

Newsletter

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society

Incorporating the Wilkinson Society



November 2007

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.

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PROGRAMME

- 5 Dec Annual Christmas dinner, see below for details
- 2 Jan *Society Activities 2006-07*, presentation by John Freeman
- 6 Feb *Shropshire Workhouses*, by Lance Smith
- 5 Mar *John Wilkinson and his Transport Interests*, by Neil Clarke (at Birmingham Science Museum)
- 2 Apr *Broseley Ironmasters on the South Staffordshire Coalfield*, by Paul Luter
- 7 May 'You try and stop me!' Part II. Walk around Coalport and Jackfield, led by Ron Miles
- 4 Jun Installation of John Wilkinson plaque at a Summer Evening at The Lawns
- 12 Jul Wilkinson Bicentenary Day School at the Great Warehouse, Coalbrookdale
- 10-13 Jul Proposed pageant at The Lawns set around John Wilkinson's life.
- Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Philip Dunne MP, Ludlow
Tom Roberts, Broseley

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Christmas dinner

Date: Wednesday, 5 December

Time: 7.30 for 8.00 pm

Venue: The Lion Hotel, High Street, Broseley

Cost: £19.95 per person

The Society's Christmas dinner is being held on Wednesday 5 December at the Lion, High Street, Broseley. Those wishing to attend should complete the form on page 13 and return it, with their remittance, to Janet Robinson, 26 Coalport Road, Broseley, TF12 5AZ by not later than **Tuesday 27 November**.

Wilkinson Bicentenary Celebrations 2008 Installation of plaque and Summer Evening

Date: Wed, 4 June
Venue: The Lawns,
Church Street, Broseley
Installation of plaque
commemorating John
Wilkinson at a Summer
Evening at The Lawns.



Wilkinson Bicentenary Day School

Date: Saturday, 12 July
Venue: The Great Warehouse, Coalbrookdale
Cost: £7.50, or £10.00 if requiring copy of the
day's proceedings, to be published later.

A day school presenting recent research into the life and achievements of John Wilkinson on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of his death. The provisional programme will include talks on *The Wilkinsons at Bersham* by Steve Greuter, *Iron Ships in Green Fields* by Richard Barker, *Wilkinson's Trade Connections* by Eric Alexander and *The Importance of the Women in John Wilkinson's Life* by Frank Dawson. Other activities will include a field trip to sites in the Ironbridge Gorge area associated with John Wilkinson, a walk to the Iron Bridge or a visit to the Museum of Iron (at extra charge). Further details from Neil Clarke, 01952 504135.

Wilkinson pageant

Proposed dates: 10, 11, 12 and 13 July
Venue: The Lawns, Church Street, Broseley
BROADS, Broseley's amateur dramatic society, is hoping to stage a pageant centred around the life of John Wilkinson.
Watch this space!

OBITUARY Noel Ward

It was with great sadness that the Society learnt of the recent death of Noel Ward, a joint past President of this Society, with his sister Vera Francis, from 2004-2006. One of the founder members of the Society's predecessor the Wilkinson Society he has been one of its most stalwart supporters.



Noel was born in Hockley Road, Broseley, and was educated at Broseley Primary School and Coalbrookdale Grammar School before taking an engineering course at Derby Technical College.

Growing up in the shadow of the Second World War, he was instrumental in starting up the Army Cadet Force in Broseley, a move which helped prepare him for his own military service. With his practical engineering skills he joined the REME, became a lieutenant and served in Palestine from 1947-50, from where he saw the birth of the state of Israel.

Back home he worked for several firms in the area before starting up Gorge Fabrications in Cockshutt Lane where he remained until his retirement.

Noel married in 1950 and he and his wife Edith had a son, Kevin. The marriage, however, did not last and he was persuaded to make his home with his sister Vera and her husband Tom.

Noel was a founder member of the Linley Fly Fisherman's Association and was for many years chairman of the Broseley and Benthall Conservative Association and a school governor at Madeley Court. He also had a reputation as a successful amateur auctioneer even, at one Scout fundraising function, managing to auction the Christmas decorations!

Those members who knew him will miss his presence at meetings with his sharp wit and wry smile and will surely wish to join *Newsletter* in offering all his family condolences on their loss.

SOCIETY LOGO

The Society has recently launched its new logo which has been designed to reflect Broseley's industrial past. Set inside the Society's name, a shield depicts tiles, rails, cannon balls and a blowing engine.



