

Newsletter

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society

Incorporating the Wilkinson Society



November 2008

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

- 3 Dec Annual Christmas dinner. See booking form on page 13
- 7 Jan Members' evening and slide presentation with Steve Dewhirst
- 4 Feb *A Brief History of Telford Town*, by Richard Bifield
- 4 Mar *Broseley's Water Supply*, by Michael and Gillian Pope
- 1 Apr *Wenlock Edge, its Geology and Mineral Exploitation*, by Chris Rayner
- 6 May Annual Wilkinson Lecture, *John Wilkinson and the Steam Engine*, by Jim Andrew
- 3 Jun Summer Soirée and Haycop walk
- 4 Jul Coach trip to the Black Country

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Angela Brickley, Broseley
Chris Pryce, Broseley
Jackie West, Much Wenlock

VOTE FOR BROSELEY!

An exciting project to refurbish the disused Chapel of Rest at Broseley Cemetery, which has been put forward by the Broseley Partnership with a considerable amount of help from Society chairman Gillian Pope, has made it through to the final of The People's Millions 2008. This is to be aired on ITV Central West Regional evening news on Thursday 27 November between 6.00 and 6.30 pm when Gillian will be arguing a strong case for Broseley to win up to £50,000 funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

The Victorian Chapel of Rest was built in 1884 and is a fine example of the use of locally produced

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*The disused Chapel of Rest in Broseley cemetery could be in for a revamp if you **VOTE FOR BROSELEY!***

materials. It has an unusual highly decorative floor, the tiles for which were made by Craven Dunnill between 1868 and 1879. It is thought that they were part of a batch made specially for the Foreign Office in the new Palace Chambers in Westminster and were donated by Craven Dunnill. The Foreign Office has since been demolished so these are possibly the only tiles of their kind in existence.

The building is currently being used as a storage facility for Broseley Town Council and proposals are that, in order to preserve its heritage, it be refurbished as a Cultural and Visitors' Centre with an area for display of some of the Society's artefacts. It will also provide shelter in bad weather for visitors to the cemetery as well as a possible facility for researching family records.

The public will be able to cast their vote at any time from 9.00 am to midnight on 27 November, and the number to phone will be available from 9.00 am on that day, either from the website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peoplesmillions, from posters around the town, or from a copy of the Daily Mirror. Calls cost from 10p per minute.

So make a big note of this date, **VOTE FOR BROSELEY**, and ask all your friends to do the same!

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Wednesday 3 December, 7.30 pm

Lion Hotel, High Street, Broseley

Cost £19.95 per person

This will once again take place at the Lion Hotel. Always a good evening, make sure to return your booking slip to Janet Robinson by **not later than 27 November** (see booking form on page 13).

DATES FOR 2009

Summer Soirée

Wednesday 3 June

A Summer Soirée at the home of Michael and Gillian Pope will be combined with a walk down the Haycop for those so inclined. Further details later.

Coach Tour

Saturday 4 July

Guided tour of the Black Country by author and historian Ned Williams, President of the Black Country Society. The tour will include a visit to Mushroom Green – an excellent surviving example of an industrial hamlet complete with chain shop.

More details later but **book these dates now** so as not to miss out on the Society's popular summer activities.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society held its AGM in October at which chairman Gillian Pope gave a brief synopsis of the year's activities. The highlight of these had been the extensive bicentenary celebrations of the death of John Wilkinson. These had included the installation of a plaque honouring Wilkinson at his one time home The Lawns, a successful Day School, a trip to his Brymbo ironworks and a *son et lumière* pageant centred around his life, staged in the grounds of The Lawns.

Specially commissioned artefacts had also been made available with profits going to the Plaque Fund. These had included a John Wilkinson bicentenary token, a John Wilkinson plate made by local potter Elspeth Soper and commemorative clay pipes made by Rex Key.

There had also been an enjoyable trip to Gloucester as well as a full programme of talks.

The chairman then thanked the outgoing presidents, Elsie Philpott and Ken Jones, for their support during their term of office, and recommended that Cicely Taylor and Ray Johnston be appointed presidents in their place. This was endorsed by the meeting. She also thanked the committee for their work during the year and said that, with the exception of Vin

Callcut, all members were willing to serve a further term. There being no nominations for this vacant post, the remaining members of the committee were unanimously re-elected. Gillian Pope was once again elected chairman.

