



NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society
INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY

Feb – 2024

Issue: 60

MEETINGS

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

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BLHS PROGRAMME 2024 (TALKS & EVENTS)

Please note: check our website or our Facebook page to confirm, that the event you wish to attend is still going ahead.

Programme of events for 2024 by Neil Clarke

Jan.3 - *Broseley Church Bells*, Ginette Pardoe

Feb.7 - *The Closure of our Local Monasteries*, Neil Clarke

Mar.6 - *John Wilkinson, part 2*, Richard Sells (Annual Wilkinson Lecture)

Apr.3 - *Old Maps of Shropshire, Part 1*, Pat de Haan

May.1 - *Buildwas Abbey*, Jenny Edwards.

Jun.5 - Walk in Jackfield area (leader Steve Dewhirst)

Jul - Annual visit (date and place to be arranged)

August: No Activity

Sep.4 - Dec.4 *Details to be finalised and will be published in April's Newsletter*

NEW MEMBERS

New Members: none

Welcome Back: Dilys Caswell

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thanks to your memberships subscriptions we can offer you monthly talks, a quarterly newsletter, and a yearly journal. Subscriptions to the History Society run from October to September of each year, and can be paid either in cash or by cheque (£10 for a single entry and £15 for a joint subscription) contact details for the membership secretary can be found on page 8.

What's On Elsewhere?

Broseley /Local History Society is affiliated to the British Association for Local History and receives every quarter their newsletter and Journal, both of which are available at our meetings (the Local History News is also available online at the BALH website)

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

News from the British Association for Local History (BALH):

Local History News: No. 149 Autumn 2023

The cover photograph on the Local History News is of 'Stockport Little Underbank & Unicorn Brewery' by Nicola Turner, winner of 'Photographer of the Year'.

News Round Up:

The University of Worcester and Worcestershire Historical Society are organising a conference 'Revisiting Worcestershire's Past' on 6-7 April 2024 on the St. John's Campus. A number of papers will be delivered on a range of topics; see website for further details.

The Centre for West Midlands History (CWMH) has been re-named the Centre for Midlands History and Cultures (CMHC); see website for details & events.

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Llangollen Canal have been declared the 'most captivating' UNESCO

World Heritage Site in the World according to a survey of images that had the most 'hits'.

Barber & Sons, estate agents, have created a 'mini-museum' at their Market Drayton office to display items from their archives dating back 175 years. There was also an article recently in the Shropshire Star.

[Books published by the BALH and available for purchase through their website:](#)

'Exploring Local History' – a practical guide for teachers.

'Dates & Times' – a handbook to the systems of recording time & dates through the years

'Internet Sites for Local Historians – a directory'

'Reading Early Handwriting 1500-1700'

'Manors & Manorial Documents after 1500'

[Local History Courses for 2024](#)

The BALH in collaboration with Pharos Tutors have created 2 online 4-week courses:

'Getting Started with Local History' aimed at any local historian looking for inspiration & advice.

'Progressing Your Local History Research' aimed at developing research skills.

For details and costs see www.pharostutors.com

[THE LOCAL HISTORIAN: November 2023 Vol. 53/4](#)

Amongst the articles:

'A local Worthing business: D. H. French Ltd. Electrical Contractors 1940-1990' and Late 19th century & early 20th century rural shopkeepers and local society [Lancashire]; either provide inspiration for similar research in Broseley – anyone up for it?

Book Reviews, [with a local 'ish' reference]:

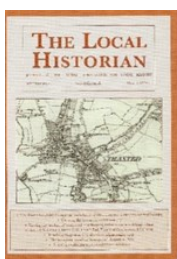
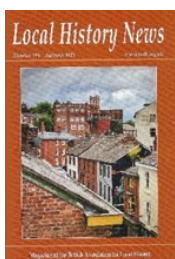
'The Medieval Stained Glass of Herefordshire & Shropshire' by Robert Walker

'Saving a Bit of Old Wood, 19 Victoria Street & 44 Queen Square, Wolverhampton' by Anthony Perry

'Children of the 1940's, A Social History'

'A Woman's Will: the changing lives of British women told through the things they have left behind'

Author Janet Doody - October 2023



PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The Christmas Dinner (Annual Dinner)

The 6th December last was a joyful occasion: the gathering happened at The Lion Hotel in Broseley and the Christmas dinner was a huge success.

Many participants attended (Committee members, members of BLHS, Friends of the IGM, Ron Miles) and Janet Robinson produced a quiz for the participants.