Leisure wear bearing this logo in full colour is available from SR Embroidery, The Square, Broseley. Obtainable in a variety of colours and sizes, prices range from £10.51. Contact 01952 885950 or email srembrodery@hotmail.co.uk.

Ideal as Christmas presents.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

In September the Memories Evening took a slightly different turn when Ray Johnston and Vin Callcut spoke of their respective wartime memories, Ray as a serving soldier who had been part of the D-Day landings, and Vin as a child in Walthamstow in east London.

Ray began the evening by recalling that his war experiences started when he was enlisted into the 1st Hereford Regiment. From there it seemed he toured the whole of England, being sent for two or three days to so many places he lost count. Along the way he completed training courses as a cook and butcher, and was transferred to the Catering Corps.

His account of his first posting caused some merriment among his audience as, due to a rare breakdown in army efficiency, he unexpectedly found himself in a women's ATS camp. While this error was being rectified, the question arose of where he should sleep. "No problem," said Ray, "any of the huts will do!" Alas, he ended up in the general stores. He was finally moved on, but not before receiving some wistful offers to stay, one of which was as the camp mascot!

*"Any of the huts will do," said
Ray, when faced with where to
sleep in an ATS camp!*

All this trekking around was soon to end, however, when he was part of the D-Day Normandy landings (on his birthday, what's more!). Not exactly as planned, his group ended up confined to foxholes in the woods. Desperate for fresh water, they risked enemy fire to have a wash and a shave in a nearby cottage. Ray said he had just reached the cottage door when a burst of machine gun fire punched holes all the way up the door post. Even more terrifying was having to get back again.

Part of the move to push the Germans back over the Rhine, Ray recalled the time they lost 120 Sherman tanks in one afternoon. He will also never forget the sight of Allied tanks running down German soldiers, or the astonishment he felt when, looking down at the ground, he saw several fingers poking through the soil, followed by a hand. He

and his companions quickly dug out the two German soldiers who had been buried alive.

Once across the Rhine, however, they faced little opposition, reaching Luneberg Heath where the armistice was signed before moving on to Flensburg, the headquarters of Admiral Doenitz.

From Flensburg it was on to Krefeld and it was there that Ray saw a girl risking the curfew to look for her lost front door key. He befriended both her and her parents and would occasionally give them a packet of cigarettes which they could exchange for a little coal, meat and vegetables – how such small gestures must have been appreciated!

When it came to being sent home, Ray said he was one of the lucky ones. His trade of bricklaying was much needed to rebuild homes and he was sent to Wolverhampton before being moved on to Madeley. There he eventually set up his own business and has lived in the town ever since.

Vin Callcut, on the other hand, had a different story to tell. Still too small to go to school at the outbreak of war, his parents thought his home town of Walthamstow would be safe and simply erected an Anderson shelter in which they all slept. It was in there that Vin thought it distinctly unfair that, while it was safe for his father to stand at the dugout door and watch the ack-ack shells bursting overhead, it was far too dangerous for his son!

His father's decision to make them sleep in the dugout, however, was certainly justified when one night an incendiary bomb landed on his sister's bed. While this resulted in nothing more serious than a smell of burnt feathers, the one which hit a crate of milk made a bit more mess.

The thing which really fascinated Vin, though, was all the shrapnel. Of all shapes, colours and sizes, he was an avid collector, although any found was supposed to be handed over to the Warden to be stored behind his hut for recycling. Vin, however, would wait for dark, nip round the back and take a selection home. Keeping the most interesting bits he would next day take the left overs to the Warden, who would put them round the back . . . and so on!

Later Vin was evacuated to Brackley, a small market town in Northamptonshire. There he made friends with the pigs on a farm, but found himself puzzled by the local cattle market. It was some time before he realised the point of the farmers unloading cattle into the pens, spending the day leaning on the pens talking, and then loading the cattle up and taking them back home!

Fascinated Vin may have been but his parents, not used to the perils of the countryside, thought the area much too dangerous and it was not long before he went home, where it was back to nights in the shelter. With his parents now sleeping in the house, Vin said at least there was plenty of space to set out his model railway round the empty bunks.

Towards the end of the war he recalled standing at a bus stop with his mother when the first of the V1 rockets, or 'doodlebugs' as they were sometimes called, came over. Worried for their safety his mother shouted "Quick, get behind the hedge!", as if that would make all the difference.

All this moving about meant quite a disruption in Vin's schooling, attending in all six different primary schools. At each one, he said, history lessons consisted only of such things as Roman hypercausts, Norman gatehouses and portcullises.