The membership secretary then reported that membership had now reached 219 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.

IT'S A HAT TRICK!

Broseley in Bloom's aim to 'make it a hat trick' was realised when the town achieved a Gold Award for the third year in succession in this year's Heart of England in Bloom competition.

The Society's celebrations of the bicentenary of John Wilkinson's death neatly coincided with the In Bloom competition's theme of 'local roots' and the brilliant red and yellow flower displays throughout the town were chosen to emulate the colours of fiery furnaces, while the loan of a kibble pot and kibbler by the Ironbridge Gorge Museums enhanced this impression.

The Society can also be rightly proud of its chairman Gillian Pope who, in one of her other capacities as chairman of Broseley in Bloom, was given a discretionary Chairman's Award for her outstanding contribution to the Broseley community.

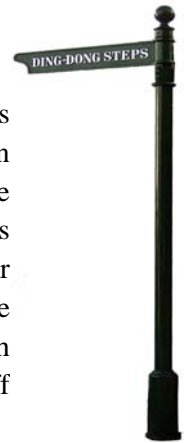
Broseley's involvement in the Heart of England in Bloom competition was instigated by Society member Eric Cox during his term as Mayor of Broseley in 2005 when the town achieved a Silver Award.

Now the town has gained its third Gold and the people of Broseley are to be congratulated on making the town look so fantastic this summer.



NEW SIGNS FOR THE JITTIES

New cast iron signs for Broseley's famous jitties have recently been erected in Broseley Wood. These replace the existing wooden ones which are showing signs of wear and tear, and which will now be recycled around the town in such schemes as the Haycop project off Dark Lane.



Broseley Wood, situated on the side of a steep hill, had its origin as a squatter settlement for immigrant miners and the haphazard lanes and narrow paths between the houses are known locally as the jitties. All their names have historic relevance – even the Ding Dong Steps got their name from the sound of clogs ringing on the stone steps set between high walls.

The signs have been painted in the town livery of Broseley Green and were funded by a grant obtained by the Broseley Partnership.

JOHN RANDALL PLAQUE

Society chairman Gillian Pope recently presented a plaque to the present owners of Raddle Hall, Ian Baker and Nuala O'Kane, in commemoration of the birthplace of John Randall. John Randall, who lived from 1810-1910, was a local historian and is well known for his *History of Broseley and its Surroundings*. For much of his life he worked as a china painter specialising in painting birds. Although born in Broseley, he lived much of his life in Madeley. The plaque is the second one to be erected this year and follows that commemorating John Wilkinson which was unveiled at The Lawns in June.



Society chairman Gillian Pope, centre, presenting the commemorative plaque to Ian Baker, left, and Nuala O'Kane, right



NEW PRESIDENTS



*New presidents of the Society, Ray Johnston
and Cicely Taylor*

At the recent AGM two new presidents of the Society were elected, Ray Johnston and Cicely Taylor.

Ray Johnston needs little introduction, being well known to most members for his previous talks to the Society, his reminiscences of his experiences during the Second World War and his lifelong interest in flies.

Although not born in Broseley, he came here as a baby to live with his grandmother who kept the old post office in Simpson's Lane.

As a schoolboy his ambition had been to become a surgeon, but when that could not be realised he thought to try cabinet making. His father's insistence on a trade, however, meant that he eventually became a bricklayer.

Called up during the war he found himself part of the Juno Beach D-Day landings. He also saw considerable action right across France and Germany before ending up on Luneburg Heath when the armistice was signed.

After the war he was sent to work in Wolverhampton before being moved to Madeley to build urgently needed blocks of houses. There he set up his own building contractor's business, married and settled in Madeley, where he has lived ever since.

He has, from its beginning, been heavily involved with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and in 1972 was the third person to be employed by them in undertaking building work at Blist's Hill. He was responsible for the singlehanded dismantling and reconstruction of the Thomas Telford toll

house – the Trust, he says, was so hard up in the early days that they could not even afford him a helper!

Readers may like to refer to Ray's wartime reminiscences which appear on page 5 and in the November 2007 Newsletter as well as his talk on Jew's Jitty, November 2004 Newsletter; an article on him, The Fly Guy, also appeared in the August 2006 Newsletter.

