

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



MAY 2018

MEETINGS

Meetings of the Broseley Local History Society are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Broseley Social Club, High Street, unless otherwise announced. Car parking is available at the back of the Club.

Members are requested to be seated by 7.30pm to allow our speakers a prompt start.

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

PROGRAMME

- 6 Jun *Summer Walk between Coalport and Madeley*, Call Neil Clarke for further details 01952 504135
- 7 Jul *Summer Outing to Port Sunlight*, See Newsletter February 2018 for more details
- 5 Sep TBC
- 3 Oct *AGM followed by – 1918 The end of WW1* by Janet Doody
- 7 Nov *The Foresters of Dothill and Wellington*, by Neil Clarke

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Mr & Mrs Pitchford, Wrockwardine

Mo Smith, Jackfield

Scott & Iris Morgan, Broseley

Ian West, Broseley

General Data Protection Regulations

A copy of the Broseley Local History Society GDPR policy can be found on the last page of this edition of Newsletter. When renewing membership in October you will be asked to fill in a form giving us permission to send you Society publications and contact you with details of Society activities. You will also be able to choose your preferred method of contact.



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PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Archaeology of the Jackfield Stabilisation Project by Shane Kelleher

Janet Doody writes:

Formerly Archaeologist at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, (now Staffordshire County Archaeologist), Shane was welcomed by a packed house of members and guests, which displayed the interested generated by this subject. Neil Rushton had previously given a talk regarding the engineering aspect of this project; but this was to be a different perspective and was also to illustrate that today's archaeologists' do more than dig trenches!!!

Once the area of the stabilisation project had been defined and the statutory bodies who needed to be consulted identified, Telford and Wrekin Council, Shropshire County Council, Historic England, UNESCO (as a World Heritage Site), as well as numerous local groups; then the historic, environmental, and local planning concerns could be addressed. Initially much of Shane's work was desk bound, consisting in the preparation and production of numerous reports. This involved using maps, photographs, previous surveys and local knowledge making it then possible to highlight specific areas of interest and concern.

The preliminary physical work considered the environmental impact to the site and involved the erection of reptile fencing; a black material about half a metre in height to keep species confined within a specific area for the duration. Secondly it included an attempt to, at least partially, eradicate the dreaded invasive Japanese Knotweed; this was cut and buried in large Japanese Knotweed receptors where it could be safely dealt with. Unfortunately, this plant is so prolific



An aerial view of the site in January 2014 before removal of the trees. Picture courtesy of Telford and Wrekin Council



An aerial view of the site in June 2014 after removal of the trees. Picture courtesy of Telford and Wrekin Council

that total eradication is probably impossible but it is hoped that its spread has been minimized.

During the next stage the area became a huge archaeological dig, where the highlighted sites that required a "watching brief", i.e. Shane having to stand over the work of the digger, would hopefully confirm known finds or even revealing new ones. During this period a previously unknown adit, or mine entrance that went horizontally into the slope was discovered and also a tramway leading to the Calcutts works, which had been identified on an old map was also uncovered, almost intact and recorded.

The Severn Valley Railway access bridge, which had originally allowed a track under the line in order to get to the river bank, was thought in too ruinous a state to save. However, one side of the buttress wall was made safe and can now be seen as part of the historic landscape.



Shane Kelleher looking at the remains of a tile floor from houses buried in the 1952 landslide. Picture courtesy of Shropshire Star

The project also gave opportunity to investigate a much larger known site, the Wallace Tile Works which had been built on the former Wallace Colliery. The tileries had been in production up to around the time of World War 2 and had been operated under a forward thinking management who had installed the latest “cutting edge” machinery. Unfortunately, the economic situation at the time defeated them and following the closure; nature and some human intervention had left “jungle like” ruins. Old maps also showed an incline plane tramway that ran into the site and excavation amongst tile debris and coal dust seems to identify its location and opened up the ruined buildings.

The re-discovery of the properties of Salthouses village that were destroyed during the Jackfield slips of 1952 attracted national media attention. An intact bread oven and perhaps not surprisingly, areas of floor made up of Maws Tiles were found that were all recorded and recovered. A further landslide some years later resulted in the loss of the local road; this was replaced by temporary wooden boards that followed the disused railway line. This “temporary” wooden way covering a switchback of a road lasted until the new project; it too has been recorded!

