specially manufactured by Craven Dunnill for the then new Foreign Office.

Work still to be done includes the electrical rewiring and installation of light fittings reclaimed from Barrow Church after which the interior will be redecorated.

Once finished it is hoped the Chapel will become a Cultural and Visitors' Centre as well as provide shelter for people visiting the cemetery.

BROSELEY HALFPENNY



Seen recently on eBay this Broseley Halfpenny reached a final selling price of £91.00.



On one side it reads *Richard Crompton, His Halfpenny*, while on the other it simply says *Broseley 1664*.

WHAT'S ON?

Ironbridge Gorge Museums

Exhibition of paintings by Edwin Butler-Bayliss

Black by Day: Red by Night

Coalbrookdale Gallery

1 April 2010 – 31 January 2011



One of the paintings of the Black Country artist Edwin Butler-Bayliss which is on show at the Coalbrookdale Gallery

This exhibition celebrates the works of the Black Country artist Edwin Butler-Bayliss who was born into a Wolverhampton family of iron founders in 1874, and brings together a comprehensive range of his industrial art works including large scale oil paintings, watercolours and charcoal drawings.

Museums at Night Campaign

Blists Hill Victorian Town

Saturday 15 May, 6.00 – 9.00 pm

Along with other cultural and historic attractions across the country Blists Hill will on this occasion be open during the evening when they will be raising funds for Hope House Children's Hospices. Visitors can join in an evening of traditional Victorian fun and are encouraged to come dressed in Victorian costume as there will be a competition for the best outfit. They can also visit the various craft stalls as well as some of the shops along Canal Street.

Entry prices have been reduced for this charity event, please contact the Tourist Information Centre, details overleaf.

Horses in Harness

Blists Hill Victorian Town

Saturday 12 June

A special event to demonstrate the important role played by horses in daily life over a hundred years ago. Horses across a range of breeds and sizes will be on show. Visitors will also see the farrier at work shoeing horses in the blacksmith's forge.

Ironbridge Gorge Brass Band Festival

Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron and Enigunity

Saturday 10 July, 11.00 am – 5.30 pm

Sunday 11 July, 12.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Now in its sixth year this Festival will showcase some of the finest brass bands from Shropshire and surrounding counties.

Parking for Blue Badge holders only; shuttle bus service from Ironbridge available.

Last Night of the Proms concert

in support of Severn Hospice

Engine Shop

Saturday 10 July, 7.30 pm

Tickets £8.50, to book phone Susan Palmer 07980 475335 or email susanpalmer123@tiscali.co.uk.

Parking available at the museum.

Midsummer Night's Dream

Blists Hill Victorian Town

Saturday 24 July

An evening performance of Shakespeare's comedy by renowned travelling theatre group Oddsocks. Tickets available closer to the event.

English Gothic Masterpieces

St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury

Saturday 24 July, 2.00 pm

Tickets £5.00, must be booked in advance Prof Michelle P Brown FSA will give an illustrated lecture on Three English Gothic Masterpieces and their Makers, the Holkham Picture Bible, Luttrell Psalter and Sherborne Missal.

For further information or in order to book, phone Shropshire Scribes, telephone: 01743 355384 after 6.00 pm.

Detective Weekend

Blists Hill Victorian Town

Weekend of 14 and 15 August

Help Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson solve a mysterious crime which has taken place in the Ironbridge Gorge.

For further information regarding any events being held by the Ironbridge Gorge Museums, contact the Tourist Information Centre on 01952 884391 or visit their website www.ironbridge.org.uk.

John Randall Day School

John Randall Primary School

Queen Street, Madeley

Saturday 4 September, 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

Cost: £5.00 includes buffet lunch

A day school to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth and the 100th anniversary of the death of John Randall who was born in Broseley in 1810.

Talks will cover all aspects of Randall's life from his birth and early years in Broseley, through his wide ranging interests in geology and history and his skills as a china painter, to his death as a respected writer, publisher, local politician and Freeman of the Borough of Wenlock. Speakers will include George Baugh, Neil Clarke, Roger Edmundson, Shelagh Lewis, Hugh Torrens and Barrie Trinder.

For further information or for tickets contact shelagh@madeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

MAILBOX

I am trying to find information on the Deanery in Church Street, Broseley. I know that the daughters of George Potts lived there at one point and I understand they were responsible for putting the Georgian frontage on it. Previous to that it was several cottages with a smithy in the grounds.

Does anyone have any other information or any pictures taken at any time over the years of either the house or the various occupants? I should also like to know the names of the Misses Potts who lived there, as well as more about George Potts, solicitor, and his family.

Also where can I find the names of the people who used to play in the Jackfield Band as there is a

possibility that my grandfather, Edward Evans, was a member.

