

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY

August – 2024 Issue: 62

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.

CONTENT **BLHS Programme** Page 1 **New Members & Subscriptions** Page 1 What's On Elsewhere Pages 1-2 **Previous Meetings** Pages 2-3 **Articles** Pages 3-6 **Robert Bateman** Pages 3-4 **Rev. Robert Henry Cobbold** Pages 4-5 **Rev. George Fleming Lamb** Pages 5-6 **BLHS Plaques** Pages 6-7 **Tales Of The Red Church Part 2** Page 8 Mailbox Page 9 **Recommendations & Distribution** Page 9 **Contacts** Page 9

BLHS PROGRAMME 2024 (TALKS & EVENTS)

by Neil Clarke

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

Sep.4 - Posenhall Reservoir, Peter Cross

Oct.2 - Early Maps of Shropshire **Part 2**, Pat de Haan

Nov.6 - Debunking the Iron Bridge, David de Haan (joint with Friends of IGMT, in The Glass Classroom at Coalbrookdale)

Dec.4 - Annual Dinner

Jan. 8 – 'T. P. Everall and the King Street Maltings', Steve Dewhirst

Feb. 5 – Bow hauling on the Upper Severn, Neil Clarke

Mar. 5 – 'King of the Ironmasters', part 3 (Annual Wilkinson Lecture), Richard Sells.

New members:

Helen Osborne

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.

We would like to encourage you to opt for the digital version if you can, this would help us to keep our postage fees low; please let the membership secretary know about your choice. Many thanks in advance.

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) by **Janet Doody**:

News from the British Association for Local History

Local History News (no.151)

Shropshire features a number of times in this edition, not least our very own Steve Dewhirst, whose analysis of burial registers was noted. Church Stretton Area Local History Group's Workhouse Research Project has produced a book and exhibition; details are available at

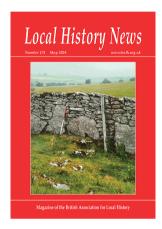
www.churchstrettonhistory.com

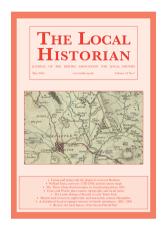
and Alan Crosby (editor of The Local Historian) tells of a recent visit to friends on Wenlock Edge and his encounter with an 'overfull' ford.

Other articles includes an introduction to the new BALH president, Jackie Eales; Scotland's 1st black MP, Peter McLagan; useful notes on leading guided walks; reopening after 4 years of Britain's on hat-making museum in Stockport.

The Historian (Vol.54/2)

There is an article featured that is relevant to the talks on maps recently given by Pat De Haan "William Yates, surveyor, (1738-1802) and his county maps by Stephen Leach & Hugh Torrens. History creeping ever closer with interesting reading on the Three Choirs Festival making its BBC broadcasting debut in September 1925 from Gloucester Cathedral; and reviews of new books about the Second World War. "The Archaeology of the Ironbridge Gorge in 20 Digs" by Mike Newell is also reviewed on the BALH website.





(pictures of publications covers courtesy of BALH)

PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Last May, Jenny Edwards delivered a comprehensive talk about Buildwas Abbey from its origins to nowadays and how such a building and its inhabitants shaped the destiny of this part of Shropshire.



(picture courtesy of Jenny Edwards)

June was the month of our summer walk: a very popular event, lead by Steve Dewhirst around the Jackfield area.

Starting at Maws Tileworks ==> Brief history of Maw's works at Benthall and Jackfield ==> Salthouses (by Half Moon) – landslip in 1952 and stabilisation work. Where geology made the land so unstable and the formation of Gorge during the Ice Age ==> Sheet piping on the Madeley side of the river from the 1930s that is still helping to stabilise the bank even though it is now at 45 degrees ==> The boilers used by Maw to stabilise the 1880 landslip which failed in 1983

Jackfield church ==> Formation of the parish in 1861. A Memorial to George Pritchard which was built in 1863 to replace the Red Church. Designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield using polychromatic brickwork and local materials.

