



NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society
INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY

November– 2026

Issue: 71

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 2026/27 (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.

2026

Nov 4 - Joint meeting with FIGM 'James Thomson, civil engineer, iron and coal master', **2.30pm** at the Glass Classroom in Coalbrookdale/ TF8 7DQ) by Steve Dewhirst

Dec 2 - **Christmas Extravaganza!** Christmas buffet & entertainment at the Social Club, see details on **page 8**)

2027

Jan 6 - 'Members' Evening (bring your artefacts!)

Feb 3 - 'Shropshire through Deep Time', Norman Pagett

Mar 3 - 'William Withering: Eminent Son of Welling-ton', Diana Clarke.

April 7 - 'Early Shropshire Maps', Patricia de Haan

May 5 - 'The Walker Legacy', part 2, Wendy Palin

June 2 - Summer Walk: Bridgnorth, guided by Steve Dewhirst

July 3 - Summer Outing (To be decided).

VERY IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION

2026-27 period for BLHS started with our AGM on 7th October 2026. We are aware that some members paid their subscriptions shortly before the AGM and others paid on the day of the AGM.

We are asking our remaining members to pay their 2026-27 subscriptions by the end of January 2027. You could make your payments at the start of November, Christmas or January gatherings. Alternatively you could either pay online to our bank account or by cheque (DETAILS ON PAGE 7**)**

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to

Olwen Olliver and Maggie Humphry

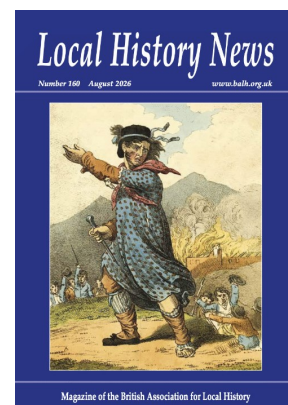
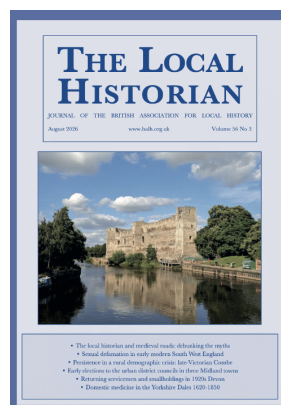
NEW PRESIDENTS: Welcome to Pam and Alan Wood (see biography page 3)

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](http://www.balh.org.uk))

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Do check out the BALH website there are interesting talks and articles on all sorts of subjects – lots better than the incessant television repeats!



(Pictures courtesy of BALH)

BALH NEWS

Due to the current “service” supplied by Royal Mail I have not received a delivery for over 3 weeks, the Local History News can be accessed via the BALH website, along with lots of other interesting articles and talks do check it out. (hopefully I may receive both The Local Historian and Local History News soon!)

The Local Historian Vol 56 No.3 August 2026 will be available on line shortly.

Local History News: August 2026 No 160

Articles:

- John Smeaton and the failure of the York Waterworks company 1779-92
- Riots: a rich source for local historians
- Local History and AI (2 articles)
- From Submission to Shelf: understanding the publishing process
- Local History around the Yorkshire Dales (BALH conference report)
- While out walking: The Key Street of Kent, a personal pilgrimage from London to Canterbury

News: Dig Village Projects from the time Team Projects are looking for community style projects as created by the late Professor Mick Aston. Bayeux Tapestry has arrived! Anyone been yet or booked to go? Pin Factory Annex in Gloucester, recently renovated 16th century tithe barn converted into a pin factory in 1743.

On-line News: Digital Britannia a new digital map of Roman Britain: roadsofbritain.org/digitalbritain
Redditch town's local history museum is under threat of closure; Walsall Leather Museum, councillors renegotiating lease and funding to remain in Littleton Street.

OBITUARY: Ron Miles

Ron was a member of our Society from its early days as the Wilkinson Society, and was chairman in the late 1980s. He attended our meetings regularly until ill health intervened and many members will remember his contributions to the 'Railway Evenings' held at the home of Vin and Hilary Callcut. Broseley Local History Society will dedicate a special tribute to his work in the next publication of the newsletter in January 2027.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

In September, the original talk -'Britannia': part 1, Willam Camden (The work of the late 16th / early 17th century topographer), by Patricia de Haan was cancelled and replaced by a talk by Diana Clarke on Joseph Anstice of Madeley Wood Hall and his circle.