Cicely Taylor was born near Craven Arms but became very familiar with the Broseley area when, as a small child, she spent many a school holiday with relations in Jackfield. Despite being war time the journey there, she says, was easy – train to Buildwas in charge of the guard, then into the care of the station master who made sure she caught the right connection. She says it was her liking for this area that, in 1979, led to her buying her cottage at Preen's Eddy where she has lived ever since.

After leaving school Cicely trained as a primary school teacher and taught at Madeley C of E Junior school for many years as well as at Bishop's Castle and Morville. She also held the headship of Stockton Norton but when the school closed in 1991 she decided to officially retire.

That did not stop her teaching, however, and she continued to do voluntary work at Sherrifhales until 2001. It was only then, having broken her wrist and then her ankle, that she finally decided enough was enough and turned her energies in a different direction.

So she joined Dr Sylvia Watts' palaeography class to learn to study old documents in the original latin. Initially feeling overwhelmed by this undertaking, Cicely gradually began to make sense of some of the texts, saying that it was not only that one had to be able to read latin, but that one also had to learn the abbreviations, as well as become familiar with the script. She has recently been studying documents about Bewdley and Bridgnorth written before the 1400s.

A long time member of the Society, she says she enjoyed teaching the industrial history of the area to her primary school pupils, but nowadays prefers studying her latin texts!

PREVIOUS MEETINGS Broseley War Memorial

In September Janet Doody, who has also researched the names on the Madeley War Memorial and the Memorial Bridge at Coalport, gave a talk on those names appearing on the Broseley War Memorial.

According to Janet, it was only after the First World War that memorials began to be erected in almost every parish. These were not centrally funded, however, but were built from money donated by the general public. Nor was there a central organisation for collating the names of the dead. Such names had to be put forward for consideration, with the result that some people were missed off while others appeared on memorials in more than one parish.

Broseley War Memorial was funded by monies donated by the public and local dignitaries and cost £568 11s 2d to build. It was unveiled in 1921 by Lord Forester and bore the names of 52 serving men. Following the Second World War a further 19 names were added, with others still to come from more recent conflicts.

Janet's research revealed information on some of the names, in particular those of Sgt Edward Bullock of the Southwest Borderers' Machine Gun Corps, who was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for 'conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at all times'. She was also able to trace several people who had emigrated to the colonies and subsequently joined

A Remembrance Day service being held at the Broseley War Memorial in November this year



Australian, Canadian and New Zealand Expeditionary Forces. Little information was available on others, however, particularly those killed in the Second World War and Janet would be interested to hear from anyone who has information and/or photographs on the following names:

Elliot Brazier, Private in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Samuel Jones, Private in the WST (help with identifying these initials would be welcome – even the Imperial War Museum was unable to help!)

John Molineux, Private in the Army Corps of Cyclists

William Wilde, Private in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Information on Second World War names would also be appreciated.

Janet Doody may be contacted at:

Rosehill, Moss Road, Wrockwardine Wood, Telford TF2 7BJ, tel: 01952 610000 or email: jan@robotssystem.co.uk.

The Realities of War

Janet's talk was followed by Ray Johnston's further reminiscences of his war experiences in France and Germany. Part of the D-Day landings, he came across many sights he said he would prefer to forget and felt that it was often better that those who died should simply be listed as 'killed in action' rather than their relatives knowing the full horror of their deaths.

From the Normandy beaches Ray's regiment worked its way through France and Germany until finally reaching the concentration camp at Belsen. There they were met by a German staff car wanting to call a truce. Its occupants were also concerned that the prisoners not be let out for fear of starting



Photograph courtesy of Janet Doody

George Burgess, submariner, one of the 71 names on the Broseley War Memorial.

George died at sea off Norway during the Second World War

typhoid and cholera epidemics. Once inside the camp the full impact of how the inmates had been treated was brought home, some of them being so weak and emaciated that they did not even notice that British troops had arrived. Although there were some 60,000 survivors when help arrived, not all these pulled through despite being cared for and fed a special diet.

From Belsen, Ray was sent to Luneburg Heath where the armistice was signed. There he found himself in charge of some 17,000 prisoners. When asked how he had coped with such a situation his reply was that, since the war had now ended, he had done the sensible thing and gone fishing!

Readers may like to refer to the November 2007 Newsletter where some of Ray's earlier memories appeared.

