



NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society
INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY

February– 2025

Issue: 64

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.

New members:

Rachel Waterson

Nick & Mia Harrington

CONTENT

BLHS Programme	Page 1
New Members & Subscriptions	Page 1
What's On Elsewhere	Pages 1-2
Previous Meetings	Page 3
Special Announcement	Page 4
The Lawns	Page 5
Ironbridge & Broseley Station	Page 6
Miscellaneous	Pages 6 & 7
The Red Church	Page 8
Events & Distribution + Contacts	Page 9

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 or bank transfer (£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**:

There are a number of commemorations and anniversaries taking place across 2025; S&DR200 - celebrating 200 years of the opening of the Stockton Darlington Railway, Jane Austen,(1775/2025) celebrating 250 years of her birth (for events see the websites) and 80 years since the end of World War 2.

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.

2025

Feb.5 - *Broseley Pipeworks*, Kate Cadman

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

April.2 - *Bow hauling on the Upper Severn*, Neil Clarke

May.7 - *Early Steam Engines in Broseley*, Steve Dewhurst

June.4 - Summer Walk (To be decided)

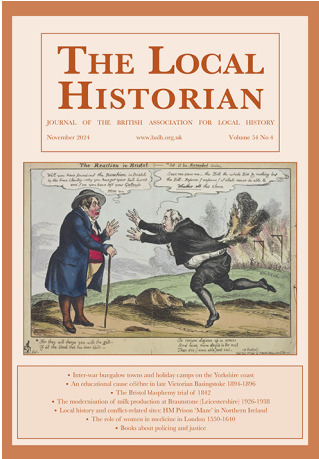
July.5 - Summer Outing (To be decided)

Local History News (no. 153) – Cheshire Archives are now closed whilst new premises are developed due to re-open in 2026; the archives team will continue to answer enquiries.

The Local Historian (Vol.54 No.4) – book reviews – ‘A Friend indeed; The life of Henry Stanley Newman, a Quaker grocer in Leominster; ‘Pubs & Breweries of the black Country’. Plus articles on ‘The Bristol blasphemy Trial of 1842’; on Layton & flowers and the modernisation of milk production 1926-1938; A Study of HM Prison ‘Maze’ in Northern Ireland and the role of women in medicine 1550-1640; and an interesting one on Yorkshire interwar ‘bungalow towns’ & holiday camps.



These black and white photos come from Janet Doody family archives. “All taken in 1938 at Butlins Skegness. Grand-dad is Edward [Ted] Hough 1896-1985 of Bridgnorth Road, Broseley; Mom is his daughter Irene [Rene Beddows nee Hough, 1922-1996; and Uncle Sid is Sid Feasey, her cousin 1923-2003, who came to work at Buildwas Power Station as HR Manager and lived for a short time in Wilkinson Avenue before moving to Shrewsbury”.



(pictures of publications covers courtesy of BALH)

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

In November, we attended the joint meeting with the Friends of IGMT at the Glass Room in Coalbrooke Dale.

David De Haan was debunking the bridge (myths and reality of the legends about the Iron Bridge)

The jury is still out on the original colour of the bridge which according to David was black!



(Pictures courtesy of Jocelyne Barbier)

In December, BLHS celebrated Christmas through their annual dinner. Gillian Pope & Janet Robinson provided the entertainment.



(Pictures courtesy of Dot Cox)

In January, we resumed the talks at the Social Club and started the year with a talk given by **Steve Dewhirst** on . P. Everall and the King Street Maltings’

“The talk was in 2 parts:

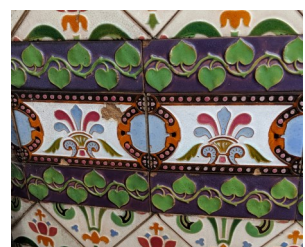
-In 1838 there were eighteen maltings in Broseley, some small ones associated with pubs but others were producing malt for sale elsewhere. There are surviving maltings including one on Queens Street and at Folly Farm. Thomas Gough (1781-1850) bought the King Street Maltings and other properties in 1809 but he also set himself up as a butcher. On his death, the maltings were sold to Samuel Davies who continued to run the butchery business.