Melinda Evans

melindaevans@hotmail.co.uk

I am not aware of any pictures of the Deanery or the occupants, perhaps some of our members can help.

You will find various mentions of the Misses Potts in the newspaper cuttings on the website <http://www.broseley.org.uk/cuttings.html>, while for records of Potts the solicitors try <http://archives.shropshire.gov.uk>.

For the Jackfield Band you could try the website www.jackfieldband.org.uk.

Steve Dewhirst

I am a Churchwarden of St Michael & All Angels Church, Broadway, Worcestershire and this year marks the 170th anniversary of the completion of the church. We are planning several events, including a small display about the history of the church. Our church was designed by Harvey Eginton and I must confess that I knew very little about him until I started to research him.

Seeing your Society's wonderful website, I wonder if anyone knows if a portrait of him exists, or where I might find out a bit more about him.

Sarah Beasley

sarahmay1604@googlemail.com

I was intrigued by the reference on your website to a Last Supper plaque. My family has one of these here in Australia. It is polished iron (so polished, in fact, that it is frequently assumed to be steel or to have a lacquered finish) and is surrounded by a polished wood frame. The dimensions of the actual casting are 25" x 15".

The plaque was presented to my family by the managing director of Allied Ironfounders when he visited Australia late in the 1950s. At the time my father-in-law was chairman and managing director of Overseas Corporation (Australia) Limited, an importing/licensee-manufacturing conglomerate.

We were told that it was one of only five similar sandcastings – one of which was in Windsor Castle and another in the Vatican. The frame was said to be made from timbers salvaged from the original



The Last Supper plaque presented to Mr Ryan's father-in-law in Australia in the late 1950s is much treasured by his family



A similar plaque belonging to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum is on display in their Museum of Iron in Coalbrookdale

Severn Bridge, replaced by the Iron one in 1779. The plaque has been a treasured heirloom for three generations and will eventually be donated to St Patrick's Cathedral here in Melbourne. I do not know whether it has any intrinsic value, but to us it is priceless.

M J Ryan

mozzom762@live.com.au

The Coalbrookdale Company first began manufacturing Last Supper cast iron plaques in the 1840s, and many hundreds if not thousands would have been produced throughout the 19th century and, in lesser numbers, into the 20th century. A Coalbrookdale Company price list in our collection reveals that they were being sold for £0.18s.0d. in 1860, though by the 1870s this price had gone up slightly to £1.0s.0d. each. Identical plaques were being made on the continent of Europe before Coalbrookdale started making them, as evidenced by surviving examples in museums in the Czech Republic and elsewhere.

There are many such plaques still in existence. We have several in our collection and frequently receive reports of surviving examples in parish churches, as well as those in private collections. The tradition that yours is one of only five, therefore, may mean that it was done as one of a special batch of five in more recent times. If it was made by Allied Ironfounders it would be after 1929, as that was the year in which the old Coalbrookdale Company was incorporated into the Allied Ironfounders group.

I am afraid that a little bit of family folklore has crept into the story regarding the frame – there was

no timber predecessor to the Iron Bridge, the river being crossed by a ferry prior to its construction.

Nevertheless, we are delighted to hear that a top quality Last Supper plaque from Coalbrookdale has survived so far from home, that it is treasured by its current owners and that it is guaranteed a safe future in such a prestigious location.

John Powell

Librarian & Information Officer

Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

john.powell@ironbridge.org.uk

I am looking for information on the Clarke family. My great, great grandfather, Ellis Clarke, was born in Broseley in 1850 as was his father, James Clarke, born 1825. Certain information in your Society's journals suggests that they were a well known family in Broseley. James was a cabinet maker and furniture dealer and had a business on the corner of Cape and Queen Streets. Does anyone have any other information on the family or know of any Clarks living in Broseley today? Any information would be welcome.

Leighton Bolton

machiavelli41@aol.com

In response to the request for information on a portrait once owned by the Rev W H Wayne, *February 2010 Newsletter*, the Society received this letter from Catherine, Lady Forester of Willey Hall:

I was interested to read in the *February 2010 Newsletter* the letter from Cressida Nash researching the Rev W H Wayne. I can confirm that the Rev William Henry Wayne and Eliza

Wayne are buried in the churchyard of the Church of St John the Baptist here at Willey. Should Cressida Nash wish to view the grave I should be very pleased to show it to her and she can contact me through the Estate Office, Willey Park, Broseley, TF12 5JJ.

In reply to this Cressida thanked the Society for the help she has received and added:

As I am currently living and studying in the UK I am hoping to take up the kind invitation from Lady Forester. The results of my research have now been handed in to the National Portrait Gallery in London, which owns the painting, identified as *Unknown woman, formerly known as Margaret Tudor*. The portrait is currently in an exhibition entitled *Imagined Lives: Mystery Portraits from the National Portrait Gallery, c 1540-1640* at Montacute House.