In October, Wendy Palin delivered Part 1 of the Walker Legacy: C&W Walker of the Midland Iron Works, engineering & manufacturing company which started life in London in 1837 and moved to Donnington, Shropshire, in 1857... Part 2 will be happening in 2027.

Prior to the Oct talk, we held our AGM, revisiting the minutes from the previous year, Reha explained our financial situation, Dot & Kathryn were managing the agenda, all the other committee members were thanked for their hard work during the year, Kathryn Warren was elected Chair, and it was goodbye to Janet Robinson in the role of Membership Secretary, however Janet will still remain a valuable member of our committee... **and to that effect, we are recruiting for the position.**

Brief Role description for Membership Secretary

Reporting to the Committee, you will be responsible for:

- Processing membership applications, renewals and cancellations
- Maintaining accurate membership records /data
- Managing payment and membership-related queries
- Liaising with other committee members as required
- Distribution: for logistics please consult with the previous Membership Secretary

We expect you to display the following:

- Very good attention to detail and accuracy
- Strong organisational and administrative skills
- Working independently
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Basic computing skills

As a committee we meet up 3 times a year, and we are a very sociable bunch, give it a go you will not regret it!

If you are interested in fulfilling the role or know someone who might be interested, please contact Janet Robinson (the previous Membership Secretary) for further information on :

janetc46.jr.jr@gmail.com

Our New Presidents, Alan and Pam Wood

Alan and Pam have been keen members of the society for many years, although they have now moved to Shrewsbury and cannot attend in person.

Alan was born in Broseley in 1930, and his family lived in Bridgnorth Road. His father Bert worked at Exleys at Jackfield as a chauffeur and lorry driver. His grandfather was Ben Wood, a carpenter (appropriately!).

Alan attended school in Broseley in the building which is now the Health Centre and library, and his first teacher was Miss Smithyman. As a boy he had jobs with Bert Jones, the butcher in the High Street delivering meat, and Jack Dixon the newsagent, delivering papers. He also learned carving with Miss Jones. He went on to the Walker Tech, a college in what is now Telford, and his first proper job was with Sankeys at Hadley. In 1948 he was called for National Service in the RAF, and on his return worked at Coventry Gauge and Tool, in Madeley as a fitter in the apprentice school.

He married Pam in 1959, and they set up home in Madeley, but moved to Much Wenlock when Telford New Town compulsorily purchased their home. His interests included motorbike sidecar driving, Morris dancing and the Much Wenlock Male Voice choir, where he has held various committee positions.

Pam's origins were on the Willey estate, her mother Ethel Mear lived at Riddings Farm, and her grandmother Frances Foxley was at Barrow. Ethel was taught sewing by Mrs Cleobury then moved to Birmingham to be a tailoress and dressmaker.

Between them, Alan and Pam have many years of memories of the Broseley area, and we are glad to welcome them as presidents for a two year period.

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

ARTICLES

THE ALBION by Steve Dewhirst



(Picture courtesy of Allan Frost, circa 1955, note the wet fish shop on the right hand side)

From Inns and Alehouses of Broseley by B.D. Shinton. Updated by S Dewhirst

The Albion stands between 62 and 69 High Street. It had a swinging inn sign showing a Roman sailor looking towards the White Cliffs of Dover.

It was first licensed in 1786. In 1802, Thomas Lloyd was the proprietor and occupant of a public house and garden "near the marketplace", which may have been the Albion. The pub was valued at £4.10s in 1802.

In 1835, John Lloyd was the landlord. In 1838 the Tithe apportionment shows Charles Guest was the owner, relet to John Lloyd "a brewhouse and stable next door." He drowned by falling from his barge while navigating between Shrewsbury and Ironbridge in 1839. His son William died the next year when he fell off a barge at Swinney Eddy. The newspaper also noted that William's two brothers, two cousins and his grandmother also met their deaths by drowning.

By 1840, John Smythyman (1792-1845) was the innkeeper, who is listed in the 1841 census as a bricklayer with his wife Eleanor (40). They had four children: Harriet (15), Rowland (6), John (13), Edwin (4), and Thomas (2). In 1845 Charles Guest died aged 86 but there is no record of the sale of the pub but by 1871 it was in the possession of the Oswell family.

By 1850 Thomas Miles (1799-1864) held the licence. In the 1851 census he is listed as a widower with his niece Mary Miles (19) as his housekeeper. In December that year he married Ann Hancox of Doseley at Wombridge. Miles may have gone to the Wellington Inn at Linley, where Thomas Miles, the landlord, was summoned for being drunk in 1859.