Craven Dunnill ==> Jackfield Rails – early railways, coal mining and river traffic ==> Craven Dunnill on site of Ash Tree pottery

Calcutts Ironworks. George Matthews, Alexander Brodie - canons and stoves for Navy. Hazeldine - Shrewsbury ironmaster and gates made for Gotha Canal. James Foster takeover of works and his descendants mined ironstone until the 1880s ==> WW2 tank concrete cylinder used at tank traps.

Jackfield sidings and use of the railway to ship roofing tiles ==> Brymbo railway bridge

Coalford Chapel ==> Chapel Road. Site of Jones brick and tile works. Two other works were nearby. Large scale to brick and tile making industry in the 1800s.

Severn Valley Railway route and use as road after 1980s landslip ==> Site of Wallce roofing tileries. State of the art in 1900 ==> Maw's mines for clay on the opposite side of the railway ==> Tuckies mine pumping hose form 18c. The only remaining complete steam engine house in the Gorge

Jackfield Ferry disaster. Bob Herrick gave details ==> Memorial footbridge ==> Return to Maws











(Pictures courtesy of Janet Robinson)

In July, the members enjoyed a guided visit of Ludlow. Unfortunately the weather was not on their side and therefore no pictures were taken during the day.

Two groups were formed and took different routes, Ja**net Doody** comments on her group: 'The gentleman guide ... described the buildings in the Market Square and along to the church (St. Lawrence), pointing out mason's markers on some of the timber-framed buildings on the way - likening them to Ikea prefabricated constructions! Next The Hoysers Almshouses, He didn't take us into the church but described some of the memorials on the exterior, to "Shropshire Lad" author A. E.Houseman and to a Capt. Adrian Jones, who became a re-known sculptor, especially of horses. The Reader's House, 14th century Bulls Inn (now "Ye Olde Bull Ring Tavern"); he gave a detailed and interesting description of the buildings of medieval Ludlow. By which time most of us were gasping for a cup of coffee (obtained in the church) and I think most of us thought it was an excellent 'taster' and we should return (as individuals) to pursue it at a more leisurely pace'.

And, **Janet Robinson** added: 'Our guide's name was Ian. He had been a teacher at the local college and was very knowledgeable. He had a folder with maps and photographs, which he shared with us.'







(Pictures of Ludlow dated 2019 courtesy of Jocelyne Barbier)

ARTICLES

A BENTHALL HALL RESIDENT – ROBERT BATEMAN (1842-1922) By Janet Doody

Sources:

www.ancestry.co.uk & www.victorianweb.org

In the 1901 census there is a rather insignificant entry for the occupant of Benthall Hall: *Robert Bateman, age* 59, married, living on own means, place of birth N.K. (not known) gone away. It appears on census night Mr Bateman, and presumably his wife who was not named, were away from the property and the left the 'form filling' to the servants, so who were Mr & Mrs Robert Bateman?

Robert Bateman, born on 12 August 1842 at Biddulph Grange, Stoke-on-Trent, the son of horticulturist and landscape gardener, James Bateman. Robert became an artist, entering the Royal Academy Schools in 1865; he toured Europe and North Africa and exhibited his work in a number of galleries.

On 18 October 1883 he married widow, Caroline Octavia Wilbraham nee Howard and they moved to Benthall Hall in 1890. The couple played an active part in the local community, supporting the Much Wenlock Olympian Society and the Coalbrookdale Institute, where Mr Bateman often gave out the annual prizes and certificates with his friend Mr George Maw. Mrs Bateman, an accomplished musician organised the church choirs and became president of the Madeley branch of the Shropshire Needlework Guild. In 1892 as a thank-you to local people who 'worked on the old building', the couple provided a 'substantial supper' and miscellaneous entertainment at Benthall Hall. Robert Bateman also redesigned the gardens surrounding the Hall, adding rockeries and terraces. In 1901 Robert was amongst the founder members of the Society of Painters in Tempera, a group of artists wishing to revive the art of tempera painting.