A History of Milestones

Following the AGM in October, Terry Keegan gave a talk on the *History of Milestones*, saying that it was the Romans who had brought the idea of milestones to Britain. Having built arterial roads across the country, it then became necessary for them to mark out distances along these routes. The Roman mile, however, was not as we know it today but, based on their *mille passus* or one thousand double steps, was equivalent to 1,618 yards.

However, following the departure of the Romans, the roads along which these distance markers had been placed gradually fell into disrepair and the milestones began to disappear, being 'recycled' by subsequent invaders for use as such things as steps, gateposts and lintels. Today only one remains, near Vindolanda in Northumberland, and that is no longer in situ.

By the 1500s many roads in Britain were almost unusable, particularly in bad weather, and in 1555 an Act of Parliament made local parishes responsible for their upkeep. Accountability for ensuring this lay with local Justices of the Peace and every parishioner was liable to serve four days a year maintaining the roads.

Another 100 years and traffic on these roads was very much on the increase. This meant that



Toll houses were built throughout the country to control the traffic along the turnpikes. This one, which can still be seen on the A5 just west of Wellington, was one of those designed by Thomas Telford for his new Holyhead Road

parishes along main routes had to maintain these not only for their own use but for that of through traffic as well, a situation which caused considerable grumbling among the inhabitants.

So it was that groups of local worthies set up Turnpike Trusts, raised money to build stretches of road and, for the next 200 years, charged a toll fee to travel along them. At one time there were 1,000 such Trusts in the country controlling some 20,000 miles of road.

In 1767 it became compulsory to erect mileposts along these roads, not only to mark the direction and distance but to help coaches maintain a schedule and to calculate charges for changes of horses at coaching inns. Distances from London also had to be marked, as these were used to determine postal charges before the uniform postal rate was introduced in 1840.

In the early days, the precise length of a British mile had varied but in 1593 a further Act of Parliament had standardised it at the present day statute mile of 1,760 yards. However, not all areas in the British Isles stuck to this standard. Ireland, for instance, later adopted a mile of 2,240 yards, an anomaly introduced by Oliver Cromwell who, to pacify objections to the way he had allocated land, increased the size of the acre, creating a knock-on effect on the length of the mile.

According to Terry, this measurement is still used on signposts in some parts of Ireland, as is the use of the Irish language for place names. He told the tale of coming across one such signpost which also

had distances marked in kilometres. Finding himself lost, and unable to understand the Irish language, he sought to cover his ignorance by asking a bystander what the 'km' stood for. "Well now," said the helpful stranger, scratching his head, "I wouldn't be entirely sure, but I think it stands for 'kind of miles'!"

The first milestones were made from local materials such as granite, sandstone or wood but these latter materials proved not very durable and were gradually replaced using cast iron. The fact that early milestones were often crafted by the makers of gravestones could account for their particular shape.

Originally Roman numerals were used to mark distances, a practice which existed into the present day. One such can be seen on the A49 just north of Ludlow where a milestone bears the legend Ludlow Cross II miles. Of course locals know that Ludlow is not eleven miles away but only two, although strangers may be forgiven for being confused.

The practice of charging tolls on turnpike roads lasted until the coming of the railways in 1840, but from that point Turnpike Trusts began to lose revenue and many were closed. In 1880 responsibility for the upkeep of roads and maintenance of milestones was given to the newly formed local and county councils.

The advent of the motor car, however, was to bring about the demise of the milestone. Its faster means of transport meant that the original small milestones became inadequate and the councils began to put up larger and more visible road signs.

Another factor was that during the Second World



War all signs with names on them were taken down in the expectation that this would confuse an invading army. Sadly many of the old milestones were

Ludlow Cross - eleven miles away, or only two?

simply knocked over, broken or vandalised, although to its credit Shropshire County Council did try to record all those old milestones which had survived.

Terry concluded his talk by saying that in 2001 he had been instrumental in setting up the Milestone Society, the aims of which were to identify and conserve milestones and waymarkers for public benefit.

Details of this society may be found on its website www.milestone-society.co.uk.