The next licensee was John Bailey, but in 1858 he was declared bankrupt. Bailey had been a licensed victualler and hop merchant, also a part-time traveller and commission agent, and carried on business in co-partnership with George Baugh as Baugh and Bailey, also a porter dealer and hop merchant.

John Bentley took over the pub from Bailey in May 1858. He had served in the county constabulary and was a constable at Broseley when he married Emma Williams in April 1858. The 1861 census shows John (42), born in Hanwood, as the innkeeper, with his wife Emma (32) and a servant, Mary Harvey (21). He also rented the adjacent shop.

In 1879 the pub was put up for sale: 'All that well-established and old licensed inn, known as "The Albion Inn," situate in High Street and fronting the Town Hall, Broseley, with the Brewhouse and Outbuildings thereto belonging; and also, the Greengrocers shop adjoining thereto in the occupation of Mr John Bentley. (The pub was later to incorporate the shop). The inn, which was let for £20 per annum, was bought by Mr R Instone for £615, possibly from Benjamin Thomas Oswell, deputy chief constable of Stafford, who sold the Elephant and Castle at the same time.

In 1880, the licence was transferred to George Adams from John Bentley, who went to the Summer House in Jackfield.

The 1881 lists George (47) as a china gilder, and his wife Mary (56) at the Albion with a servant Mary Evans (16). Although no licensee is listed, it is likely that Mary ran the pub whilst George was at work. It is probable that this was the George Adams of Coalport who died in 1887 and was buried at Sutton Maddock

By 1888, Robert Lowe was the occupier, but he was declared bankrupt the next year, and Richard Instone advertised it as to let. Lowe had liabilities of £81 11s 10d and assets of around £35. He attributed the bankruptcy to bad trade and bad debts. As well as being the innkeeper, he was also a journeyman gilder at the Coalport Works, for which he earned 10s or 12s per week. At the time of his bankruptcy, he stated the takings were under £2 per week and the most he had ever taken was £5 or £6. He owed his landlord Mr Instone £12 for rent, and a few days before he filed for bankruptcy, he had received two 36-gallon barrels of beer from Messrs Durnill. The pub was advertised as to let with immediate possession in October 1899.

By 1891 Eliza Millward (33) kept the Albion, living with her was Ezra, her 4-year-old son, and her sister Julia (30). In 1901 the pub consisted of 4 rooms up and 4 down. It catered for "works trade", and the next pub was 40 yards away. Three years later she was prosecuted for selling adulterated gin with 4% of added water, 39 degrees below proof. She was fined £2 1s, including costs. By 1905 Julia Millward was the licensee, presumably taking over from her sister Eliza. She died in April 1932 at the age of 71.

THE LATE MISS MILLWARD. -One of the best-known residents in Broseley, Miss Julia Millward, owner and licensee of the Albion Inn, died on Saturday, after an illness of several months. A native of Rednal, near West Felton, Miss Millward came to Broseley about 40 years ago and had been the licensee of the Albion Inn for the past 40 years. She had been for many years a member of the Congregational Church. The funeral took place at Broseley Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, preceded by a service in the Parish Church, conducted by the rector (Rev. C S. Jackson). The family mourners were Mr E. M. Millward, nephew; and Mr T. H. Bickley. The bearers were Messrs T. Seabury, J. Hall. J. Hartshorne, C. Maiden, T. Humphries and W. Watkins.

The licence was transferred on a temporary basis to Ezra Millward, Julia's nephew and a grocer possibly at the shop next door, and Florence Bickley. Julia left £1,376 6s 10d, her administrators being Ezra Millward (grocer) and Florence May Bickley (1892-1952) nee Millward, the wife of Thomas Heber Bickley (1885-1950). Later that year, the fully licensed freehold premises were sold by her executors to the Wrekin Brewery Company of Wellington for £1,200. Florence M Millward married Thomas H Bickley at Madley in 1930.

The rest of the 1930s saw a rapid turnover of tenants. In 1932 Rebecca Humphries took the licence from Ezra and Florence. In October 1934, the licence was temporarily transferred from Mrs Rebecca Humphries to Reginald Wills. In 1935 it was transferred to James Barrow. However, in September 1936, he attempted to kill his wife; at the trial in November, he was declared guilty but insane. James seems to have recovered and been released, as in 1939 there was a James and Mary Barrow working at the Yorkshire House Hotel in Shrewsbury. He died in 1966, leaving £645 to his widow Mary.