In 1906 Mr & Mrs Bateman left Shropshire for Nunnery Delamere (now Rockfield House) near Frome; Caroline died on 30 July 1922 and Robert just a few days later on 11 August, the eve of his 80th birthday, following a short illness. The couple are buried in St. George's churchyard, Whately, Somerset.

The Victorian web describes Robert Bateman as a painter, an amateur architect, sculptor, garden designer/gardener, illustrator of both books and periodicals and having interests in botany, horticulture and philosophy.

For more information on Robert and Caroline Bateman see The Lost Pre-Raphaelite, The Secret Life and Loves of Robert Bateman by Nigel Daly and Robert Bateman: A True Victorian by Amanda Kavanagh

'Following the writing of this article I thought it was about time I paid a visit to Benthall Hall as it had been years since I'd been. Unfortunately I was a bit late for the crocus but the daffodils were still in flower and a magnificent cherry tree was in full blossom. The glorious interior rooms are mostly taken with up with the Benthall family history and I was disappointed in there is little on either Robert Bateman or George Maw. But an enjoyable visit none the less with the improvement of the 'Shepherd's Hut' in the car park for coffee and snacks!'



(Picture courtesy of Lilypepperkins, <u>CC BY-SA 3.0</u>, via Wikimedia Commons)



(Picture of Robert Bateman, courtesy of <u>www.victorianweb.org</u> & <u>Lanigan</u>)

REV. ROBERT HENRY COBBOLD (1820-1893)

by Janet Doody

Robert Henry Cobbold was born in Eye, Suffolk, to Robert Knipe Cobbold, a brewer and Emily May; he was baptised 14 January 1820 at St Peter & St Paul; and thus began a fascinating life.

He was educated at Shrewsbury School, leaving in 1839 for St Peter's College, Cambridge where he gained his BA (1843) and MA (1846). He became a member of the Cambridge 'Eight' gaining his rowing 'Blue' in the 1841 boat race beating Oxford by 1 minute 5 seconds, (22 lengths); although the following year he was in the defeated team losing by 13 seconds. He was voted President of the Cambridge University Boat Club in 1843 but no race was competed for that year.

Robert was ordained in 1844, becoming curate at Southwold; Norwich and Melton Mowbray before sailing, in 1847 for Ningpo, China with the Church Missionary Society (CMS). He wrote from there to Caroline Browne in 1849 proposing marriage, which she accepted 'enthusiastically'; however her father, the Rector of Hemingstone refused. Eventually he was persuaded to consent to the marriage but the CMS then refused permission for Robert to leave his position. Finally he appealed to his father who agreed to pay all the necessary sea passages and the CMS agreement was obtained; now recently appointed Archdeacon of Ningpo he sailed to England and married Caroline on 13 April 1852 at Bosmere, Suffolk

The couple returned to China and their first children, Robert Russell (1853), Charles Herbert (1854) and Emily Alice (1857) were born there. A growing family and concerns with ill health they decided to return to England where Robert was first appointed Vicar of Field Dalling in Norfolk before becoming Rector of Broseley with Linley in 1859. Newspaper reports show that Rev Cobbold became involved in many aspects of the Broseley community, a playing member of Broseley Cricket Club; Secretary of the Severn Valley Field Club, member of the town council, talks and lectures, education and of course Sunday Schools; and in 1869 he was also appointed Rural Dean of Wenlock. Whilst here in Broseley he became a published author when "The Chinese at Home or Pictures of the Chinese drawn by Themselves, described by Rev R. H. Cobbold, Rector of Broseley Salop, late archdeacon of Ningpo" was issued in 1860.

After nearly 14 years in Broseley the family moved to Ross-on-Wye; when the Rev Cobbold was appointed Rector of Ross. On leaving Broseley the parishioners presented him and his wife with 'a very handsome teakettle, teapot, coffee pot, sugar basin & cream jug of very chaste workmanship' together with an 'address' on vellum.

After failing health for some time Rev Robert Henry Cobbold, Rector of Ross, Rural Dean & Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral, died 16 September 1893, age 73 and was buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Ross-on-Wye.