Pictures courtesy of Dot Cox



Joint talk with IGM Friends, Coalbrookdale

Kate Croft delivered a very inspiring talk entitled '*The Adventurous History of Sabrina Sidney: 1757-1843*':

In 1769, Thomas Day, a member of the eighteenth-century Lunar Society, decided to embark upon an ambition scheme to fashion for himself a wife, based on the theories of the philosopher, Jean-Jacques Rousseau. In order to obtain a suitable subject for his experiment, Day acquired a twelve-year old girl, from the Shrewsbury branch of the Thomas Coram Foundling Hospital.

The talk considered Day's unusual experiment in female education, the involvement of the Shrewsbury Foundling Hospital, and the fate of the girl at its centre, Sabrina Sidney.



Shrewsbury School/ Picture courtesy of Kate Croft

ARTICLES

DOCTOR NICE

"March 21st 1837 – Doctor Nice won the trial at Shrewsbury by producing his licence"

As a volunteer with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum I have recently been checking the transcription of the notes and jottings of one Thomas Beard, waterman/barge owner living in the Severn Gorge. The original notebook is with Shropshire Archives and in such a fragile condition that photocopies or handling are forbidden; however an old transcription is available, and whilst working on it the above sentence 'leapt' out at me! Followed by

"May 20th Dr Nice was sent to Salop gaol for the cost of an assize trial at Shrewsbury".

Dr Nice, no, really, I guessed it was probably an incorrect transcription but probably still worth investigation! However, although not a doctor he really was Mr Nice, a John Bradbridge Nice to be exact.

He was born on 3 Jan 1809, near Canterbury to Samuel, a surgeon & Elizabeth nee Bradbridge. In the early 1830's John Nice came to Broseley as an assistant to a surgeon and apothecary, possibly Mr Wyke, and on 5 January 1836 he married Elizabeth Oakes at St. Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth. He then seems to have set up on his own, having obtained lodgings with a Mrs Walker [Possibly Phoebe Walker of King Street, 1841 census (1766-1847)]; and it was here that people applied to him, although he kept no shop or drugs on the premises.

At the 1837 Shropshire Lent Assize, a 'Special Jury Case' that was 'important to the medical profession' was brought by the Masters and Wardens of the Apothecaries Company of London against John Bradbridge Nice. The plaintiffs alleged John Nice had practiced as an apothecary, having no licence to do so and had 'sent bills for surgical advice and attendance' and provided medicines.

Evidence was given that a Benefit Club in Broseley, having some 50 members, had engaged John Nice 'for advice and attendance' with each member paying half a crown (2 shillings & 6d or 12½p) each year. The Club Secretary showed that Nice had received 2 half yearly payments.

Mr Maule, defence counsel provided a number of witnesses who stated that Nice had been 'generally very successful and his manners uniformly kind', and that John Nice had not practiced as an apothecary but as a surgeon and therefore was not covered by the 1815 Act of Parliament, concluding that:

'if the Apothecaries Company had existed at that period, they would have instituted a prosecution against the Good Samaritan for pouring oil and wine upon the unfortunate travellers wounds'

The trial lasted from 10.00am until nearly 8.00pm that evening when the Specialist Jury, found for the Apothecaries Company on just 3 of the 9 counts, which amounted to £60.

Following this court case John and his wife left Shropshire for London and in 1841 were living in Earl Street, Marylebone where John was listed as a surgeon; things did not go smoothly here either as in May 1848 John Bradbridge Nice was arrested for the manslaughter of Mary Ann Cossins .

The case was brought to the Old Bailey on 20 May 1848 and the opening statement described it 'as one of considerable importance to the public, but particularly to the lower classes, who were frequently compelled to apply to unlicensed persons, like the prisoner for assistance'.

Nice, attended Mary Cossins as a 'man-midwife' or accoucheur, after the birth 'the patient appeared somewhat exhausted' and having given her 'some stimulant', Nice left saying he would return later to perform the necessary operation, sadly Mary died before his return. The allegation was that Nice was not 'legally qualified' to attend the birth and was incompetent in not performing the operation.

He had though, treated Mary on several occasions with 'complete success' and had 'attended upon her most carefully during the delivery'. The defence counsel said there were between 50 and 60 women who would confirm he had attended them with 'kind and careful treatment'.

After the opening address Judge Alderson stated in his opinion the facts did not support manslaughter and the evidence would not establish a case of such gross negligence as would amount to mala fides on the part of the prisoner. The prosecution then withdrew the charge and a verdict of not guilty was given.