It is a shame there is so little information about the Rev Wayne. He seems to have been an art collector of sorts and was given around £250 for the portrait (presumed to be Katherine of Aragon at the time) as a part exchange for a large Gainsborough in 1898. I wonder if he was buying and selling on behalf of the church or the Foresters? I also wonder if the Forester estate or the church once owned a large Gainsborough.

Cressida Nash
poly@idx.com.au

I am trying to find out more about James Gilpin, pastor of Broseley Old Baptist Church. James was born in Buckfastleigh, Devon in 1857 and married his wife Eliza Bowman in 1876. On the 1911 census he was listed as living at Bewlah Cottage, 24 Mill Lane, Broseley, Madeley. According to a newsletter he resigned as pastor in 1912.

Does anyone have more information on him and his family or any photographs? Family members in America think he emigrated to the USA but have no idea of dates or where he may have settled.

Jan Bottomley
bottomley.family@ntlworld.com

I am looking for information about the parents and birth date of my great, great, great grandfather

Henry Bourne who was born around 1770. His wife was Jane Amphlett, born around 1778 and christened in St Leonard's Church, Broseley. They were married in Holy Trinity Church, Buildwas.

Five children were born and christened in Broseley and two were born and christened in Lilleshall between 1796 and 1805. The next generation of five children were all born and christened between 1821 and 1832 in Broseley.

Are there any documents available where Henry could have been listed? I have the Broseley Parish Register 1570-1750 and the Buildwas Parish Register 1665-1812, including the marriages to 1837, but he is not listed except for his marriage.

I have been searching for several years to prove a snippet of information gleaned from the family over the years that the Bourne family came from the Staffordshire area to Broseley to work as brickmakers and ceramic workers at Coalport.

Mike Bourne
suemike@globalnet.co.uk

I cannot find any reference to Henry Bourne in our records. Have you tried Shropshire Archives or Shropshire Family History Society? It is possible that he came from the Stoke area of Staffordshire as there are a number of records of potters coming to work in the local potteries which were expanding in the late 18th century.

Steve Dewhirst

I shall be visiting Broseley in May and should like to know where I could find information on a street location, 76 Caughley, Barrow, Broseley, from 1911. My grandfather was born there and I am having difficulty finding it. I am sure names have changed since then and wonder if there is a website for Broseley that shows old street names.

Debbie Curto
donkeyskickasstoo@hotmail.com

76 Caughley may be difficult to find. Caughley is not a village but an area to the south east of Broseley which comprises fields with the odd scattered dwelling. I cannot reconcile there actually ever being 76 houses in Caughley. I would recommend that you walk down Pound Lane

which is adjacent to the Forester Arms, past the Round House (actually square!) to the Inett which is about a mile. This will give you a feel for the area known as Caughley.

Steve Dewhirst

With reference to the article on the Legacy of the Royal Oak in your February 2010 Newsletter, and the comment on the wearing of oak leaves in celebration of Oak Apple Day, page 10, I think this custom continued until well beyond the mid 19th century.

I attended the village school at Wrockwardine in the 1930s and anyone not sporting an oak leaf would have their knees stung with stinging nettles by the boys. We would also chant the ditty "Oak Apple Day, 29th of May, if you don't give us a holiday, we'll all run away!" It didn't work, we still had to go to school!

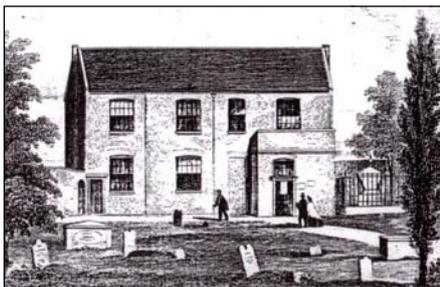
B A Brown
Shifnal

Thank you for sharing your recollections. I was at our village school in the early 1940s and also remember that children wore oak leaves on that day, although the habit seemed to be dying out. I don't remember anything about nettles though!

Editor

I was very interested to read Joan Griffiths' Memories of Broseley in your February 2010 Newsletter, and to see the old photographs, particularly those of Birch Meadow Chapel and the 1796 Methodist Church.

The Birch Meadow Chapel was known as the Strict and Particular Baptist Church as distinct from the Old Baptist Church which is still open. I know that my grandfather and grandmother, Charles Roberts and Annie Lane, were married there in 1887. My grandmother was buried in the church graveyard



The Birch Meadow Chapel was known as the Strict and Particular Baptist Church



The original front of the old Birch Meadow Chapel manse, with now bricked up front door and windows, can still be seen from Birchmeadow Road

alongside such people as John Guest and John Onions. I wonder what has happened to their remains.