A photographic survey of the river bank (taken from the river via a dinghy!), revealed the probable site of the Horseferry landing stage and also a couple of what appeared to be concrete filled boilers! Further investigation showed them to be exactly that and Maws had, during the late 19th century buried them into the ground in order to combat landslip; very similar to the pile driving on the project – nothing new there then! These boilers too have been left, all part of the heritage and history of the Severn Gorge area.



*Workers at the site were amazed when they uncovered artefacts including an ornate Roman-style mosaic floor from a cottage and an intact bread oven.
Picture courtesy of Daily Mail*



Looking towards the Craft Centre from the site of the old wooden road in August 2017. Picture courtesy of Telford and Wrekin Council



Looking towards the Craft Centre from the old wooden road before the stabilisation works.



Looking towards the Boat Inn, August 2017. Picture courtesy of Telford and Wrekin Council

So the old, not so old and, in some eyes the downright modern has been recorded for posterity during this project; showing the industrial development of the location. This fascinating and well received talk not only illustrated another side of the stabilisation project, but also the diverse aspects that are involved in the job of the archaeologists of today.

William Hazledine: Ironmaster Extraordinary.

At our March meeting Andrew Pattison spoke to us about little known Shropshire Ironmaster William Hazledine. Thomas Telford, Hazledine's contemporary, is very well known and has been the subject of a number of books and even had a town named after him, whereas Hazledine has by comparison remained relatively unknown, something that Andrew was aiming to put right when he completed a thesis on the subject which led on to him writing the biography "William Hazledine, Pioneering Ironmaster."

William was born in Shawbury in 1763, but moved as a child to Moreton Forge (now Moreton Mill) just outside the village. His grandfather, father and uncle were all millwrights (who built and repaired mills), and they also worked at the forge, as forge carpenters. William and his older brother John were trained as millwrights and soon became intimately acquainted with the iron industry through their time at the forge.



Moreton Mill, near Shawbury, in 2005. It has since been converted into a house.

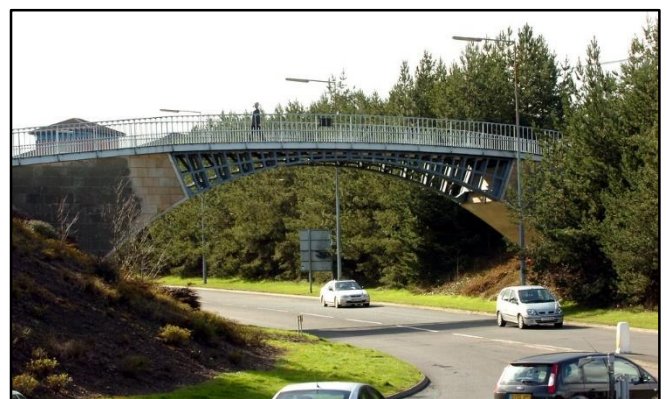
The mill is listed as being a forge in the 17th-18th century and was part of the Corbet estate. It continued in use as a corn mill from the late 18th century until the 1950s.



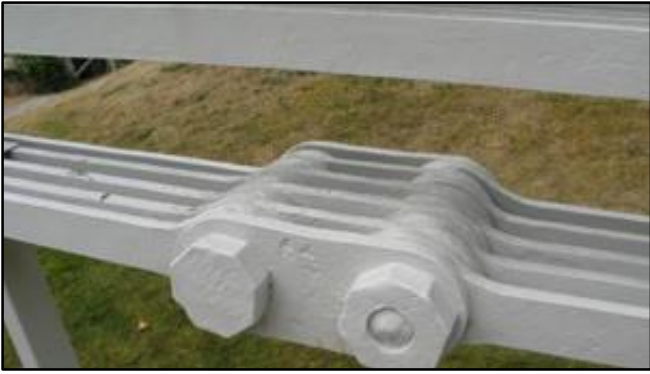
All that remains of Coleham Foundry are these buildings, originally offices or workshops, now converted into shops.

Upon completing his apprenticeship William moved to Shrewsbury where he set up a successful business as a millwright and a maker of millstones. Soon after this he leased the forge at Pitchford, near Acton Burnell, and produced wrought iron, and also built his own foundry at Coleham, near to where Greyfriars footbridge is today. One of the major commissions for the Coleham Foundry was all of the castings for the Ditherington Flax Mill, thought to be the oldest iron-framed building in the world.

Early in his career Hazledine became friendly with Thomas Telford, who had moved to Shrewsbury, and the architect John Simpson. The three of them were responsible for such ground breaking structures as Chirk and Pontcysyllte Aqueducts, the locks on the Caledonian Canal (whose gates were originally of iron), and a whole series of important cast-iron arch bridges, many of which are still standing.