In 1851 the Nice family, John and Elizabeth and their 5 children were living at 12 Hayes Place, Marylebone; but the family's troubles continued. Following John's death in 1857; the three youngest children, John age 10, Eleanor age 8 and Evelina age 5 were taken into St. Pancras Workhouse on May 8. Emily the older sister, age 14 was sent into service on 30 June but returned to the workhouse few days later to be 'medically treated, being released later on 4 October.

The children had been admitted from 23 Suffolk Place as destitute, 'father dead, mother left them, desertion, although had been receiving relief'. The following year the three youngest were then released to the mother and in

1861 Elizabeth with John and Eleanor were living at 2 Wakelin Terrace, Islington.

Elizabeth died on 13 July 1883 at Emcote, Warwickshire and was buried in Warwick cemetery, all expenses were paid for by Eleanor, who on her death in Hastings in 1934 was buried with her mother.



The Old Bailey / Picture courtesy of J. Doody

Sources:

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

www.ancestry.co.uk

www.findmypast.co.uk

www.oldbaileyonline.org

Author: Janet Doody - November 2023

BARROW PARISH

1) 'Saxon Heritage'

BARROW – is a lonely place with a Saxon heritage, one of the oldest and most fascinating churches in Shropshire. Its tower was set up by our first Norman builders, and its west doorway has a tympanum which was probably the work of Saxon masons just after the Conquest. It is carved with three rows of six squares, each with a different pattern. Both north and south doorways are also Norman, and they bring us into a dimly lit nave which fills us with wonder as we gaze on to the strength and massive simplicity of the ancient walls. They have stood since the 11th century, and three of their original windows remain, narrow and deeply splayed and hardly touched by time. In the chancel the sense of wonder grows, for its south wall was probably built as long ago as the 8th century and its crude masonry is as the Saxon builders left it. The north wall has a Saxon window, and a Saxon chancel arch looks sturdy enough to last another thousand years. Over the doorway through which the Norman priest would pass is the arch remaining from a window he would see.

Pausing in the chancel and looking down the nave, we may realise the sense of security the Saxons and Normans demanded in their churches. This one is small, but had it been a feudal stronghold its wall could not have been more solid. Pictures painted on them by medieval artists found last century (19th), but only a trace remains above the chancel arch. The font is ancient, and in the

porch are a few old tiles, but the interest of everything here pales that of the chancel walls which bridge a gulf of perhaps 1200 years and were old in the days of King Alfred.

A brass tablet has a tribute to Ann Hay, a faithful nurse in the Forester family at Willey Hall for nearly half a century. The hall is in a lovely park.

Taken from ARTHUR MEE'S SHROPSHIRE – first published in 1939

2) 'Barrow Parish in 1885'

Barrow is a large scattered parish of 3017 acres which includes the hamlets of Caughley, Arlescott, Posenhall, The Marsh & Swinney. The church of St. Giles is a very ancient building of stone, with some Saxon remains, it has a turret with 2 bells and a chancel arch that is Saxon work; during restoration in 1851 a full-size painting of a knight on horseback was discovered under several coats of whitewash. Tom Moody, the famous whipper-in to George Forester who died 19 Nov 1796 is buried here. The Vicarage, annexed to Willey in 1882 and is held by Rev William Henry Wayne B.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge. There are Alms-houses, founded in 1612 by Mr Slaney, for 6 aged men & women, who each receive a weekly allowance.

The soil is of mixed character, though generally a clayey nature, coal measures extend over a large part and the chief crops are wheat, barley and turnips. The population in 1881 was 313 and parish clerk is William Price of Shirlett.

Notable residents:

***Rev William Henry Wayne B.A.**, was born in 1832 in Derbyshire; on 18 Nov 1856 he married Eliza Foskett (1832-28 Nov 1891) at Much Wenlock. As Vicar of Ben-thall the couple were living at Tickwood Hall 1861/1871 and moved to Willey Rectory following William's appointment as Rector in 1878. On 25 July 1898 married Harrietta Amy/Aimee du Venoix Dawson (1863-12 Jan 1949) at Weston-Super-Mare. Rev. Wayne died at Willey Rectory on 17 July 1920; he and Eliza's eldest son, William Henry Foskett Wayne was also a clergyman.

***Thomas Howells Thursfield**, estate agent to Lord Forester, was born in 1838 and baptised at Barrow on 13 April; he married Ella Stanier on 15 June 1865 and took over the family tenancy at Barrow. He was also a magistrate, councillor and farmer of 625 acres employing 11 men and 2 boys; they later moved to The Grange in Much Wenlock where Ella died on 11 August 1904. Thomas died at St. Milburga's, Kingsland, Shrewsbury on 27 July 1908.

