



NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society
INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY

November– 2025

Issue: 67

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 + AGM	Page 2
Updates on Red Church & Pipeworks	Page 3
Important information	Page 4
Works outing & runaway husband	Page 4
Church Army vans	Page 5
Memorial Green at the Delph	Pages 5-6
New Payments Details + Contacts	Page 7
Christmas Dinner	Page 8

BLHS PROGRAMME 2025/26 (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

Nov. 5 – Joint talk with the friends of IGMT, by Rob Higgins "More on Maw"/Glass Classroom, Coalbrookdale
Dec. 3 – Christmas Dinner (see page 8)

2026

Jan. 7 – Members' Evening (see page 4)
Feb. 4 – Turnpike Roads in the Broseley Area, Steve De-whirst
Mar. 4 – The Iron Men of Shropshire, Annual Wilkinson Lecture, Norman Pagett.

New members:

Welcome to David and Dot Buchanan !

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT ALL PAYMENTS TO BROSELEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY p8

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS (Page 8)

Thanks to your memberships subscription 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, 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 7.

We would like to encourage you to opt for the digital version of the Newsletter if you can, this would help us to keep our cost down; 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**

Local History News (no. 156):

Interesting articles: Tipperary County (Ireland) & its star attraction the Rock of Cashel (I went a few years ago) and 'Betrayed to the Nazis', life on Jersey in WW2;
See 'advert' the association is looking for articles from YOU! (Just like us – your own society)
Book review: 'A Wedgwood Diary 1897-1903' the real life of Arnold Bennett's 'Bursely'.
Virtual BALH events: The BALH DYMOND LECTURE

The Railway Work Life & Death Project: Thursday 11th December 7.00pm

This project www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk records railway staff accidents in its free database covering England & Wales 1855-1929.

Votes for Women – Everywhere 1866-1928: Wednesday 8th October 7-8pm

Drax of Drax Hall – researching the landed gentry: Wednesday 15th October 7-830pm

Church Going – a stone mason's guide to churches: Tuesday 4th November 7-8pm

All the above on-line talks are free to members of the BALH, £5 for non-members though there is a reduction to members of member societies [i.e. Broseley LHS] check the BALH web site for details.

Cheshire Archives new facilities are 'on track' to re-open in 2026. Worcester Archives have received a 'Records at Risk' grant making Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce factory archives available for public research.

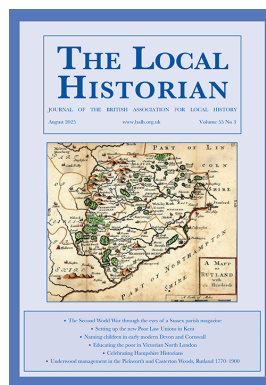
On-line news: Ancestry has released Birmingham Petty Session Registers for 1892-1923. Findmypast and the British Library have extended their contract: around 70 million pages are expected to be digitised. Historic England have launched a Local Heritage Hub enabling exploration of local areas 'all in one place'.

THE LOCAL HISTORIAN: Vol. 55 No. 3

Articles: Keeping the Homes Fires burning: the Second World War through the eyes of a Sussex parish magazine; 'Naming this child': Devon & Cornwall parish registers 1550-1750, [chosen names are always interesting!]; Educating the poor in Victorian North London: Mother Emily and the Kilburn Sisters; Celebrating Hampshire Historians': a study of the history of local history, [interesting study in the way local history has been researched]

Book reviews: Halls for All: a history of village halls by David Clark & Louise Beaton; Hidden for History: Hereford's Conscientious Objectors' by Elinor Kelly & Hinkshay Rows by Heather Duckett (reviewed by Neil in our last newsletter)

Do take a look at the BALH web site for 10 minute talks and articles; including "The Weird & wonderful world of the 'Loggerheads'", Shrewsbury's mysterious loggerheads



(pictures courtesy of BALH)

PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

In September we welcomed Ray Farlow for another of his popular postcard presentations. He has a remarkable collection of almost 7,000 postcards, and in this talk on 'Transport in Shropshire' we saw some of the many postcards he has displaying roads, waterways, railways (and even air) in various parts of the county. Included in Ray's presentation was this postcard of 'IRON-BRIDGE AND BROSELEY' station a hundred years ago, produced by the photographer W.S. Allcock of Ironbridge.