Living at the Lawns

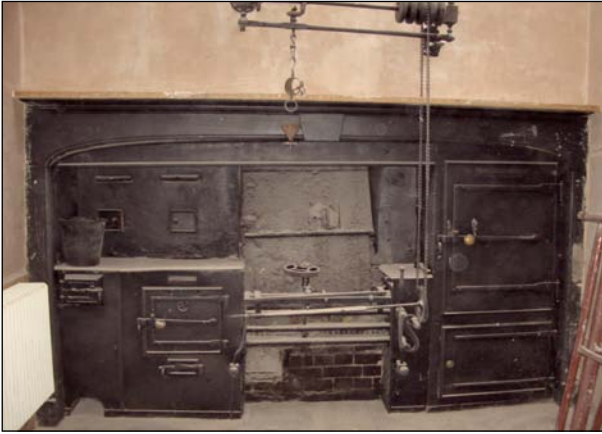
At the November meeting Michael Berthoud, author and collector of English porcelain, gave an account of how he came to live at The Lawns and his experiences during his time there. The Lawns, in Church Street, Broseley, is well known as the one time home of John Wilkinson, the Broseley ironmaster. Perhaps less well known is that it was also the home of John Rose of Coalport china fame, a definite attraction for a china enthusiast such as Michael.

So when back in 1982 he started looking for an old property to renovate, he was particularly taken with the idea of 'doing up' The Lawns and using it as a display centre for his collection of porcelain.

However, at that time the house was owned by the family of the late Ralph Pee, one of the founders of this Society. It took three years for Michael to persuade them to sell, by which time the price had doubled from £40,000 to £80,000.

When they did finally move in, they found both the house and the garden in a very bad state. The garden in particular had been severely neglected with weeds and rubbish everywhere, while the boundary wall between it and the neighbouring social housing had been comprehensively demolished.

Back inside, Michael realised with dismay that the hall leading to the beautiful staircase had been floored with modern PVC tiles. So he and his family set to work one evening chipping them off with a screwdriver. They were still at it next morning.



This cast iron range in the kitchen of The Lawns is the largest in the county and has a spit driven by a chimney fan

The house was also extremely cold and almost impossible to heat and Michael recalled with a shiver the sight of the walls running with damp.

One of the big pluses, however, was the old kitchen range. Made of cast iron, it was the largest one such in the county and had a spit driven by a chimney fan. It was also in a bad state of repair and completely unusable. So, since Michael intended it to be a show piece only, they simply designed a new kitchen around it.

Michael's idea was to renovate and refurnish the main rooms in honour of three of the area's famous men, John Wilkinson, John Rose and Thomas Farnolls Pritchard.

They began with the Wilkinson Room where, in order to make the house look more homely, particularly from the outside, he and his wife Molly set a table for tea in the window. Obviously thinking this scene lacked an essential something, a passerby asked if he would like a dress to complete the image. So with the help of a broomstick, some chicken wire and the period dress, a young lady joined the tea party.

Then came the John Rose room decorated, naturally, in rose pink, and the Pritchard Room, which they decided to do up as a nursery.

In addition to coming to see these three rooms, visitors were encouraged to admire his collection of china cups. Molly also began to serve afternoon teas, though some of the visiting groups enjoyed the fare so much that there was little profit in this enterprise.

Occasionally visitors came to stay and Michael told the tale of one ceramic historian from Canada who spent the night in their spare room. Unfortunately it rained that night and the roof leaked. Nothing daunted the historian looked around for something to catch the drips, and was charmed to find next morning that he had picked on an antique Wedgewood chamber pot. Despite Michael's embarrassment about the leak, they became firm friends.

But all this cost money, funds were running low, and by 1987 Michael had decided that this was not a viable proposition unless more people could be encouraged to visit. Despite his best efforts to persuade such institutions as the Tourist Board that The Lawns was a place worth visiting, Broseley was considered too "off the beaten track" to be worth promoting and he reluctantly made the decision to sell. The stock market crash of that year, however, had forced property prices down and it was not until two years later that he felt able to put the property on the market, where it eventually sold for £225,000.

From The Lawns Michael and his family moved to Bridgnorth where his wife opened an antique shop which is still run by the family.

THE KING'S TANKARD

Coalport China Museum has been lent a replica of the King's Tankard, an inscribed silver tankard, the original of which was presented to Francis Wolfe by King Charles II as a token of his gratitude in hiding the king from his pursuers during his flight to France in 1651.



Photograph copyright of the Society of Antiquaries of London

The original tankard was last exhibited at the Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Society in 1851 before vanishing

This inscribed silver tankard, known as the King's Tankard, is a replica of that given by King Charles II to Francis Wolfe

from view. It is believed to be in a private collection. The replica, which was made by William Hunter in 1866, has been lent by the Society of Antiquaries of London and is currently on display at the Coalport China Museum.