Children:

Robert Russell: 1853-1925 (Rev Robert Cobbold was

born in Ningpo, China)

Charles Herbert, mining engineer, 1855-1929, (born in

Ningpo, China)

Emily Alice: 1857-1899, (born in Ningpo, China)

Francis Edward Davy 1859-1906, (Rev Francis Cobbold

served in India)

Cecil Montague: 1861-1877

George Ernest: 1862-(died in France sometime between

1876-1880)

Henry Ralph: 1863-1929 (Rev Henry Cobbold died in Cal-

cutta, India)

Caroline Edith: 1865-1928, (married John McConnel)

Sources:

www.ancestry.com www.findmypast.co.uk www.familytree.cobboldfht.com www.britishnewspaperarchive.com

<u>Pictures of the Chinese Drawn by Themselves, described by Rev R. H. Cobbold, Rector of Broseley Salop, late archdeacon of Ningpo"</u>; is available as a reproduction print.



(Picture courtesy of BLHS's private collection)

REV GEORGE FLEMING LAMB by Janet Doody

The Rev. George Fleming Lamb was Rector of Broseley for 36 years from 1873 until 1909. He was born in Bengal, India the only child of the Rev George Fleming Lamb and his wife Maria, nee March. On the death of her husband in 1846 Maria and George junior returned to England and in1851 were living at Abington Street, Northampton.

George became an undergraduate at Oriel College Oxford in 1861, gaining his BA in 1864 and MA in 1871; and was a curate at St. John Ladywood, Birmingham between 1865 to 1867. He moved to Amberley in Gloucestershire in 1867 and married Emily Harriet Jesson Dawes (1848-1925) on 22 April 1868 at Cheltenham; he was for a short time at Burton-on-Trent (1872-73) and Kidderminster (1873) before being appointed at Broseley with Linley, where he lived at The Rectory.

Rev Lamb's widowed mother lived with them for a time before moving to Bank Cottage in High Street, where she was cared for by a nurse until her death in December 1901.

The Rev George Fleming Lamb together with his wife, son Ernest, daughter Eva and son-in-law, Arthur Exley, retired to The Poplars at Bridgnorth. Rev. Lamb died on 2 January 1915, where both he and his wife Emily (died 2nd February 1925) are buried.

The children of Rev. George & Emily:

Ernest Fleming Lamb: born 1869 at Amberley, became a bank clerk, in 1939, now retired was living with married sister Eva, at The Poplars, where he died 3 Jan 1943.

Eva Florence: born 1871 also in Amberley; in 1909 she married Arthur Arrowsmith Exely (1873-1946), a brick & tile manufacturer, at Broseley. Eva died on 22 June 1966 in Marston Green, Warwickshire. The couple had one daughter Emily Margaretta Arrowsmith Exley

Reginald Heber Dawes: born in Broseley in 1884; in 1909 he married Maud Caroline Bickerstaff,(1879-1960 in Ontario) the daughter of the Rev Charles Isaac Bickerstaff at Kidderminster. The couple had one child Charles Stanley Dawes Lamb, the marriage appears not to have been a success, Maud eventually emigrated with Charles to Canada.

Reginald moved to the south coast and seemed to have been a photographer; he also changed his name to Dawes-Lamb. In 1939 he was living in Hove with a Beatrice Dawes-Lamb, (1874-1954), although there is no record of a marriage. Reginald died 1971 in Sussex.



(Picture courtesy of BLHS's private collection)

BROSELEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY PLAQUES

- THE OLD SCHOOL by Janet doody

BROSELEY NATIONAL [CHURCH OF ENGLAND] SCHOOL

The title of 'National School' indicates that it is supported by the established church, the Church of England. By 1837 there was a National School in Broseley that was held in a room over the Market Hall and in 1849 there were 205 places but an average attendance of only 113.

A new National school with 3 departments, boys, girls and infants together with an adjoining schoolhouse, was built in 1855 on land provided by Lord Forester. It was designed by Robert Griffiths of blue brick in the Tudor style and cost £1600; the school was overcrowded in the 1870's and so was enlarged in 1876 to hold 550 pupils.