This Hazledine bridge was originally over the Cound Brook and was re-erected in Hall Park Way, Telford



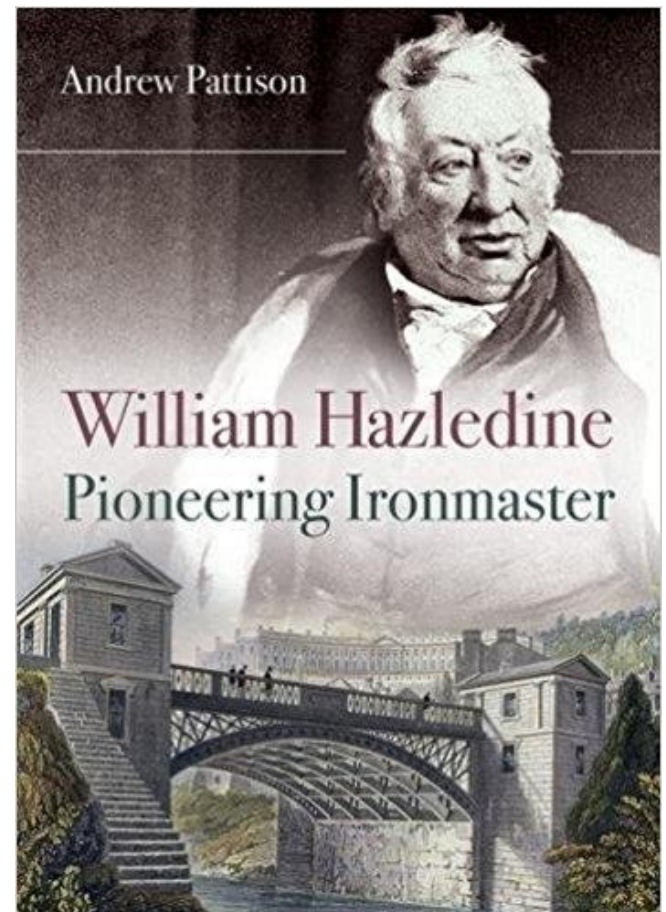
9-foot-long wrought iron links are joined in groups of five on the Conway Bridge. All components were rigorously tested at Hazledine's premises at the foot of Wyle Cop before being transported via road, canal and sea to North Wales

Possibly one of Hazledine's greatest achievements was the production and supply of the ironwork for the Menai and Conway suspension bridges. The bridges are suspended by "chains" which are made of sections containing five flat bars of wrought iron about 9 feet long bolted together with connecting plates. The Menai bridge alone had 16 main chains, each about a third of a mile long, and the bridges contained a total of 35,649 pieces, mostly of wrought iron. This wrought iron was made at Upton Forge, which Hazledine had leased from 1800. It was then transported by river from Atcham to another of Hazledine's premises at the bottom of Wyle Cop in Shrewsbury, where the iron was subjected to rigorous testing, using machines specially made for the purpose. Such was the quality of the iron and the excellence of the workmanship that only around 6% of the components failed the rigorous testing regime.

The ironwork was then rust-proofed by immersing it in boiling linseed oil, and sent via horse and cart to Weston Lullingfields near Baschurch, which was the nearest point to the Ellesmere Canal. It was then transported along the canal to Chester, where it was loaded on boats to make the final journey to north Wales. This work made Hazledine nationally famous and in 1832 he was presented to Princess Victoria, who, with her mother the Duchess of Kent, was visiting Shrewsbury. The Duchess particularly wanted to hear about the construction of Menai Bridge. An observer recorded in the Shrewsbury Chronicle that, "The royal party expressed great satisfaction at the lucid and instructive manner in which the explanations were given, and the tact and shrewdness displayed in Mr Hazledine's answers. Persons who were present described the interview as most interesting. Mr Hazledine received a present as a token of approbation; and the Duchess of Kent, when she passed over the

Menai Bridge, examined every part minutely, according to Mr Hazledine's description, and even entered the caves in which the iron suspension cables were fixed."

The ironwork of Menai Bridge was replaced with steel in the 1940s, but Conway is as originally built, though it is now only a footbridge. It is managed by the National Trust. What is thought to be a trial link for the bridge is now on display at the Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery.



For those who want to find out more about this unsung hero Andrew's book can be purchased from various well know internet sites

The Caughley Society by Maurice Wright.