GUESS MY WEIGHT!

Sam Lamplugh with the Wilkinson bicentenary token he won for guessing the weight of an aquasculpture which was on display at the Victoria Hall in Broseley earlier this year. Estimates of the aquasculpture's weight varied from 60 kg up to 210 kg, with Sam's being the nearest at within 2 kg of the actual weight of 176.5 kg.



The sculpture was designed as the centrepiece of a water feature for use at an exhibition in Aberdeen in 1987. It has also been exhibited in Birmingham, Telford and at the Ideal Homes Exhibition in Earl's Court.



Photograph courtesy of Vin Callcut

A limited number of these bicentenary tokens are still available at £8.00 each, plus £1.99 UK 1st class recorded postage, from Vin Callcut email: vin@oldcopper.org.uk or phone 01952 882508.

GIFT CARDS

Looking for an unusual Christmas or birthday gift? Then why not buy that special someone a year's membership to the Society? Gift cards are available from any member of the committee with a choice of Broseley scenes. They cost only 50p plus £5.00 for a single subscription or £8.00 for a couple.



WHAT'S ON?

Ironbridge Gorge Museums

A Century of Olympic Posters

27 September – 11 January 2009

10.00 am – 5.00 pm

Coalbrookdale Gallery

Coalbrookdale

This Victorian and Albert Museum touring exhibition includes many rare and beautiful examples of posters, and celebrates the global connections the Olympic Games have fostered throughout the last century. Entrance is free but donations are welcome.



'Gorgeous' Craft and Fine Food Fair

29 – 30 November

10.00 am – 5.00 pm

Enginuity

Coalbrookdale

Entrance £2.50, children under 12 free

This Fair will showcase a wide selection of quality contemporary work by some 35 members of the Shropshire Guild of Contemporary Craft and will include ceramics, furniture, glass, jewellery and textiles.

Christmas Sale

5 December, 6.30 pm

6 – 7 December, all day

China Museum

Coalport

Take this chance to buy some unusual Christmas presents.

Charity Christmas Concert

Saturday 13 December

7.30 pm

Engine Shop at Enginuity

Coalbrookdale

An evening of music and song led by ChiMera, renowned for their classical-jazz fusion. Tickets £10.00 adults, £8.00 over 60s and under 16s, available at the door or in advance from the Ironbridge Tourist Information Centre, tel: 01952 884391.

Further information on these events from tel: 01952 884391 or www.ironbridge.org.uk.

2009 CELEBRATIONS

Next year the Ironbridge Gorge Museums will be marking the 300th anniversary of the birth of the Industrial Revolution with a series of events and celebrations. These will include an exhibition of new archaeological research around the Old Furnace, demonstrations of cast and wrought ironwork at Blists Hill and an international conference on the world changing impact of the Industrial Revolution.

2009 will also see the 200th anniversary of the death of Matthew Boulton and the birth of Charles Darwin and William Penny Brookes, the originator of the modern Olympic movement.

MAILBOX

In response to John Ewing's request for information on Shirlett Sanatorium (August 2008 Newsletter), The Lady Forester writes:

I noticed your article in the *August 2008 Newsletter* of the Broseley Local History Society. I do not have any information on your relation, Dr Frederick Turner MC, but these photographs may be of interest to you, although the car would not appear to be the Lagonda tourer belonging to him?!

Shirlett Sanatorium, which is on the Willey Estate, is on private property with no public access. Since



Photographs courtesy of The Lady Forester

its closure in the 1960s it has been used largely for the manufacture and storage of mead.

Recently the Estate has been granted planning permission to convert it back to residential use for flats.

The Lady Forester
Willey Park

I should like to say how excellent your Society website is. I have lived in Wards Tynning (which I now realise should be Tining) for over twenty years and, having just retired, thought it time to do some research on what is reputed to be the oldest house in the Ironbridge Gorge. And, of course, although Wards Tynning is now considered to be part of Coalport, not so long ago it was part of Broseley, as I discovered from the tithe map. The information presented on the site, which was readily accessible and understandable, has given me a very good start. So many thanks!