Samuel Davies died in 1870 and his wife and son Thomas continued to run the business. In 1886 the maltings were out of use but the butchery business and associated house were let to Matthew Davis. He bought a job lot of tiles from Craven Dunnill where his brother worked and used them for his shop and his house.

-The second part of the talk looked at the life of Thomas Peter Everall (1840-1919) whose name is on the sign. His grandfather ran a bakery on King Street in the early 1800s. During the 1860s he integrated into local life becoming the Clerk of the Course for Wenlock races and Vice President of the Wenlock Olympian Games and in 1877 took over the running of the Raven Hotel. Thomas left the Raven in 1883 and rented the King Street maltings and butchers business however he was declared bankrupt the next year and absconded to Canada. “



(Picture courtesy of Steve Dewhirst)



(Pictures courtesy of Jocelyne Barbier)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Closure of Broseley Pipeworks for 2025

BLHS received the following communication from Broseley Town Councillor Ian West:

“The year started with the shock news that Ironbridge Gorge Museums will not be opening three of their sites this year – Broseley Pipeworks, the Darby Houses and the Tar Tunnel – because of their challenging financial outlook, with visitor numbers below forecast and increasing costs.

Re-opening of the Darby Houses would have been delayed anyway, as a result of planned restoration work and repairs to damage caused by Storm Darragh, but the other two sites – which are amongst the most unusual and distinctive of their visitor attractions – cost tiny amounts of money to open. The response of volunteers to the news was made worse by the fact they only found out when they arrived for their annual training.

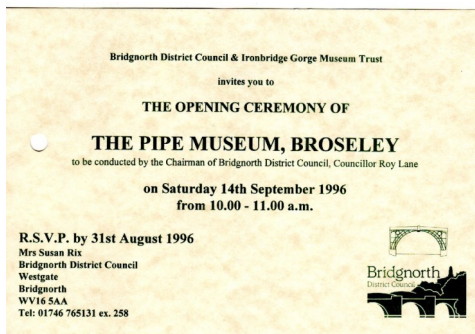
Professional industrial archaeologist Ian West, who co-ordinated the team of volunteers that spearheaded the regular re-opening of the Pipeworks in 2019, is forming an informal ‘Friends of the Pipeworks’ group, in conjunction with other long-term volunteers from the site such as Ian Pickles and Linda Hardman. They hope to work with Broseley Town Council, the Local History Society and other interested parties to pressurise IGMT to reverse this decision. If you’d like to get involved, please email Ian at ian@ianewest.co.uk or ring him on 01952 882448. “



Volunteer Linda Hardman demonstrating how to shape a clay pipe the old fashioned way!)



(All pictures above courtesy of J. Barbier)



(Picture courtesy of Ian West)



(Picture courtesy of Jocelyne Barbier)

Broseley Plaques: The Lawns by Janet Doody

THE LAWNS, 11 Church Street

One the first plaques to be installed by the society was at The Lawn; home for over 30 years of iron master John Wilkinson (1728-1808). It was unveiled on 4 June 2008 as part of the Wilkinson Bicentenary Celebrations by children of the John Wilkinson Primary School. (Were you one of them?). Shifnal and District Choral Society performed a number of pieces, including Verdi's 'Anvil Chorus' which was 'accompanied by Dot Cox 'playing' sound effects with hammer and anvil, (Society Newsletter August 2008).

Originally known as 'New House' it had been built for Thomas Stephens, a local mine owner; in 1763 it became the principle home, for John Wilkinson and his second wife Mary, as well as his headquarters and centre of business. Wilkinson employed Thomas Farnolls Pritchard, designer of the Ironbridge, to conduct some alterations, including a new chimney piece. Society member Ralph Pee described the house in an article 'the Broseley Home of John Wilkinson' published in Journal No7 1979 of The Wilkinson Society:



(Pictures courtesy of Jocelyne Barbier)

"The house was originally a typical square Georgian mansion with the usual central front door, approached by a short flight of steps. The ground in the front was generally lower than it is now and what is now a cellar was then a basement with sunken windows. The area in front of the house was probably bounded, as now, by a low wall, but with a single entrance through a pair of drive gates. The present wall adjoining the road appears to be original, but that separating the stables and domestic entrance from the front lawn is part of the 19th century alterations. Wilkinson provided a new pair of iron gates.