At high school it was the same again until, at school certificate stage, the syllabus covered English history from 1832-1921. Always intrigued by what had happened in between, Vin said that in retirement the only thing to do was to come to Broseley and join the Local History Society!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society held its AGM in October when chairman Gillian Pope gave an overview of meetings and activities over the past year. In particular, the site visit to the Lloyds had been very well supported, as had the Thomas Telford 250th anniversary trip to North Wales.

Members could expect an equally interesting year ahead, with a full and varied programme which would include the 200th anniversary celebrations of John Wilkinson's death. These would incorporate the installation in June of a name

plaque at Wilkinson's one time home The Lawns, a Day School in July and the possible staging of a pageant centred around John Wilkinson by the Broseley Amateur Dramatic Society, BROADS, also in July.

The chairman also reported that membership was still on the increase and that subscriptions for the forthcoming year were now due. The membership fee would remain unchanged at £5.00 single or £8.00 for couples.

All members of the outgoing committee declared their willingness to serve a further term. There being no new nominations, they were unanimously re-elected. Elsie Philpott and Ken Jones were also confirmed as joint presidents of the Society for a further year.

The chairman also welcomed Robert Davies who now lives in Northwich. Mr Davies was born in Broseley, over Catherine's Bakery in the High Street, which was kept by his father.

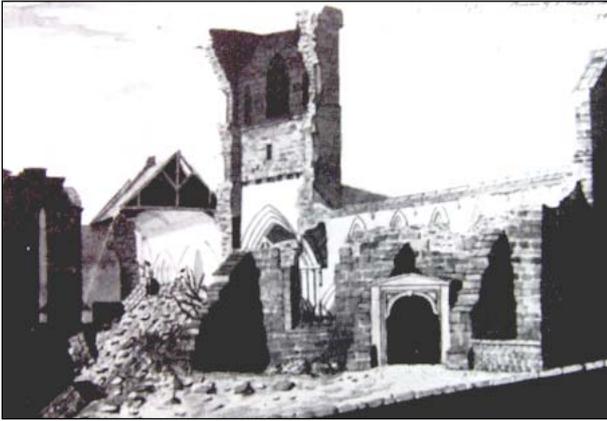
THOMAS TELFORD IN SHROPSHIRE



The AGM was followed by a talk on the life and work of Thomas Telford in the Shropshire area, given by Richard Bifield of Telford & Wrekin Borough Council.

Born in Eskdale in Scotland in 1757, the son of a shepherd, Thomas Telford was just a few months old when his father died. Later he was taken under the wing of a local gentleman who gave him the run of his library. Perhaps because of this, Telford left school with ambitions to become an architect. After serving out his apprenticeship as a stonemason, he went to Edinburgh where he helped build some of its squares and crescents. Two years later he set out for London, defraying his travel expenses by undertaking to deliver a horse which he rode all the way there.

Architectural work in London, however, proved scarce and when Sir William Pulteney MP, who came from his home area, asked him to refurbish Shrewsbury Castle as a residence Telford agreed to move to Shropshire. Once there, he was very soon appointed County Surveyor of Shropshire and



Telford's predictions came true when St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, collapsed soon after repair work was started by a rival builder

asked to consult on the renovation of the old St Chad's Church.

This church was in such a state of disrepair, however, that Telford declined to attend a meeting inside the church fearing its imminent collapse, and requested that it be held outside. Perhaps not surprisingly, his proposals were turned down and one might imagine his reaction when, no sooner had the chosen builder started work, than the building did indeed collapse.

Telford was also responsible for restoring St Mary's Church and rebuilding Shrewsbury Prison and was the first person officially to excavate the Roman city of Wroxeter, where he used prison labourers.

As county surveyor he was responsible for many engineering works throughout Shropshire, in particular the aqueduct at Pontcycyllte, the prototype for which could well have been the Longden upon Tern aqueduct, the world's first cast iron aqueduct.



Longden upon Tern, below, was the world's first cast iron aqueduct and possibly the prototype for Pontcycyllte, left



Buildwas bridge, built in 1805, was the second iron bridge in the world. This picture was taken in 1900

Telford was also known for his bridges, the first being the stone Montford Bridge over the Severn built in 1792. The opportunity to experiment with the new material of iron, however, came when the great floods of 1795 washed away many of the Severn bridges, with the notable exception of the Iron Bridge. His first iron bridge, and the second one in the world, was the Buildwas bridge which he built in 1805. He subsequently built some 40 more in Shropshire.