Michael Pope writes:

On April 4th the speaker at our Meeting was the Reverend Maurice Wright. He is the present President of the Caughley Society and has had a lifelong interest in pottery which was partially inspired by the story of the prophet Jeremiah going to the potter's house and there seeing the potter working at his wheel. As a result, he became a lifelong collector of Caughley pottery and brought with him copies of an authoritative book on the subject written by a team of experts from the Society – "Caughley Porcelain"; a book which is beautifully illustrated and which was on sale at the meeting. As President he pointed out that the Caughley Society was formed in 1999 - "to educate the public in the subject of Caughley Porcelain." As some members will be aware the increased interest in Caughley pottery led to a commemorative memorial being erected at the factory site in Caughley in 2002

Caughley is situated within the parish of Barrow. It is now an isolated spot marked only by the fields and the trees and an open caste site. However, in the mid-eighteenth century it was teeming with industry and life as the men and women of the area toiled to transport the raw materials, make their quality china ware and send it throughout the world. A glance at the Barrow Church registers illustrates its industrial past. The Burial Register for instance records the deaths of many Colliers (who mined coal), Miners (who mined clay), Crickers (who were packhorse drivers) and Potters (who made pots). Many of Barrow's parishioners made their living from trades associated with the clay and pottery industry.

According to tradition, there was a pottery at Caughley on the estate of Edward Browne from about 1751 to the early 1770's when Thomas Turner moved from the Worcester Porcelain Company to rebuild, or enlarge, the existing pottery and establish on its site the now famous "Caughley" or "Salopian" porcelain. Maurice reminded us that during the 17th and 18th centuries there was great interest in porcelain arriving in the West from China. As a result, factories were established at places like Meissen and Sevres on the Continent and then in this country at places like Bow, Chelsea, Newcastle, Bristol and Worcester. In 1754 Edward Browne's widow granted a 62-year lease of the site at Caughley to Ambrose Gallimore where he was joined by Thomas Turner as a partner in 1772. The partnership flourished and between 1775 and 1799 they produced some of the finest soft paste porcelain made in England in the 18th century. The china produced was mainly useful

household items such as Tea Services, Dinner Services, Jugs and Bowls, items that would be used in the homes of the emerging middle classes. Up to a half of the items were never marked and those that were marked were imprinted with either a S or a C. Within three years of Turner's arrival at Caughley he and Gallimore were producing the famous Salopian China Porcelain. Under Turner's leadership the china works flourished and competed with any china works in the country both in quality and quantity. A part of their success was due to the introduction of the distinctive blue willow pattern in imitation of Chinese porcelain.

Maurice divided up production at Caughley into three periods; the Early Period between 1775 - 1780; the Commercial Period between 1780 - 1794 and the Twilight Period between 1794 - 1799. He illustrated this by showing pictures of examples from each period, including of course the famous Broseley Dragon design. He also mentioned the Caughley Tea Service which William Wilberforce bought for his sister's wedding and which can be seen in Wilberforce House in Hull.

In 1780 Thomas Turner went to France to study the French porcelain industry and the French influence can be seen in their later production. It was also apparent in the French-style Chateau which he built for himself near the China Works at Caughley and which was called Caughley Place. He lived there with his wife Dorothy, the niece of his partner Ambrose Gallimore. They were married at Barrow Church on October 31st 1783. They had two children but both died as infants, Thomas his son in 1785 and Dorothy his daughter in 1787. Just ten years after their marriage Dorothy also died and the Parish Register's show that she was buried in the family's vault at Barrow church on 28th of August 1793. He then married his second wife Mary Allsop at Barrow in 1796 and they had two children Katherine and George.

During his lifetime Thomas Turner became a respected and influential man. He was a County Magistrate and a Bailiff (what we would call Mayor) of Much Wedlock. He died at the age of sixty and was buried in the family vault at Barrow on February 27th 1809. He was certainly the man who put Caughley on the world map.



*Caughley
Teapot from a
collection at
Shrewsbury
Museum*

Editor:

The Caughley Society was formed in 1999. Its aims are to educate the public in the subject of Caughley porcelains, to promote research and study in all matters relating to Caughley porcelain and to disseminate the useful knowledge gained for the public benefit.

The Society holds two meetings annually, in April and October, at the Coalport China Museum site near Ironbridge in Shropshire, England, home of the national Caughley collection. These comprise talks, discussions, opportunities to study representative pieces, and give a chance for members to socialise.