***William Cleeton**, farmer of Shirlett, was born in Monkhopton in 1824; the family moved to Barrow when William's father Edward took a farm tenancy at Shirlett.

William married Jane Jasper at Barrow on 10 June 1852 and took over the farm of 160 acres, following his father move to Rowton Farm. Jane died on 25 May 1876; William died at Shirlett on 18 January 1907.

***John Colebatch**, farmer of Swinney, was born at Peplow and baptised on 6 April 1825, he married Sarah Lewis on 18 July 1860 in Birmingham. In 1871 they were living in Astley Abbots and had moved to Swinney by 1881, they later moved to Sheinton. When Sarah died in 1905, John moved to Vine Cottage, Buildwas where he died on 23 July 1911.

***Job Forster**, farm bailiff to Thomas H. Thursfield (above), was born in 1849 at Ranton, Staffordshire; in 1872 he married Emma Parry. They came to Barrow by 1883 and then moved to Selattyn by 1901. The Forster family emigrated to Manitoba, Canada about 1906.

***William Grice**, farmer at Arlescott; was born in Blackfordby, Leicestershire in 1847 and he married Elizabeth Bakewell at Pershore in 1873. His father, also William Grice, had taken on Arlescott Farm by 1871 and on his death 29 November 1877, William junior took over the tenancy of 344 acres. However all was not well, by 1891, William was boarding at Vernon Street, Wolverhampton and working as a brewery horse driver, whilst his wife Elizabeth was living in Worcester with her son, yet another William; whilst their daughter, Sarah was lodging in Barrow. William continued to live in Vernon Street, working as a timekeeper for the brewery, he died on 10 July 1914 and was buried in Merridale Cemetery. Elizabeth stayed in Worcester and died there on 26 September 1917. Sarah Ann Grice became a Matron in charge of what appears to be a private asylum in East Dawlish, whilst, son William, became a dispensing chemist.

***William & Peter Jones**, farmers, Posenhall, the brothers were also brick and tile manufacturers, neither lived in Posenhall or were farmers. They owned, or possibly leased and then sub-let the farm.

***William Mear**, farmer, of The Inett, Caughley and was born in 1831 in Stapenhill, Derbyshire; he married Mary Thorp on 7 October 1861 at Repton. By 1871 they had moved to The Inett to farm its 357 acres; they remained there until 1901 when they moved to Benthall Lane. William died on 30 November 1901 and Mary moved to 9 Rough Lane, Broseley, she died in 1916.

***Joseph Owen**, farm bailiff to Lord Forester, lived at Marsh Farm; was born in 1829 at Threekingham, Lincolnshire, he married Abigail Owen on 16 September 1857 in the lovely named Deeping Fen. By 1871 Joseph had arrived in Willey and was farm steward for Lord Forester, moving to Marsh Farm by the next census. The couple then moved to farm at Selattyn and following the death of his wife in April 1909 Joseph moved to lodge in Oswestry where he died in January 1915.

***Richard Roberts**, blacksmith of Posenhall was born at Kenley and baptised there on 18 May 1823, he married his second wife, Emma Cookson on 21 October 1850 at All Saints, Wellington, for nearly 30 years the couple lived at Lightmoor. In 1881 they had moved to Benthall Lane, where Richard now employed his son, Richard Henry; Richard senior died in December 1895 and was buried at Benthall on 11 December. Emma died in 1902, Richard junior married in 1881 and moved to London.

***John Wilkinson**, farmer at Posenhall Farm, born 1826 near Hodnet, took the tenancy of Posenhall Farm by 1885, left for Withington by 1901.

***Thomas Wright** of Shirlett, a farmer and labourer was born in 1816 at Wem and came to Barrow as an indoor servant to William Thursfield. On 13 June 1861 he married Ann Preece at Barrow and moved into a farm in Shirlett; Thomas died in 1886, and Ann moved to her daughter's in Aylesbury where she died in 1897

***William Price** (1852-1938), parish clerk, carpenter and joiner of Shirlett, later of Atterley.

***Arlescott**: together with Marsh and Shirlett are 3 hamlets

***Caughley** was until 1814 the site of Caughley or Salopian china works which then removed to Coalport

***Posenhall**, formerly an extra-parochial place of area 338 acre with population in 1871 of 21, extra-parochial means an area outside the jurisdiction of the adjoining parish. No poor or church rates were paid, and the tithe money went to the Crown. In 1894 all extra-parochial areas were made into parishes or incorporated into existing ones, Posenhall had been absorbed into Barrow parish in 1883.