From 1939 to 1943 the school accommodated evacuees from Liverpool, with classes being held at the Rectory and the Town Hall. By 1950 pupils aged 13 transferred to the Madeley Modern School (later the Abraham Darby Comprehensive) then in 1970 secondary pupils went to the William Brookes School in Much Wenlock. However by the 1960's 'the building was outdated, inconvenient and dreary' with poor facilities and in 1967 it closed and was replaced by open-plan premises in Dark Lane. The old school building now contains the Broseley Library and Broseley Medical Centre.

"Memories" on the BLHS website, record that the boys had the 'library' end of the building, whilst the girls had the 'surgery' end. The wall dividing the earth – not tarmac, playground was '7ft. high and you [boys presumably!] got the cane if you tried to climb it' and if the football went over the wall 'you never got it back'. There was no formal school uniform until the 1960's; 'boys wore shorts winter and summer' whilst 'some wore clogs and some hob-nailed boots' and there were regular inspections for cleanliness.

Sources:

Victoria County History: www.britishhistoryonline Broseley Local History Society website





(Pictures courtesy of Jocelyne Barbier)

- BANK HOUSE, BROSELEY SOCIAL CLUB, HIGH STREET by Janet Doody

The third Broseley Local History Plaque was placed on this building, now the Broseley Social Club in 2009, marking the residence of George Pritchard (1793-1861); a gentleman held in high regard and, as his obituary reported, a 'supporter of almost every charity and undertaking in the district". This Society has published a leaflet about George Pritchard, so instead of the man this article is about Bank House and its equally interesting history.

The building was Grade II listed on 23 October 1950 by Historic England and described as being red brick of 3 storeys with 2 convex single bays. There is a moulded wood door casement with open pediment (formerly with a modern lean-to canopy extending to the pavement), it had previously had 19th century wrought iron railings but the gate posts have been retained. There is some discrepancy as to the date of the building, both Pevsner and Historic England suggest early 19th century, whilst the illustrated town guide gives a building date of 1750.

It was originally built as a private house and in 1838 the Tithe Map Apportionments describe the property as a House with Garden, Buildings, Bank & Office, owned by Lord Forester and leased to the Pritchard family. The Tithe Map shows a large plot numbered 52, with the house, on the right without the 'convex single bays' and the offices on the left.

The Victoria County History states that: "Broseley became one of Shropshires most considerable towns in the 18th century; as trade increased local professionals and manufacturers joined in the provision of banking services". John Pritchard, senior (1759-1837), who had moved from Ironbridge to Bank House in 1791 and built up a successful law firm together with his sons John and George. Foreseeing the development in commerce, in 1799 John senior became partner in the Bank of Vickers, Son & Pritchard; with John senior's death and his sons John and George took over the running of the Bank, leaving the solicitors side to their uncle George Potts. In 1888 Lloyds Bank took over the Pritchard Bank, later moving to adjacent premises, before its more recent sad demise of any bank in Broseley following that of so many similar towns.

In 1922 Bank House opened as the Broseley Social Club with, then, a resident steward; the club now has an excellent bowling green, beer garden and bar facilities. It is also home to this Society's monthly meetings.

Sources:

The Victoria County History

Broseley Local History Society Website, Newsletter &

Journals May 2009

Historic England

Broseley Social club website

www.ancestry.co.uk



(Picture courtesy of Jocelyne Barbier)

COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES





Mike Starkey
Club Steward,
left, with Michael
Pope and Society
Chairman Gillian
Pope with the
commemorative
plaque to George
Pritchard
recently installed
at the Social Club

(Picture courtesy of BLHS)

MISCELLANEOUS

Tales of the Red Church Part 2 by Graham Hollox

Friends of the Red Church and on BLHS's website

Contact Graham Hollox via steve@broseley.org.uk

<u>Tales Of The Red Church Part 2</u> on sale at the Broseley Library and at the next session of BLHS talk on 4th Sep at the Social Club for £4 per copy