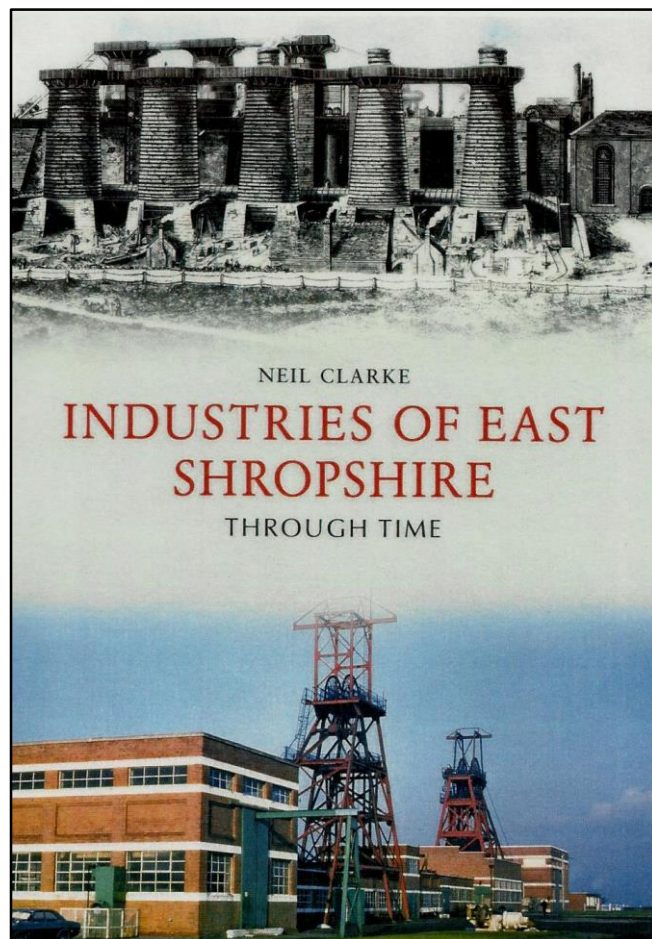
The Society also publishes four newsletters a year, distributed free to members. To find out more about the Society you can visit their website by following this link - <http://caughleysociety.org.uk/>

BOOKSHOP

“Industries of East Shropshire Through Time” is the title of a new book by Neil Clarke, published by Amberley Publishing. When the new town established in East Shropshire acquired the name “Telford” sign boards set up on major roads entering the designated area announced “Telford – Birthplace of Industry”. This reflected an earlier label applied to one of the historic areas within the New Town’s boundary – “Coalbrookdale: Cradle of the Industrial Revolution”. No doubt other areas in the county could claim a part in the origins of this seminal movement, but East Shropshire certainly had a major role in the development of the coal, iron and clay industries in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Today, the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, with its ten different sites, encapsulates this story.

The extractive and heavy manufacturing industries of the East Shropshire (Coalbrookdale) Coalfield declined in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, only to be briefly revived during the two World Wars, but the advent of the New Town in the late 1960s saw the setting up of industrial estates, which attracted a multitude of new light engineering, food and service industries.

This book surveys the range of industrial activity in East Shropshire from the previous centuries to the present, and complements Neil Clarke’s previous books



on the transport history of the coalfield and its surrounding market towns.

Copies of the book are available from all good bookshops and direct from: Amberley Publishing
www.amberley-books.com 01453 847800

Ironbridge Power Station Report

Below is a link to a report that summarises the results of a programme of historic building recording undertaken in February / March 2017 in respect of the various constituent buildings of the Ironbridge Power Station. The project was undertaken at the request of CgMs Consulting (part of RPS Group) working on behalf of Uniper Technologies Ltd.

There are over 200 images of every part of the site as it was when it closed down. Use the following link to download the report in PDF format.

http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-1138-1/dissemination/pdf/rictyler1-284055_2.pdf

A Royal Visitor

Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, husband of Princess Anne and son-in-law to the Queen, made a recent visit to Ironbridge. Sir Tim Laurence is now Chairman of English Heritage, having previously served for four years as a Commissioner following a career as a naval officer. He visited alone having driven himself from Gatcombe Park, his Gloucestershire home, to inspect the extensive £3.6 million conservation work being carried out on the bridge.

English Heritage's extensive surveys and investigations had revealed that the historic structure was under threat from cracking due to stresses in the ironwork dating back to the original construction. This has been aggravated by ground movement over the centuries and an earthquake in the 19th century.

In 2015 English Heritage became an independent charity giving it the ability to grow with greater freedom and to raise more money to conserve and present England's finest historic sites. The charity continues to receive resource Grant-in-Aid from the Government on a declining basis until 2022/23 when it will become fully self-funding.