In October, Allan Smith talked about using geophysics to investigate unidentified features in a field near Broseley.

AGM:

Jim Cooper has stepped down as our auditor and Mr Bill Jerney stepped in to fulfil the role.

Our current chair **Neil Clarke** resigned as a chairman but is staying in the committee, and, all the other committee members kept their respective roles.

So if you think that you have got what it takes to become the new chairperson of Broseley Local History Society please contact a member of the committee (details can be found on page 7)

UPDATES

Friends of the Red Church

As a charitable group we have had a busy few months, from new appointments to the completion of planned projects and unfortunately vandalism on site.

As the new Secretary of Friends of the Red Church, I am looking forward to guiding us through maintenance of the site, improving our knowledge of its history and stories of those baptised and buried there. It's an important asset and attraction of the town. Why not join us on Facebook and Instagram for updates.

Judy Moore has been involved in applying for funding for an information board, and we are excited and thankful to have been awarded funding from Broseley Town Council and the Shropshire Family History Society for this. This way we can promote the history and importance of the Red Church on site and allow visitors to have a more engaging experience. We currently have a small exhibition at the Chapel in Broseley cemetery, why not call in and have a look at the story of the red church. Copies of 'Tales from the Red Church 2' are still available from the library or contact us directly via email : donna.davies2209@gmail.com or message on social media for a copy at £4.

Steve Dewhirst has added to our understanding of the story of the church by highlighting the foundations. Steve has also completed the QR-Code self-guided tour of the site; you can use the QR codes on mobile devices to access online information about the Church and people.

John Storar has been fantastic maintaining the churchyard, keeping it looking respectful and safer to walk around.

I will briefly mention the unfortunate criminal damage that has happened on site in September. A police report was made, the damaged bird nest boxes disposed of and signs put back. The broken slabs are a nuisance as they were due to be used for defining the foundations after recording. However, this incident is just a footnote in the history of the site, and we have had fantastic support from the community of donations towards new nest boxes which are being collected at Broseley Library. I would like to give special mention to CJ Wildlife for their very kind donation of a nest box. If you would like to build a nest box, free instructions are available on the RSPB website.

Donna Davies

Secretary of Friends of the Red Church



(pictures courtesy of Donna Davies)

Broseley Pipeworks by Ian West

Members will know that Broseley Pipeworks Museum has remained shut through 2025, due to financial constraints at the Ironbridge Gorge Museums. However, it was opened for free for two days over the weekend of 13-14 September, as part of the national Heritage Open Days (HOD) scheme, led by the National Trust.

Over the two days, the Pipeworks attracted 425 visitors, which is far more than for any previous HOD event at the site. It is also around half the number of paying visitors the Pipeworks attracted throughout the whole of 2024. Of the weekend's visitors, 72% were from Shropshire, (29% from Ironbridge or Broseley), but some from as far away as USA and Canada. Most people (77%) had not visited the Pipeworks before. Feedback forms were completed by 162 visitors, 143 of whom gave a 10/10 enjoyment score. The average score was 9.81.

Broseley Town Council remain keen to take over managing the opening of the Pipeworks for visitors in 2026, but discussions with IGMT have not progressed very quickly. If this proposal comes to fruition, it is hoped that the site would be open for more days than in recent years, which will require more volunteers than are currently on the books. Watch out for more news about recruitment over the winter.



(Picture courtesy of Ian West)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

1- An official announcement has been made about the National Trust taking over the IGMT with an injection of £9 millions, and Broseley Pipeworks are included in the scheme, read some more on <https://www.ironbridge.org.uk/news/transfer-of-igmt-to-the-national-trust/>



(Cover book by Ned Williams and photo by BLHS)

2- 7th JANUARY MEETING - MEMBERS EVENING

This meeting is a departure from the usual format in that there will be no individual speaker but it is intended to be a social evening with a small exhibition of research by members, photographs and items from the Society's collection.