When I was born in 1922 I spent the first five years of my life in Birch Meadow House which had been the manse for Birch Meadow Chapel. My father bought it in about 1920 so that was probably when the Chapel closed. This manse has now been demolished but the outline of the two windows and front door can still be seen set into a wall on the site. As I remember it as a boy the Chapel was boarded up and derelict for many years until the late 1930s when it was converted into a cinema. I have some recollection of seeing the graveyard as shown in the photograph but the whole place was overgrown and the building dilapidated.

As to the Wesleyan Methodist Church, I was told that it was built on the place where John Wesley preached when he visited Broseley. I remember the building well and attended many services there. My sister and I went to the Sunday School, the junior part being held in a school room on the opposite side of Duke Street.

Don Preston
Stafford

The original Wesleyan Methodist Church was supposed to have been built on the place where John Wesley preached



In writing to the Society informing it of the sad news of her husband's death, Priscilla Shaw says that he looked forward to receiving the Society's publications and found much useful material in his research into the Shaw family, which was initially based at Farleigh, near Much Wenlock, before moving to Broseley.

She goes on to say that her husband had been brought up in a now demolished house in Foundry Lane and that the big regret in his life had been that his work as a Hospital Chaplain and parish priest had taken him away from Shropshire.

Mrs Shaw has in her possession account books from the Shaw family business of agricultural contractors spanning the late 19th and early part of the 20th centuries. They cover a wide range of farms in mid Shropshire and if anyone is interested in them she would like to hear from them. She may be contacted at 5 Wyre Close, Haddenham, Aylesbury, HP17 8AU.

I am trying to find information on my ancestors who lived and worked in Jackfield/Broseley. I know that Thomas Davies (or Davis) married Rebecca Potts, who already had a daughter Caroline. Caroline Potts married John Lloyd in 1837 and one of their children was Eliza Lloyd. Eliza is my great, great, great grandmother.

I have some evidence that Thomas Davies was part owner of the Dunge Works and willed Caroline some money, together with Thomas Charles Davis Lloyd (Eliza's brother). I am making a big assumption here but if you look at Charles' name (he was the only boy) I think John and Caroline named him after both grandfathers, so theoretically John's father was Charles Lloyd and Caroline's stepfather was Thomas Davies. Any information on the Lloyds and Davies families would be much appreciated.

Anna Wharfe
c/o steve@broseley.org.uk

I am checking my family history from the 1841 census which is as far back as I can go. I find that my great, great, great grandfather, Henry Lloyd, was 32 years of age in this census and his address was Lloyd Head, Broseley. At the time his son Henry was three years old but in the next census of 1851 he was living at 41 Jacksfield, Broseley, in the Burgh of Wentlock (sic). Can anyone help with any information prior to the 1841 census?

Robert Lloyd
South Australia
rlloygladrob@adam.com.au

Lloyd Head is in Broseley and is almost certainly named after the Lloyd family. I am afraid that I do not have any specific details of Henry. Please have a look at www.familysearch.org. This lists a Henry Lloyd who was christened 7 May 1809 at St Leonard's Church, Broseley, his father was James and his mother Eliz(beth). You could also try the Shropshire Family History Society.
Steve Dewhurst

Newsletter is sympathetic to the concerns of certain of its correspondents who are reluctant to see their email address appear in the public domain. If there is anyone who does not wish their contact details to be published, they are welcome to make use of the Society's email address steve@broseley.org.uk. Any respondent without access to email may pass on information to any member of the committee.

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

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BOOKING FORM

VISIT TO THE DERWENT VALLEY WORLD HERITAGE SITE

SATURDAY 3 JULY 2010



Cost: Coach fare £15.55 per head (includes admission to Cromford and Masson Mills)

Ploughman's lunch (optional): £6.95 per head

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Post code: _____ Tel: _____

No of persons @ £15.55 per head: _____ Cost: _____

No of lunches @ £6.95 per head _____ Cost: _____

Total payment: _____

Place of pick up:

8.30 am Broseley Square _____ 8.40 am School Road, Coalbrookdale _____

Please make cheques payable to Broseley Local History Society and return this form

by not later than Saturday 12 June to:

Michael Pope, Rivendell, 2 Dark Lane, Broseley, TF12 5LH. Tel: 01952 883960.

BOOKING FORM

SUMMER WALK ROUND BROSELEY JITTIES

WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE



I/we will be joining the Summer Walk

I/we enclose payment of £2.50 per person

Name/s:

Address:

.....

Post code: Tel:

Payment enclosed: £.....

Please make cheques payable to the Broseley Local History Society and return this form

by not later than Saturday 29 May to:

Gillian Pope, Rivendell, 2 Dark Lane, Broseley, TF12 5LH. Tel: 01952 883960.