Telford also tried his hand at designing churches, being responsible for three in the Shropshire area, St Mary Magdelene in Bridgnorth, St Michael's in Madeley and St Leonard's in Malinslee.

His main area of achievement, however, was in building a canal system and in improving the Holyhead Road where it ran through the county. The engineer on the Ellesmere Canal, he also built the Shropshire Union Canal which, in its southern half where it ran through Norbury Junction, was an astonishing feat of engineering. There he had to build a long embankment to carry the canal because the local landed gentry would not give permission for it to go through pheasant shoot ground. This caused considerable problems and it took five years for the ground to consolidate enough to stop the canal leaking. It was only declared stabilised some six months after his death.

When it came to the upgrading of the A5 Holyhead Road, his aim was to make the route both faster

Telford designed everything down to the last detail, even the toll houses and mile posts. One of his toll houses can still be seen along the A5 at Burcot near Wellington





Hall Park Way pedestrian bridge in Telford Town was built using old ironwork from a Telford bridge in the Cound area



The now demolished Cound bridge was built by Thomas Telford

and more comfortable by reducing gradients and bridging rivers. He also designed everything down to the last detail, even the toll houses and mile posts. It is a tribute to his work that today's A5 still follows much the same route.

Closer to home Richard said that many may have wondered about the bridge spanning Hall Park Way in the town of Telford itself. The iron work section comes from a bridge built by Telford in the Cound area which was dismantled in 1967. It was acquired some 20 years ago by the Telford Corporation which used it as part of today's pedestrian bridge.

Oddly, Telford never owned his own home until he was 64, lodging instead with friends or, for a considerable time, in the Salopian Coffee House in London. When he eventually announced that he was leaving, by chance just after it had changed hands, the new owner was most upset declaring that he had paid an extra £750 goodwill because of Telford's long time residence there.

Telford became an engineer by default, for while he had found it difficult to make a living designing buildings, there was plenty of work to be had building canals and bridges. One of an emerging profession of civil engineers, he was appointed the first president of the Institution of Civil Engineers at its inception in 1820, a position he held until his death in 1834.

An extraordinary man with extraordinary abilities, this obituary notice in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* perhaps best sums up his life:

"His gradual rise from the stonemasons' and builders' yard to the top of his profession in his country, or we may say, the world, is to be ascribed not more to his genius, his consummate ability and persevering industry, than to his plain honest, straightforward dealing and the integrity and candour which marked his character through life."

Photographs courtesy of Richard Bifield and Telford & Wrekin Borough Council

DOWN WELL

Work has begun on the clearing of the old Down Well, which is situated on the Haycop off Dark Lane. The well, which was built in around 1885, was once Broseley's main water supply, but has been in a state of disrepair for many years.

Now a committee of Broseley enthusiasts, among them butterfly expert Adrian Miles, has determined to restore it to its former state. Before actual repair work could be carried out, however, the site had to be cleared, when it was found that the inner skin at least was still intact. Thanks to the generosity of the local community enough Broseley bricks have been donated to enable the outer skin to be rebuilt.

The well has at least three inner chambers supporting the arch and it is hoped that divers can be employed to explore and photograph the interior.

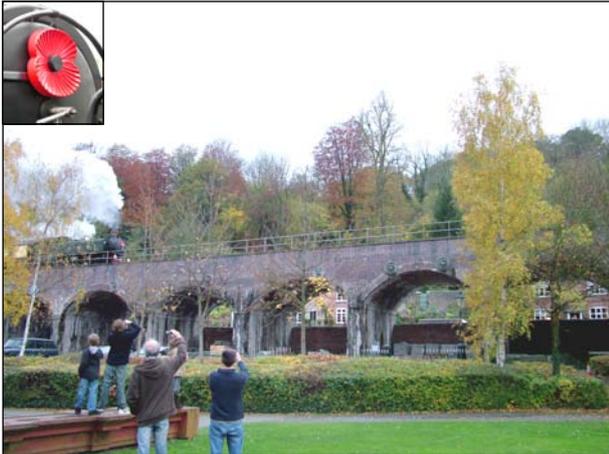
In addition members of the committee are clearing land immediately below the well, dredging out and reinstating the holding pool at the bottom of the Haycop and building an island for nesting birds.

The project is being supported by all three schools in the area and it is hoped that by next year they will be able to use the Haycop for nature trips and school projects.