Vivien Lewis
purplevivien@hotmail.com

I am pleased you found the site useful. I cannot find on my records any more information about Wards Tining. According to the Shropshire Field Names book 'Tining' is land which has been enclosed. There are a couple such areas in Broseley but I do not think it is a common name. I assume that a Mr Ward enclosed some land in the distant past, hence Wards Tining. The valuations of the Broseley estate from the end of the 18th century spell the word as Tynning so it looks as though either spelling is acceptable.

Steve Dewhirst

Editor: Wards Tining is the area on the left immediately before the Coalport Bridge, opposite the entrance to the Woodbridge Inn. A foot and bridle path giving access to the old railway line is currently being constructed through this land.

We are tracing our family tree and have come to a full stop regarding my husband's great great grandfather John Lloyd. We know he was born in the Broseley area – possibly around Madeley or Shifnal. We think he was born between 1800-1805, but do not know who his parents were. We have a copy of the Parish Record for his marriage in 1823 to Maria Cotton. They

were married at Priorslee, Shifnal. Their eldest child Benjamin was born the same year when they were living in Snedshill.

The family moved around 1840 to Pelsall, near Walsall in Staffordshire, and I have all the information about the family from that date onwards. However, any information available on John is very confusing, three consecutive censuses giving three different places of birth, as well as inconsistent ages. His wife Maria's ages also vary – I know she was born in 1809 and died on 28 October 1869, but her age was stated as 70 and not 60.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Rita Lloyd

rita@ritanormanlloyd.plus.com

I am researching my paternal family and know that my grandfather Harold Wilkinson, great grandfather Benjamin and great great grandfather (possibly named John) were all born and lived in the Ironbridge area. Benjamin was married to one of the Maddox girls and they kept the Cock Hotel in Wellington around the 1920s. I have a photograph of my father as a young boy (b 1922, d 2003), and the above mentioned generations of males. My grandfather Harold found work and moved to Derby with his wife Winifred (née Frances or Francis) when my father was a young boy.

On your website there is a picture of the toll house on the Iron Bridge and a girl named Sue Maddox now Smith - a possible relative maybe?

I should also be interested to know who Brenda Glasby's family line is if she would not mind sharing it.

Sandra Maycock (née Wilkinson)

wilkie_s@dsl.pipex.com

Some 60 years ago another member of the Locke family (*August 2008 Newsletter*) lived in a horse-drawn caravan, usually located at the bottom of what was known locally as Cripples Hill, just outside Madeley on the Shifnal Road but now obliterated by the Halesfield Roundabout. His name was Len Locke and he was disabled in one leg and used a crutch. I do not think there was any connection between his condition and the name of the location. Like other members of the family described in the last *Newsletter*, Len seems to have been involved in making clothes pegs and general 'tating', and his wife/partner walked around the area carrying a basket of lace and pegs for sale.

Neil Clarke

In response to Ron Miles' query about lion headed fire hydrants in the High Street in Broseley (*November 2007 Newsletter*) Vera Francis recalls that there were several others in the town. One was situated across the Square from Miss Molly's café, while another was across the road from where Vera was born in No 7 Hockley Road. She does not, however, remember when they were removed.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<i>Chairman</i>	Gillian Pope
<i>Secretary</i>	Dot Cox
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jim Cooper
<i>Curator</i>	David Lake
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Janet Robinson 26 Coalport Road Broseley TF12 5AZ 01952 882495
<i>Programme Secretary and Journal Editor</i>	Neil Clarke
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Jan Lancaster
<i>Publicity</i>	Michael Pope
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<i>Email</i>	steve@broseley.org.uk

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.

This month the Society's website celebrates its 10th anniversary with almost 40,000 hits. To see this Newsletter in full colour visit this website at www.broseley.org.uk.



Newsletter

would like to thank
all those people who
have contributed to
this publication
during 2008 and
wishes both them
and all its readers a

**Merry Christmas
and a
Prosperous 2009**

CHRISTMAS DINNER, THE LION, HIGH STREET, 3 DECEMBER 2008

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

Name/s: _____

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 25 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

Garlic mushrooms

Fillet of salmon with a cranberry, orange and port glaze

Duck and pork pâté

Roast turkey, with stuffing and cranberry sauce

Seasonal melon with fruit coulis

Pan fried duckling fillet with gooseberry and cider sauce

Crayfish, prawn and lobster tart

Vegetarian option

Selection of desserts

or

Christmas pudding

Tea/coffee and mince pies



**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year**