The society has a large collection of photographs, many of which will be on display.

If you have any photographs, objects or ephemera such as event tickets, programmes etc. that would be of interest please bring them along, or if you have any research that you have and would like to display it please contact a committee member to arrange boards etc.

Hopefully the January weather will be kind, but the bar at the Social club will be open for a warming 'cordial'. FINALLY – just because is called a members' evening it DOES NOT mean its members only - every one will be made very welcome!

100 YEARS AGO by Janet Doody

WORKS OUTING

The employees of the Prestage & Broseley Tileries Co. Ltd held their outing on Saturday the well-known BIRMINGHAM ONION FAIR being visited this year.

The journey was made by charabanc starting at 8.00am and returning from Birmingham at midnight. With the long day before them the party had time to visit many of the places of amusement and with the generous help given to them by the firm they took advantage of all opportunities to obtain the fullest enjoyment. The arrangement was in the capable hands of Mr J. B. Wilkes, and were carried out to the complete satisfaction of the whole party.

WELLINGTON JOURNAL 3 October 1925

RUNAWAY HUSBAND – TWO GUINEAS REWARD by Janet Doody

Where as THOMAS LLOYD of Canal Buildings in the parish of St. Mary, Shrewsbury, collier, hath left his wife and family chargeable to the said parish: Whosoever will give information that will lead to his apprehension, shall receive Two Guineas Reward upon application to the Parish Officers of St. Mary's aforesaid.

The said Thomas Lloyd absconded on the 14th August last, and then had on a short Flannel Smock Frock and Duck Trowsers [sic]; he is upwards of 50 years of age, stands 5ft 5 or 6 inches high, with light complexion – He has been working as a collier and labourer at Madeley, Madeley Wood Bank, Dawley, Wolverhampton, Bilston and other parts of Shropshire and Staffordshire for above 30 years; and for the last two years has been working at Messrs. Benyon's Factory in Shrewsbury – He is well known in the neighbourhood of Madeley Wood.

The Shrewsbury Chronicle & North Wales Advertiser
10th October 1828

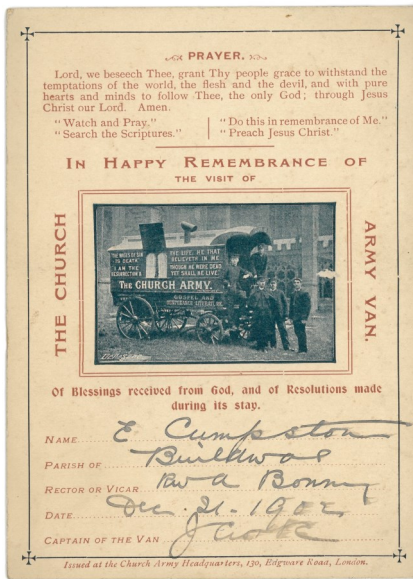
This is all about money! The important reference being 'left his wife and family chargeable to the said parish'; the Parish Officers, on behalf of the parish tax payers sought recompense! I wonder if he was ever found!

CHURCH ARMY VANS by Janet Doody

From the late 1890's to around WW2 Church Army Vans were despatched to rural parishes on evangelical missions. The 'officers' would stay a short time and hold services, often outdoors, or in schools and village halls or 'mission rooms'. The illustrated card is in remembrance of a visit to Buildwas Parish in December 1902; unfortunately there is no newspaper report of this particular visit but there are records of numerous similar ones in many Shropshire parish. Most say how successful they are with good attendances at services but not all:

The Church Army Van being now located at Broseley in charge of "Captain" Humphrey and "Cadet" Helms; a brief service was held in Broseley Wood School on Tuesday evening The Rector, Rev. G. F. Lamb was present and at the close pronounced the Benediction. There was a poor attendance owing doubtless to the unpropitious state of the weather

Saturday 26 1904 Wellington Journal November



(The Ironbridge Gorge Museum have kindly allowed the use of the illustration from their collections)

The Memorial Green at the Delph Broseley by Steve Dewhirst

The word delph derives from the Old English Delf, meaning a quarry, pit, mine or hole.