Repairs being carried out to the outer skin of the Down Well

The land below the well is also being cleared and an old holding pool reinstated





A GWR design pannier tank crossing the viaduct at the Upper Furnace Pools in Coalbrookdale on its return trip from Ironbridge power station

Inset, the huge poppy which Ron Miles persuaded the driver to fix to the front of the engine

ALL STEAMED UP

Railway enthusiasts were in for a treat recently when, for the first time in many years, permission was given for a steam train excursion to be run from Tyseley to Ironbridge Power Station. The locomotive was an 0-6-0 pannier tank of Great Western Railway design built in 1952 and now owned by Dennis Howells MBE. The pannier had just been overhauled at Tyseley steam museum and was looking magnificent on its maiden trip.

Three Society members were on board, Neil Clarke, Ron Miles and Vin Callcut, while crowds of people lined the tracks as the train chuffed its way up the Coalbrookdale valley on its return trip.

Ron, with his usual charm and enthusiasm, had persuaded the driver to fix a huge Remembrance Day poppy to the front of the boiler and later went through the train with his poppies and collecting box, remarking afterwards that he had been impressed with the generosity of his fellow passengers.

*Ron Miles selling his poppies
The 0-6-0 pannier tank of Great
Western Railway design*



Photographs courtesy Vin Callcut



Members of the Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Society setting out on their guided tour of Broseley

VISIT BROSELEY!

The Society recently played host to the Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Society when some 35 of their members were given a guided walking tour of Broseley by members of the Committee.

This Society is based in Shrewsbury, but its members are drawn from a wide area and those on the tour said they were impressed not only by the enthusiasm of the Broseley Local History Society itself but also by the friendliness and community spirit of the Broseley people. The Society meets for lectures during the winter months but likes to get out and about in the summer. Anyone interested in joining this group may contact Chris Menhinick on 01743 361703.

PONTCYSYLLTE PLAQUE

Following the Society's trip on the Llangollen Canal in July, David Lake sent in this flowery inscription which appears on a pier of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

The nobility and gentry of the adjacent counties, having united their efforts with the great commercial interests of the country in creating intercourse and union between England and North Wales by a navigable communication of the three rivers Severn, Dee and Mersey, to the mutual benefit of agriculture and trade, caused the first stone of the aqueduct of Pontcysyllte to be laid on the 23rd day of July MDCCXCV when Richard Myddleton of Chirk Esq MP, one of the original patrons of the Ellesmere Canal, was Lord of this Manor, and in the reign of our sovereign George the Third, when the equity of the laws and the security of property promoted the general welfare of the nation, while the arts and sciences flourished by his patronage, and the conduct of civil life was improved by his example.

SEEN ON EBAY

Seen recently on ebay this doctor's watch was made by William Hartshorne of Broseley around 1790. Still keeping reasonable time, it is a fine example of a working doctor's pair case watch.



The watch has a sweep second hand and a stop slider enabling the doctor to take his patient's pulse. Interestingly, it also has the name of a previous owner, B C Roberts Broseley, engraved on the inside along with the case maker's mark.

WORKHOUSE COPPICE

The Severn Gorge Countryside Trust has recently installed this bench in Workhouse Coppice and during the winter will be cutting a viewpoint through the trees down to the Gorge.

Russell Rowley, who manages the Trust, suggests walkers take a short break there when in the woods. "Give it 10 minutes," he says, and it is surprising what you might hear or see. It could just be the flash of a jay taking acorns to bury as part of its winter larder or, if you are lucky, the song of Europe's smallest bird, the goldcrest."



WHAT'S ON

Shropshire Antique Society

Jackfield Tiles Revisited talk by Michael Vanns
Tuesday 4 December, 7.30 pm
Council Chamber, Shire Hall, Shrewsbury
Guests £2.00

Ironbridge Gorge Museums

Blists Hill Victorian Town

Christmas festive weekends
8, 9 December and 15, 16 December
10.00 am – 4.00 pm
Christmas market with traditional craft and food stalls. Carol singing and Victorian craft activities. Visit Father Christmas in his grotto.
For special seasonal rates contact 01952 884391 or visit www.ironbridge.org.uk.

Music hall evening

Tuesday 18 December, 7.00 for 7.30 pm
Christmas music hall evening of music, monologues and memories; includes sausage and mash supper.
Tickets £10 to be purchased in advance.
Further details from Ironbridge Tourist Information Centre on 01952 884391.

Coalport China Museum

Christmas sale, 25% off all items in the shop.
Evening of 7 December, all day 8 and 9 December
Buy your Christmas gifts at the Coalport China Museum Shop. Free entry to the shop.