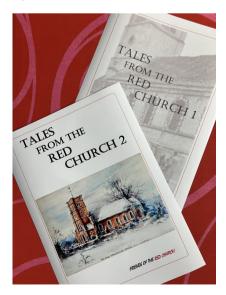
As members will know, 'Friends of the Red Church' was formed nearly five years ago to make the old church Red Church site more respectful and respectable. Very helpful volunteers have helped clear unwanted vegetation, started to tidy up heavily damaged graves and memorials and to reveal the foundations of the church building so that it can be made more obvious. Contractors have felled damaged and diseased trees and the site, particularly in winter and spring has a much more orderly appearance than in summer when vegetation is allowed to give nature its head. Many have appreciated the attractive profusion of wild garlic after the little - but increasing - presence of spring flowers.

However, one of the main objectives of the Friends is to see what we can find out about the people baptised or buried at the church. Following the demolition in 1961 there are only a dozen or so obvious memorials with readable inscriptions, however, the Parish records indicate that some 1200 persons were buried there. What did all these people do? What were their lives like? What contributions did they make to the history of the district?

Well, we've started to get some answers. Four years ago, we published the pamphlet 'Tales from the Red Church 1'. In that, we had a snapshot of important ironmaking industrialists from the Brodie and Cochrane families, accomplished artists in the Stephen family, and others such as the Amphlett family forced to change from barge working to other businesses when iron and coal resources ran out and more reliable canal and rail transportation was developed. We had a glimpse into the tough life for families in those times, such as the Booths suffering the sad death of a mother after childbirth, her baby and another daughter, a tragedy reflected in the painful poetry of the memorial inscription. One surprise was the burial of members of the manorial Phillips family; the memorial to them remains today in the new Saint Mary's church in Jackfield.

Now we have expanded our findings into 'Tales 2'. In this, we cover the major influence of the river through stories of the Beard family - it was a friend providing employment in barge building and trading but at times an enemy as catastrophically demonstrated by the Coalport ferry disaster. We deal with different aspects of life as widely apart as comments from a brickmaker contributing to better employment conditions for children and the tragedy of the cholera epidemic of the 1830s. We have the story of two cousins who were important artists for the Maw's and Craven Dunnill companies. Another remarkable story is of the link between a young girl born in the Jitties and a naval disaster. We have an example of a labourer in a brickyard leaving to become a successful businessman in Manhattan. So many young persons take completely different kinds of careers than their parents - in one case there's a progression through generations from farmer to metal plater to a vicar and then a member of the Army Veterinary Corps in one World War One - maybe providing Broseley's contribution to 'War Horse'? There's a lot more in it including the story of the lady who funded building the church, the effect of closure of the churchyard in 1885, the reasons why no marriages took place at the church and a family which included a sequence of burials covering four generations.

We hope that 'Tales from the Red Church' will be of interest to members of the society as it is a key feature of our fundraising efforts. Additionally if any members would like a guided tour of the site or would consider volunteering there or in exploring family records, that would be very welcome.



(Picture courtesy of Graham Hollox, please note that Tales from the Red Church Part 1 is out of print)

BENTHALL DIG 5th & 6th Sep with Steve Dewhirst

Broseley Local History Society



Picture courtesy of Berlin Technical Museum

MAILBOX

1- Do you know anything about the person mentioned in this poster? If you have some useful information about the candidate please contact

steve@broseley.org.uk

(Municipal Elections Broseley Ward Thursday 10th of May 1962)



2- Steve Dewhirst received the request below:

'... I am researching the life of Edward Jaguski and wondered if any of your members could help.

Edward was a fork-lift truck driver who lived at Flat 1, 10 Bridgnorth Road in Broseley from at least the early 1980s. He died on New Year's Eve 2000 and is buried in Broseley Cemetery, a Janet McGorman of Broseley arranging the burial.

Edward's wife Elsie had died in 1981 and Edward was buried with her.

Did any members know Edward or Elsie and is there anyone connected with Broseley who would be able to take a photograph of their grave? Many thanks in advance...'

Jenna Munday of the Town Council tells us that their grave plot is F2.

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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To see this Newsletter in full colour, go to

https://www.broseley.org.uk/news.htm

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