In Broseley¹, the first mention of the name is in 1554 during the reign of Mary Tudor, when William Adams had a pit called a coal Delph in Broseley. The coal measures in this part of the town are close to the surface, and a seam of coal can be seen in the cellar of the old Pheasant Pub on Church Street. Parsons's 1621 map of Broseley does not show the Delph, but it was located in an unenclosed area marked ColePitt Hill². A later map of 1658 shows one pool on Coalpit Hill³. The first detailed survey was for the Broseley Estate in 1728, which shows two pools, the upper one feeding into the lower one.

The two Delphs were surveyed in more detail in 1764: 'The two Delphs or Delves are said to be were Coal has been formerly got and since then have been made into fish ponds, the Lower is now made use of for that purpose, the Upper is let dry, converted into a yard and let to Mr Francis Wilde for five shillings a year. Since then, large quantities of Earth, Clay &c have been wheeled into them, so at this time they are not more than one Rood and seven Perch each... the land on which the Market House stands, with that adjoining viz CDE is fifteen Perch.'

As Broseley expanded, the Delph became an open cess-pit. Together with the Down Well, it was said to have been the main supply of water, but in the 1860s it was said that: 'The Delph only received the rainwater from the street and the sewage from surrounding houses; consequently, in a time of drought it conveyed no agreeable sensation either through the optic or olfactory nerves.'⁴ In 1861, a meeting was called to discuss filling in the Delph, which described it as a 'stagnant, filthy pool, which has long been a public nuisance, and which on sanitary grounds ought to be removed.' At that time, one newspaper speculated, incorrectly, that it was where 'delf ware'⁵. In June 1861, the Delph was filled in⁶. It appears that the wall and railings were put up around this time, as in 1863, there was discussion of extending them around the Pritchard Memorial, which had been erected in 1862⁷.

Having been filled in, the lower delph became known as the Memorial Green, presumably named after the adjacent Pritchard Memorial. The wall and railings may have been erected at the same time as the Pritchard memorial, as in 1863 it was reported that at the end of the delph enclosure adjoining the memorial is to be taken down, it would seem that the walls and railing are to be extended so as to include the building. "Truly it is a great pity that the centre of the little park-like enclosure now representing the filthy muddy Delph was not chosen as the site of the memorial."⁸

The railings around the Delph were erected by 1879⁹.

In 1868, the Broseley, Benthall, Barrow, Linley and Willey Cottage Garden Allotment Society held their seventh annual exhibition of flowers, fruits and vegetables in a tent on the Memorial Green. This event had previously been held in the Town Hall¹⁰. It was also used for concerts by Maws Benthall Works Brass Band and Jackfield Brass Band¹¹, fireworks after a sports day, and dancing after a Horticultural show¹². In 1905, it was used for the Broseley Fanciers Show of poultry pigeons, rabbits, cage birds, cats and covies when a marquee was erected.

The Victoria Institute was formed in 1905, opening the hall as a club for the 'artisan class', taking over the hall previously used by the Plymouth Brethren. They appear to have taken over responsibility for the memorial green and used part of it as a bowling green, and it became known as the Victoria Memorial Green. When the Coal strike ended in 1912, a ceremony was held on the green to thank Lord Forester for allowing people to dig for coal at the Foxholes in Benthall¹³.