Chinese New Year

2 and 3 February
Lion dancing, traditional dancing and music and Chinese craft activities.

Further details from 01952 580650.

BOOKSHOP

Thompsons – Great family, Great firm

Collated by David Lake

A lively and first hand account of the growth from Madeley origins of one of the mightiest of Midland firms. This is social, commercial and engineering history well told by some of the 8,000 strong workforce.

This is just one person's view of main board chairman William Thompson.

“William (Uncle Will to us all . . .) was a conundrum. Slim, tall, austere, sardonic, he was at his best explaining how he outwitted or put in their place any who crossed his path and in describing how, but for his cleverness and insight, so many things in John Thompson which went well would otherwise have proved disastrous.

“He married a large powerful Canadian lady, Enid, who . . . brought a daughter with her on marriage and produced via Uncle Will another one (though the less charitable were heard to say that the first might have been his but the second certainly wasn't!)

”Uncle Will got into ‘scrapes’ with women, none of it of course ever his fault, and finally went to stay in a hotel in Church Stretton. He became so demanding that all the other guests left. He eventually bought the hotel, married the owner and died there holding court and promising everyone his tapestry collection when he died.”

Thompsons has 94 pages and 34 illustrations and is spiral bound. Special price up to 31 December 2007 £6.00 (incl p&p), cheques to be made out to Bridgnorth Team Ministry. Available from David Lake, 01746 762813.

The Barrow-Coalport Connection

By Norman Wyke

This illustrated 10 page booklet describes how the founders of both the Caughley and Coalport china manufactories are connected with the parish of Barrow in Shropshire. Thomas Turner, who started the Caughley factory, was married in Barrow Church and subsequently buried there. John Rose, of Coalport china fame, was baptised in Barrow Church and was also buried there. The book traces the story of their respective lives and how both factories manufactured china which is today world famous.

The booklet costs £2.00, with proceeds going to the Barrow Church Restoration fund. Available from Norman Wyke, 01952 882261.



John Rose was buried in Barrow Churchyard

MAILBOX

Can anyone tell me how many cemeteries there are in Broseley? I am trying to find information on my great grandmother who died in 1918, and my great great grandmother who died in 1884.

Bill Woodruff, Canada

b.woodruff@videotron.ca

There were a number of cemeteries in Broseley associated with the churches and chapels:

All Saints' Parish Church (largest), Jackfield St Mary's, Baptist, new Baptist and Congregational.

There were also cemeteries at Barrow and Benthall. Around 1884 a new municipal cemetery was opened and most of the subsequent burials took place there, so it is almost certain that your great grandmother is buried there and possibly your great great grandmother.

Steve Dewhirst

I am researching the history of Lonely Hearts

advertisements for a new book I am writing, due to be published by Chatto & Windus in 2009, and am trying to trace any couples who met via a newspaper Lonely Hearts advertisement any time during the period between about 1680 and 1980. If anyone has any knowledge of such happenings within their family – or outside it – I should be interested to hear about it. Confidentiality is assured if required.

Fran Beauman.

francesca@finsharky.com

I am a great granddaughter of George Potts,

solicitor in Broseley in the mid 19th century, who married Susannah Ashford Hartshorne, daughter of Hezekiah Hartshorne.

Their eldest son, Frederick Hezekiah Potts, became borough coroner as well as a solicitor. Their daughter Susannah Martha was my grandmother.

Does the building that was Potts & Potts, Solicitors, still stand in High St, Broseley? My brother on a visit in 2005 found the family home, The Green. He was surprised that such a large family had lived in such a small house! Does anyone have further information on the Potts



Bank House, now the Social Club, was once the home of the Potts family

family or any pictures of them? In particular, I should like to see one of George Potts.

Lavinia Mitchell (néé Hampson, my grandmother Susannah's married name), Australia
laviniamitchell@optusnet.com.au

As you will have seen from our website the Potts family were pillars of the local establishment, particularly as solicitors. For such well known people there should be some photographs; perhaps some of our members can help. Have you tried A2A.org.uk as this lists many Potts' items which are held at Shropshire Archives. You should also try the Shropshire Archives online catalogues as these contain other items <http://archives.shropshire.gov.uk/>

As to your comment about the size of their house, I think that later they went to Bank House, which used to be a bank until a new one was built in the 19th century. Bank House, which is now the Social Club, would have been much more up market than The Green. An E B Potts is shown as living at Bank House on the 1901 census.