The front door opened into a passage or lobby which, with the main stairwell beyond, divided the house from front to rear. Three reception rooms of almost equal size occupied three quarters of the ground floor, whilst the remaining quarter accommodated what may have been a servants' hall and servants' staircase direct to the second floor. The kitchen, back kitchen, scullery and shoe room appear to have been accommodated in a single storey domestic wing on the north side of the house, and one of the two very small extensions at the rear. The second of these two small extensions provided what may have been an office, 'Mr Wilkinson's Room' or 'The Smoking Room'. There was also a malthouse, a brewhouse and stables apart from the main structure. With gardens, paddock and possibly orchards at the back, it was a well-designed, compact practical professional man's residence. It would have undoubtedly had an air of solid homely comfort, typical of the age."

In 1800 John Wilkinson leased the house to John Rose of Coalport China and although undergoing extensive alterations during the mid-19th century, a number of features remained including the magnificent staircase. Throughout The Lawns continued to house a number of prominent Broseley business people and for a time was also home to the Broseley Museum; the collection of artefacts collected by Society members.

The house was Grade II* listed by in English Heritage in October 1950. All of the current plaques were made by Roger Fewtrell at Ironbridge Gorge Museum's Blists Hill Foundry.

Sources: www.broseley.org.uk / www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk

www.british-historyonline.ac.uk / www.historicengland.org.uk

MISCELLANEOUS

By Steve Dewhirst

150 years of banking: Broseley Branch of Lloyds Bank

When in 1799 the first bank was opened in the town Broseley was a flourishing centre of the iron and coal industries. The banking facilities provided by a local solicitor John Pritchard must have filled a long-felt need for many a busy and prosperous iron-master lived and worked within its boundaries during the 18th century. The great John Wilkinson himself known as the "father of the English Iron Trade," managed one of the local ironworks, and his activities extended even to the minting of his own coins.

The banking business was carried on by John Pritchard's son George from 1818 until its death in 1861. George Pritchard was held in great esteem and the church at Jackfield erected by public subscription after his death, is an enduring monument to the important part he played in the life of the town; John Pritchard (his brother) carried on the business until 1888 in which year the firm then known as Pritchard Gordon and Co. was taken over by Lloyds Bank. Limited.

So far as is known. the original Broseley Bank began in the premises of the present branch. The fine iron spiral staircase testifies to the excellent work done by local craftsmen, and it is interesting to note that the railings and gates now surrounding Buckingham Palace were made by the same firm. The property occupied by the Broseley Social Club was once the residence of the Bank Manager and still contains the original strongroom where the gold and important documents were kept.

Among the records of the branch are old cheque forms, from branch can be seen the various names under which the old bank operated – J. G. and J. Pritchard then Pritchard, Boycott and Nicholas, and finally, Pritchard, Gordon and Co. Of particular interest is a cheque drawn in 1833 reimbursing a doctor for attending cholera patients during a severe outbreak in the district. He was paid twenty-five pounds, and no doubt earned every penny!

The Broseley Branch of Lloyds Bank. Limited has had a long and interesting history, and there will be general congratulations to the Bank and to Mr. W. S. Robins, the branch manager on this year's hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Broseley's first bank.

Shrewsbury Chronicle, 1st July 1949

GET ACQUAINTED WITH A COMMITTEE MEMBER, THIS MONTH MEET...

Dot Cox

1) *What or who made you interested into improving your knowledge of History?*

I have been interested in history since childhood and I can thank my parents for that. When we went on our annual holiday we would always go via an interesting castle, cathedral or other place of interest. We couldn't afford National Trust membership, that was only for the elite in those days, but we would always look out for landmarks as we passed in our little old car along the old A roads at 30 mph in pre motorway days.

2) *Who is your favourite historical character and why? (doesn't have to be British)*

It's difficult to pick an individual I admire in the past, some of the women scientists and medics would come near the top of my list as they were fighting prejudice as well as pushing the boundaries of science. People like Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Marie Curie would fall into this category. But closer to home I have to admire Thomas Telford, who came from a poor home in Scotland but who pushed forward the field of Civil Engineering, designing bridges, canals and other structures many of which are still used today.