Costing £3.6 million, Project Iron Bridge is English Heritage's single largest conservation project since the charity was formed. The project has also been supported by a €1 million donation from German funder the Hermann Reemtsma Foundation.



The Ironbridge all wrapped up in plastic which has been put in place to protect it against the elements while restoration work is carried out.

Where's Welly?



Editor: *I have been very close to home this month. Do you know where the old shop pictured above is and what the nature of its business used to be? Send me your answers and I will tell you if you are getting warm!*

In the last edition of Newsletter, we were trying to identify the building shown below. I am sure you all recognised it as the pavilion at Broseley Cricket Club.

From its inception in 1860, the Cricket Club played on the Stocking field, Broseley Wood, and from the 1920s well known professionals played for the club. This pavilion was built around 1930 and extended in 1973.



What's On?

Wed 23 May

Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust,

Quakers, Ambulance and the First World War, Betty Hagglund, 2.30pm Glass Classroom, Museum Offices, Coalbrookdale, 01952 435900

Sat 2 Jun

Shropshire Family History Society

Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker, A pictorial journey through the working lives of our Shropshire ancestors Ray Farlow, 2.30pm Shirehall, Shrewsbury, 01691 653316

Wed 20 Jun

Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust,

AGM followed by "Colonial Williamsburg" Richard Gough, 7.30pm The Board Room, Coalbrookdale, 01952 435900

Thur 19 July

Wellington History Group

History on Foot: "Little Wenlock Village and Environs"

Start Point- Little Wenlock Village Hall, Parking available. Start Time- 7.00pm. Duration - 1 hour, 30 minutes approx.

Walk Leader - Neil Clarke Contact - 01952 504135
Walk includes St Lawrence Church (12th century Lady Chapel and unique 1611 cast-iron grave slab), medieval road pattern, 16th & 17th century buildings, remains of early 18th century bell-pit mounds, landscaping of 20th century opencast mining.

The above "What's On?" is a taster of what's going on locally. Details of these meetings and more can be found at the Wrekin Local Studies Forum website.

<http://www.wlsf.org.uk/category/calendar/>

Mailbox

I am writing because I'm working on a project about the Victorian children's author Favell Lee Mortimer and want to learn as much as possible about her. In my research, I found your society's journal and a short but incredibly helpful 2007 article about her time in Broseley. Among the best bits were a citation of a letter from Lord Canon Forester to *The Times*, which seems to be the uncited source about the nature of her correspondence with Cardinal Manning that you find in most accounts about her life.

I was really impressed by the Society's write-up and was wondering if you had any further information about her or Lord Forester? I am just at the beginning stages of my research, so anything at all would be helpful.

Eric Felipe-Barkin

Steve Dewhirst writes: I am afraid I do not have any further information on Flavel Lee Mortimer or Canon Forester but I will ask for your request to be put in our newsletter and perhaps one of our members will be able to help.

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

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DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to those members who have indicated that they would be happy to have an electronic copy of the *Newsletter*. If there are any other members who would prefer it this way, please contact the membership secretary, Janet Robinson, email:

janetc46.jr.jr@gmail.com

Those of you who would still prefer to have it in its printed version can continue to look forward to receiving it through the post

Broseley Local History Society Privacy Policy

Broseley Local History Society treats the privacy of its Members, Website Users and Newsletter and Journal Subscribers seriously and takes appropriate security measures to safeguard their privacy. This policy explains how the Society protects and manages any personal data you share with us and that we hold about you.

Personal data means any information that may be used to identify an individual including a first and last name, a home or other physical address and an email address or other contact information.

How we obtain your personal data, information provided by you.

You provide us with personal data with your application when you join the Society on your application form. This information includes name, address, email address and telephone number. We use this information to manage and administer your membership or subscription to the Society and to communicate relevant information by post or email. The material includes the Society's Newsletter, Journal and subscription reminders.

We may also keep information contained in any correspondence you may have with us by post or email.

We will take reasonable security measures to protect your personal data. We will keep information about you confidential and we will keep it for an appropriate period of time in order to manage and administer your membership.

The General Data Protection Regulation grants you the right to access particular personal data that we hold about you.

You have the right to ask us to delete any personal data concerning you without undue delay.

Accuracy of information

In order to provide the service to our members, we need to keep accurate personal data about you and we need you to inform us of any changes to your contact details, such as name or address changes when they occur.

If you have any questions or queries which are not answered by this Privacy Policy please contact us.