Steve Dewhirst

Congratulations on a superb and extremely useful and informative website. Partly through it I have traced my Guest family lineage back to my great x 12 grandparents John Guest (b 1522) and his wife Elizabeth.

My source is the article on the Broseley Anti Felons by John Cragg, which says: "Some well known names appear in this list of Members. The Guests are probably the most famous. They belonged to an old Broseley family, and for many years were prominent iron-makers and coal-owners. Randall* mentions a John Guest who was born in Broseley in 1522, and had a son Andrew who was buried there in 1609."

Is there any indication as to where Randall got this information? The parish registers appear to start only in 1570.

Andrew Stevenson
a.stevenson@lancaster.ac.uk

It is interesting to hear from a Guest as I am quite familiar with the ironmaster side of the family but, as you say, there were others. There is mention of a John Guest who was involved in the Baptists in the early 1800s and who was said to be the ironmaster, but I have wondered if it was actually another member of the family.

Unfortunately we do not know from where Randall got his information. He seems to have had access to papers which are now lost and I suspect that the 1522 reference is one of these.

The censuses for 1851 and 1861 still show a John Guest in Broseley but he seems to have been a humble coal miner, although the trade directories do also show a John Guest as a coal master.

Steve Dewhirst

*John Randall's *Broseley and its Surroundings*, available on CD from the Society at £6 + £2 p&p.

I am looking for copies of old photographs of the former Wrekin Brewery (of Wellington) public houses. I already have around 200, but still have a few outstanding. They are:

The Vaults Inn and the Hand and Tankard in Broseley; the New Inn in Broseley/Benthall; and the Tumbling Sailor in Jackfield.

Allan Frost
a.frost1@btinternet.com

Congratulations on your magnificent website on which I may have found the possible answer to a genealogical puzzle on which I have been working for years.

Between 1642 and 1686 there are records of a Richard Blayney and his wife Susanna baptising their children, as well as their own burials. I think it probable that this Richard came originally from near Berriew near Welshpool. It is possible that their son, who was baptised in 1645, returned to that area.

Is there anyone among your members who would be interested in discussing this with me?

Robert Blayney
rblayney@jerseymail.co.uk

Thank you for your kind words about our website. The Society is, however, mainly concerned with local rather than family history and I am not aware of anyone who will be able to help you with the Blayneys. Your best bet is the Shropshire Family History Society's website <http://www.sfhs.org.uk/>. They are the specialists in such matters.
Steve Dewhirst

I am trying to trace more details about my great great great grandfather John Owen who lived and died at Folly Farm, Broseley. He was born in 1832 in Caersws, Montgomeryshire, and I believe he took over some of the lease to Folly Farm.

He had a son, also called John, who was born on 15 March 1856. John Owen senior was married to Ellen Hartshorne in 1855 at the parish church. He died at the farm in 1904.

Anthony Owen
anthonyowen@btinternet.com

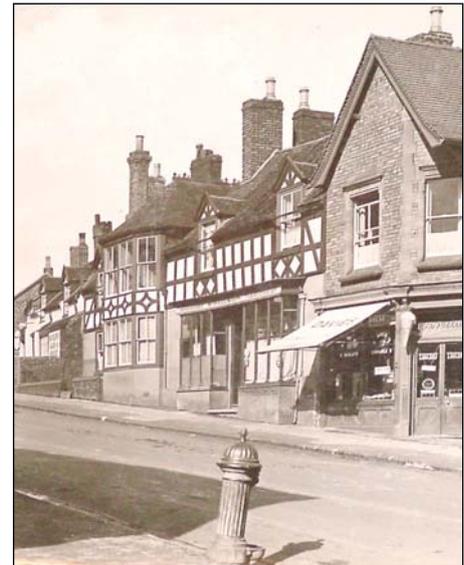
My family name is Owen. The Owens lived and worked in the Broseley area from 1720 to 1830 and from what I can determine family members were christened and married in St Leonard's Church. Richard Owen was born in 1820 in Broseley and his parents were Thomas Owen and Margaret Millington.

Thomas Owen was christened in 1800 and died in 1828. His parents were listed as John Owen and Elizabeth Oliver who were married in 1797 in St Leonard's.

I should love to confirm this or find more information about my family.

Richard Wright
wright2712@hotmail.com

Ron Miles has sent in this photograph from his collection. It is of a lion's head water hydrant in Broseley High Street taken in the early 1930s. At one time there were about a dozen of these in



A lion's head water hydrant in Broseley High Street in the early 1930s

Broseley and Ron is anxious to find out when they were removed.