3) *For you, what is the most important legacy that the Industrial Revolution left behind?*

The industrial revolution has such a complex legacy, it's difficult to unravel it. But I will suggest that improvements in travel and transport have made a large difference and that has led on to ordinary people being able to enjoy our wonderful world.

FRIENDS OF THE RED CHURCH

By **Graham Hollox**

Four years ago, 'Friends of the Red Church' published the pamphlet 'Tales from the Red Church 1'. In that, we had a snapshot about important ironmaking industrialists from the Brodie and Cochrane families, accomplished china designers 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.

Now we have expanded our findings about families associated with the Red Church into a second pamphlet, 'Tales 2'. Perhaps two of the more unlikely stories are of a labourer in a brickyard leaving to become a successful businessman in Manhattan, while there is another linking a girl born in the Jitties with a naval disaster. You'll find mention of the Coalport Ferry disaster, Children's employment, a burial as late as 1951, even the East India Company, the cost of a burial in 1906, and an explanation of why no marriages took place at what was a beautiful site, so beautifully illustrated by the local artist Edward W Ball, shown above, whose work graced many Craven Dunnill tiles.

We would welcome any members who would like to support the Friends. Copies of Tales from the Red Church 2 are available for £4 each plus postage if necessary or can be purchased at Society meetings. If any members would like a guided tour of the site or would consider volunteering and helping us find more about old Broseley, please get in touch as that would be very welcome.

Payment can be made by Cash, Cheque or BACS transfer.

Contact me by e-mail to: grahamhollox@gmail.com



'The Old Red Church' by Edward W Ball, 1931 (reproduced by permission of Brian Stamper)



A group of volunteers clearing out the grave yard

(Picture courtesy of Judy Moore)



2019

2021

(Pictures courtesy of Jocelyne Barbier)



2019

2021

(Pictures courtesy of Jocelyne Barbier)

J. Barbier & her partner visited the site of the Red Church for the first time in 2019, then in 2021 with Graham Hollox who started guided tours of the site.

One could see the difference, the site has been cleared out, and some ecological project was undergoing for the wild life, then it was possible for Graham and the other members to start researching (more accurately) the families on the tombstones and their history.

No ghost has been harmed during these visits...

EVENTS

IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM TRUST

12th Feb -2nd Mar : SHREWSBURY COLLEGE ART TAKEOVER, exhibitions at Jackfield Tile Museum

15th – 23rd February: VICTORIAN FOOD WEEK at Blists Hill

8th 9th March: INDUSTRIOUS WOMEN at Blists Hill to mark International Women’s Day

26th 27th April: STEAM IN MINITURE at Blists Hill

FRIENDS OF IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM

26th February: Talk ‘A Field Somewhere near Broseley’, 2.30pm Glass Classroom, Coalbrookdale

SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY – 60TH ANNIVERSARY

18th-21st April: SPRING STEAM GALA

15th -18th May: SPRING DIESEL GALA

DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Distribution

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.

Subscriptions payments (£10 for a single entry and £15 for a joint subscription)

You can either pay cash at the talk in October or send a cheque made to Broseley Local History Society to the secretary Janet Robinson; we also accept electronic payments and you can make a bank transfer to the following

Broseley Local History Society

Sort code: 30-91-19

Account number: 00735469

Once the electronic payment is done, you need to send an email to Janet Robinson with your own REFERENCE for that payment.

Broseley Local History Society Committee

Committee Members

Chair	Neil Clarke
Secretary	Dot Cox
Treasurer	Reha Deric
Membership Secretary	Janet Robinson 26 Coalport Road Broseley TF12 5AZ 01952 882495 janetc46.jr@gmail.com
Programme Secretary and Journal Editor	Neil Clarke
Newsletter Editor	Jocelyne Barbier
Publicity	Jocelyne Barbier
Research	Steve Dewhirst Janet Doody Richard Sells
Other Members	Gillian Pope Margaret Hazeldine Kathryn Warren
Website	www.broseley.org.uk
General Email	steve@broseley.org.uk
Social Media	www.facebook.com/ BroseleyLocalHistorySociety/

To see this *Newsletter* in full colour, go to

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

© Published by Broseley Local History Society

Printed by MDT Reprographics