Barrow church St Giles /Picture courtesy of BLHS archives

Author: Janet Doody – November 2023

B.L.H.S MISCELLANEOUS

By Steve Dewhirst

BENTHALL DIG

Through Dr Roger White we have been able to obtain sponsorship from the Padget Fund for a two-day archaeological dig on Benthall Edge. This will be supervised by Will Logan of the Clwyd Powis Archaeological Trust who was in charge of our 2022 dig. This year we will concentrate on investigating the charcoal platforms as we know very little about them and when they operated and if possible, we will collect samples for radiocarbon dating. Resource permitting, we may also be able to continue investigating the features associated with early railways that we found on the last dig.

The dig will take place on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th of April 2024. Please contact Steve Dewhirst (steve@broseley.org.uk) if you are interested in taking part.

By Janet Doody

AN EXTRAORDINARY DUCK: On Wednesday morning Mr Clement Fennell, of the Victoria Inn [Broseley], had a hatch of ducks, eight in number. Upon examining them closely, he found one of the little ones with two perfect heads, partly separate, in one of which there were two perfect eyes and one on the right side of the other, two perfectly developed beaks quite separate, and one pair of wings, one body and one tail. The feathered curiosity died soon after being hatched but has been preserved by Mr Fennell.

WELLINGTON JOURNAL 27 June 1885

Clement Fennell (c1852-1919) was born in Madeley and became a china potter, living sometime in Stoke on Trent. On his 2nd marriage in 1883, his occupation is given as that of publican, although on no census is he living as a publican. In 1911 living in High Street, Madeley he is an agent for wine spirits and beer.

By Steve Dewhirst

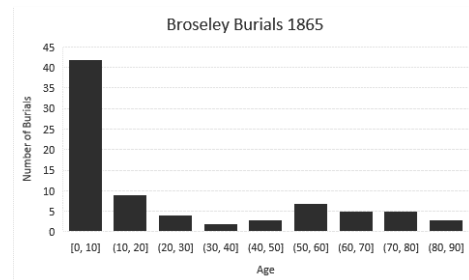
LIFE EXPECTANCY IN BROSELEY IN 1865

The burial registers for Broseley Church churchyard are online so I thought it would be interesting to see what the average life expectancy was in Victorian times.

- Taking a random year of 1865 there were 80 burials in Broseley. Although we know infant mortality was high in these times it was shocking to discover that over half (42) of the burials were for children under 10 and of these 22 never reached their first birthday.

- Only 9 people died between 20 and 50 suggesting that working life was not too injurious to life and thirteen (17%) people died aged 60 or over the oldest being 87.

- The figures give an average life expectancy of 23 but this nearly doubled to 44 if you made it to 5 years of age and if you made it to 20 you could expect to live until at least 55. This shows just how skewed the figures are by infant deaths.



Graph courtesy of Steve Dewhirst

MAILBOX

By Alan Tyler

BROSELEY EMIGRANTS TO THE AMERICAS

A book published c.1929 with the very descriptive title Bristol and America, a record of the first settlers in the colonies of north America 1654-1685, including the names and places of origin of more than 10,000 servants to foreign plantations who sailed from the port of Bristol to Virginia, Maryland, and other parts of the Atlantic coast and also to the West Indies from 1654 to 1685 includes more than 120 women and men who possibly originated in Shropshire. Of those, three identified their place of origin as Broseley/Browsley - Ann Amphlett, Katherine Perry and Francis Sansom. That of Thomas Amphlett is not given though he may also have been from this area. Three of this group went to Barbados.

We know that both Amphlett and Perry were common surnames in the Broseley/Jackfield area but consulting the Shropshire baptisms listed on Find My Past produced no dates that would match either of the ladies in question.

There was a Francis son of Matthew & Alis Sansom baptized the 20 June 1649 and a Francis Sansome son of Francis & Abigail baptized 7 December 1656 but both of them had died prior to 27 June 1684 when a Francis Sansom from Browsley departed Bristol bound for either Virginia or Pennsylvania aboard the 'Bristol Merchant'.

Anyone interested can find out a little more by reading at the Reverend W.D.G. Fletcher's note in Trans Shropshire Archaeol Soc., XLV[1] (1929) misc. vii-viii.