He may be contacted at 01952 882683 or by the Society's email steve@broseley.org.uk.

Following the report in the August 2007 Newsletter about the ferry capsizing near Jackfield, Ron Miles cites an incident from one of his tape recordings made in the early 1980s when Alice Price, then aged 97, recalls promenading along the Wharfage in Ironbridge after Sunday evening church. Alice says it was a cool evening and the mist was hanging over the river. Opposite the Swan Hotel she, along with many other people, saw a boat on the river with a crowd of people in it singing, only for it to disappear a moment later. It then reappeared and disappeared again several times. Ron says that if this was an apparition it is the only one he knows about where there was a group of people involved; ghosts apparently normally appear only singly. But since it was a mere 100 years after the ferry disaster down at Jackfield, who knows?

I was interested to see from the article *100 Years On* by Ken Davis in your August 2007 Newsletter the family connection to Matthew Davis – the butcher who lived in the tiled shop in King Street. The Jane (not June as referred to in that *Newsletter*) Hayward who married Matthew Davis in 1882 was a cousin of my husband's grandmother Mary Hayward who married John Griffiths in 1884.

When I mentioned this to Ken Davis he was intrigued by how the two families were linked and went on to tell me a story about the Hayward family which has been passed down through his family.

It seems that Henry Hayward, who was born in 1814 in Broseley, was a very good fiddler. He went to work in London where it is said he became Leader of the Philharmonic Society Orchestra, gave recitals to the Prince Consort and became known as the English Paganini. Also known as the Broseley Fiddler, he later moved to Wolverhampton where he set up a music shop from which Elgar bought his manuscripts. Henry had a son Charles, who had a daughter Dora, who became friendly with Elgar and used to cycle from Wolverhampton to Malvern in Worcester to see him. The story goes that she was the Dora in Elgar's Enigma Variations.

My research shows that Henry became a professor of music and after moving to Wolverhampton married Harriet who was 26 years his junior; they subsequently had six children, among them a son Charles.

Elgar, who was born in Malvern in 1857, apparently did cycle to Wolverhampton as he was an ardent Wolverhampton Wanderers fan. So there is certainly a possibility that he bought his manuscripts from Henry. However, according to Elgar's biography, Dora (Dorabella of the Tenth Variation) was the daughter of the Rev'd Penny



This picture of Broseley Orchestra in the grounds of the Cumberland Hotel, was probably taken in the mid 1920s.

Ken Davis could name only three of its members, his uncle Frank Davis, back row first on the left; his father Charles, front row first on the right; Joseph Nicklin, with moustache, centre. The two Davis brothers were the sons of Matthew and Jane Davis

from Wolverhampton. She was born in 1874 in Swindon in Staffordshire and used to watch the Wolves' football games with Elgar.

There was a Dora Hayward born in 1901 but since the Enigma Variations were composed in 1898-99 it seems she could not have been the Dora referred to in Ken's family story.

I also discovered another Charles Hayward who had a daughter Dora, but since he was born in 1841 and she in 1894, they must have come from a different branch of the family.

Joan Griffiths

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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 the Newsletter in full colour
visit the Society's website
broseley.org.uk.
Over 32,000 hits since
its launch in 1998!**

CHRISTMAS DINNER, THE LION, HIGH STREET, 5 DECEMBER 2007

Please reserve me _____ place/s for the Society's Christmas Dinner at a cost of £19.95 a head

Name: _____

I enclose cheque/postal order for

Add: _____

£ _____ payable to

Broseley Local History Society

Please return to Janet Robinson,
26 Coalport Road
Broseley, TF12 5AZ

Tel: _____

by **Tuesday 27 November**

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

Starter

Main course

Cream of blue cheese and broccoli soup

Roast beef and yorkshire pudding

Spiced chicken liver parfait with salad garnish and brown toast

Roast turkey, served with sausage and bacon rolls, stuffing and cranberry sauce

Garlic mushrooms with salad garnish

Fillet of salmon with a hollandaise sauce

Somerset Brie and spiced plum tart

Duckling fillet with orange, bourbon and pomegranate sauce

Seasonal melon garnished with fruit coulis

Chicken breast wrapped in bacon in a port and shallot sauce

Platter of smoked salmon and crayfish with cracked black pepper

Roast leg of lamb with minted gravy

Vegetarian selection

Selection of desserts



Coffee and mince pies