Nearby is the Memorial Green (or town garden), which is also under the control of the Council, chiefly through the efforts of the Rector, Rev. C. S. Jackson, M.A.; this has been well kept and admired by many. On the same site stands the War Memorial, erected by public subscription, at £553 15s. 2d.; it was unveiled by the late Lord Forester on March 20th, 1921. After all payments were made, a balance remained of £14 16s., which was given to Shirlett Sanatorium

In 1921, it was proposed to site some public conveniences on the green. In 1933, Mr Shorting purchased three seats for the green. There had been some railings surrounding the war memorial, which were removed in the same year and used as fencing around a newly created garden near the Broseley Wood Mission Hall. During the Second World War, scrap was requisitioned by removing cast iron railings around many parks and squares in Britain, with Lord Beaverbrook saying, 'We will turn your pots and pans into Spitfires and Hurricanes, Blenheims and Wellingtons.' It seems likely that the one around the Delph was removed at this time.

1. Shropshire Archives 1224/3/12
2. The Plott of Broseley, Samuel Parsons c 1621.
3. Plot of the Bounds of the common in Broseley c.1658. Shropshire Archives 1224/1/21.
4. Shrewsbury Chronicle, 21st February 1862
5. The Shropshire News, 20th June 1861.
6. Birmingham Daily Post, 26th June 1862
7. Wellington Journal, 16th May 1863
8. Shrewsbury Chronicle, 15th May 1862.
9. They are shown in an illustration in Broseley and its Surroundings by John Randall, 1879.
10. Eddowes Shrewsbury Journal, 4th September 1867, 9th September 1868.
11. Wellington Journal, 13 June 1903
12. Wellington Journal, 11th September 1869, 25th July 1885, 20th August 1904
13. Wellington Journal, 1st June 1912



(Pictures courtesy of Jocelyne Barbier)

RESEARCH

Some of you might be entitled to a small grant from the History Society for research, however it doesn't include transport, food etc. This is more to access archives and artefacts, for a small project.

For more information and how to apply please contact Steve Dewhirst on steve@broseley.org.uk

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 who 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)

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT ALL PAYMENTS TO BROSELEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Broseley Local History Society has changed its bank account to Dudley Building Society.

You can still make your cheques payable to: Broseley Local History Society.

However if you wish to pay your subscriptions through bank transfer, our account details are as follows:

Dudley Building Society

Payee Name: Broseley Local History Society

(*) Account Number: 10001008

(*) Sort Code: 60-83-18

(*) Roll Number: 550434577

(*) All three references are needed for your payments to reach us. Depending on your bank's system the Roll Number may be entered in the "reference" field.

Broseley Local History Society Committee

Committee Members

Chair	<i>Vacant</i>
Secretary	Dot Cox
Treasurer	Reha Deric
Membership Secretary	Janet Robinson 26 Coalport Road Broseley TF12 5AZ 01952 882495 janetc46.jr.jr@gmail.com
Programme Secretary and Journal Editor	Neil Clarke
Newsletter Editor	Jocelyne Barbier
Publicity	Jocelyne Barbier
Research	Steve Dewhirst Janet Doody Richard Sells Neil Clarke
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



Christmas Dinner

At

The Lion Hotel, Broseley

Wednesday 3rd December

7.00pm for 7.30pm 2025



Please reserve me _____ place/places at a cost of **£27.95** per head

Name/s _____ I enclose cheque/payment for £ _____

Address _____ payable to Broseley Local History Society

_____ Please return to Janet Robinson

_____ 26, Coalport Road, Broseley, TF12 5AZ

Tele _____ **by Saturday 22nd November 2025**

Please indicate your choice of starter and main course from the menu below.

STARTER

Homemade Highland Vegetable soup
with crusty bread _____

King Prawn & smoked salmon platter ,GF____

Garlic mushrooms and salad _____

Deep fried Brie and cranberry _____

Melon and fruits GF _____

MAIN COURSE

Roast Turkey, stuffing & pigs in blankets GF

Pork tenderloin, pan fried with blue cheese
and Brandy sauce _____

Fillet of salmon with cranberry & port glaze
GF _____

Butternut Squash & beetroot Parcel. _____

Please indicate if you require a Gluten Free meal and Gluten Free gravy or stuffing

A selection of desserts

Coffee with mints