By Alan Blow

EVANS COAL MINERS FROM BROSELEY TO OLDHAM

'Several years ago, while researching Evans family history, an article through your website from Journal 23, 2001 provided the key that unlocked the proverbial ancestry logjam. It had to do with a migration of Broseley miners to Worsley, where they signed on with the 3rd Duke of Bridgewater.

I believe one of those miners was my 4th G. Grandfather, George Evans.

I'm hoping to hear from Evans descendants, might be related!

All the online articles I found suggested coal was getting tough to find by the late 1700s in the Broseley / Madeley area.

However, I did receive a copy of an article, from the late 1840s, I believe, regarding Evans, Barker and Co. trying to hire miners out of the Broseley area because of a workers strike going on in Oldham...'

Read the full article on the following link:

Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society
<https://mlfhs.uk/oldham-hidden-9>

If you think you are either related or know some relation of the EVANS family please get in touch with:

steve@broseley.org.uk

BROSELEY PLAQUES

THE CEMETERY CHAPEL

On 25 June 1885 the Wellington Journal reported the consecration of the new Broseley Cemetery by the Bishop of Hereford, together with the opening of the Cemetery Chapel.

For some time the Local Burial Board had discussed the need for a new burial ground and its possible location, eventually purchasing the present site for £175. The chapel itself was constructed by local tradesmen using local bricks and roofing tiles and was completed in 1884. Just before the opening the Burial Board reported that gas put in the chapel and Messrs. Burnett & Lister had been authorised to 'procure whatever furniture was necessary for the vestry'.

The surprising feature is the beautiful floor tiles by Craven Dunnill and probably donated by them as they were said to have been 'left overs' from an order for the Palace Chambers, Westminster. In 1924 Major Prestage supplied 'a handsome wheeled bier' there was no fixed charge for its use but any money that was given was donated the Church's Sick and Poor Fund; and Mrs Prestage gave a pall [a cloth for covering the coffin] for use with the bier.

The local newspaper reported the number of funeral services were conducted in the chapel, probably to the 1940's but gradually the chapel fell out of use as a chapel of ease. It became a storage room for Broseley Town Council and by the millennium the structure had begun to deteriorate.

Initially Broseley Partnership's application for funding was declined but with perseverance alternative funding was found allowing the purchase of an alternative storage facility and the restoration of the chapel.



Pictures courtesy of Jocelyne Barbier

The BLHS Newsletter of May 2011 stated the Plaque had been placed on the chapel porch and the following edition (August) reported the official 're-opening' of the Cemetery chapel, on a particularly wet day by the Deputy Mayor of Broseley Councillor Derek Armstrong.

Author: Janet Doody - November 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS

By Janet Doody

A VISIT TO CHEPSTOW

If you haven't been, I'd recommend a visit, before, or after seeing Tintern Abbey perhaps; it's a nice little market town with a wonderful castle, which, although maintained by CADW is free if you're English Heritage members. The castle covers quite a large area, is not totally ruinous and has a very good audio guide. Unfortunately being Armistice Day a rocket/cannon thing was to be fired at both 11.00am & 11.02 from within the castle; so I had to beat a hasty retreat with the old dog, who is terrified of that sort of thing; (and it was loud!)

So Kimi Dog and I wandered down to the river to look at the lovely old Chepstow Bridge; also known as the Old Wye Bridge or Town Bridge. It is a cast iron construction built by Hazeldine, Rastrick & Co. of Bridgnorth, with a design adapted by John Rastrick and was opened in 1816. After joining up with Chris, we wandered into the town for coffee (plenty of coffee houses & pubs!) and viewed the unusual war memorial. It is a naval gun captured from a U-Boat and given to the town by King George V in recognition of the bravery of Able Seaman Charles Williams V.C.

Charles Williams was, in fact born at Stanton Lacy in Shropshire, but was brought up in Chepstow he was awarded the Victoria Cross as during the landing at Seddul Bahr, (Gallipoli), 'he assisted in replacing in position the lighters forming a bridge to the shore, which had broken adrift, and holding on to a line in the water for over an hour until killed'.

So two Shropshire reasons for visiting Chepstow, together with Tintern Abbey and the beautiful Wye Valley.



Town Bridge / Picture courtesy of Ray Jones

DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thank you to those members who have indicated they would be happy to have electronic copies of the Newsletter. If there are any other members who would prefer it this way please contact the membership secretary, **Janet Robinson**, see her contact details on the Committee's list (right column).

Those of you would prefer to have it in its printed form can continue to look forward to receiving it through the post. Many thanks.

Broseley Local History Society Committee

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