In early November 1936, the licence was temporarily transferred from James Barrow to William Baden Wall (1904-1975), being permanently transferred later that month. In June and July 1938, the Wrekin Brewery advertised the pub as being let. In August 1938 the licence was transferred from William Baden Wall to Ronald Graham Murphy of the Wrekin Brewery, but the next month it was transferred to Harry George Hills. It was advertised to let again in July and September 1939. In September 1939 the licence was again transferred, this time from Ronald George Murphy to Harry George Hills.

In 1940 there was a temporary then a full transfer from Harry George Hills to Gilbert Harrison, a hairdresser of Sheffield, who later that year was fined £2 for failing to obscure his lights in the blackout. In 1942, Harold Cooper was the landlord.

It must have changed hands again by 1951 when Thomas Miles of the Albion Inn married Ann Hancox of Dawley. Three years later, in 1954, the pub was advertised as to let by the Wrekin Brewery, and the next year it appears to have been run by Charles Lawrence Corbett. Corbett was still there in 1957 when he was committed to prison for 7 seven days for failing to attend court in connection with a debt of £10 12s 6d to a veterinary surgeon. The order was revoked at a later hearing when he explained that he had suffered from asthma and bronchitis. He was in the cellar when his breathing became bad, and after a struggle he managed to get upstairs, after which he went to bed. He paid his debt. Corbett left soon afterwards, and by 1959 it was held by Louise Gertrude Evans who had relinquished the licence of the Swan in Ironbridge in 1956.

In 1963 there was still an old ledger at the pub when the newspaper reported that: Mrs. L. G Evans, licensee of the Albion Inn, Broseley, this week made me think the good old days were perhaps aptly named after all, writes a colleague. The ledger, nearly 60 years old, records goods supplied to townspeople in bottles and larger quantities at prices which today are quite fantastic. For instance, in 1908 one customer was supplied with a bottle of whisky and a bottle of sherry at a total cost of 4s. 7d. A bottle of whisky to-day costs £2 1s. 6d.! Another customer was sent two dozen bottles of stout and recorded for payment was the sum of 4s. For 12s. a barrel of beer was delivered. It was during the 1914-18 war that prices first tended to rise and in addition there was a war tax. In 1914 a kiln of ale (18 gallons) was sold for £1 1s. and by 1916 the price had risen to £1 5s., plus a war tax of 9s. 6d. After the war there was an even sharper increase. In the early part of 1920, a kiln of bitter cost £3 12s. and by May of the same year had gone up to £4 5s. In November the price of the kiln had shown yet a further rise to £4 8s. 4d. Among all the drink entries was a staggering one for supplying a load (one ton) of coal in 1909. The price? 15s.!

The Wrekin Brewery was taken over by Greenall Whitley in 1966. It is not recorded when she left the pub, but she was still there in 1969. In 1972 she married Robert Evan. When she died in 1988, she was living in Collins Close. In 1970 Gertrude Round moved to the Albion from the White Lion in Bridgnorth. She had moved from Great Barr to run the White Lion in 1967.

The Albion was extended in the 1970's to incorporate a small shop to the south.

In 1975 it was transferred to Conlin (colin) Cornelius John Ward (1930-1996), who ran the pub with his wife Kath.

In 1989 it was advertised as to let with immediate possession. In 1994 Tony Jones and Tina Gilbert took over running the pub. The next year Dave and Sue Childs took over and won Greenalls Pub of the month in April 1996. A local, previously Dave had been making plastic windows.

Sports

In 1937 it was in the Broseley Dominoes league. Darts, dominoes and pool were played.

Nowadays...the story continues

The pub was still owned by Punch when it was renamed "The Pipe Maker's Arms " in 2022, then, after a trail of unsuccessful managements, the brewery sold it. Recently acquired it gained the status of Free House and will reopen its doors at the end of October 2026, under the management of Kerry Ford.

To contact its new landlady please email:

hello@thepipemakers.co.uk

CEMETERY CHAPEL BIER by Janet Doody

When I gave a talk recently on the Society's 'Black Plaques' I mentioned that I hadn't found a photograph of the cemetery chapel bier. Society member **Mrs Pat Howells** very kindly gave us this image of the bier, which also shows part of the wonderful Maws encaustic floor tiles. Thank you very much Pat



BY JANET DOODY

The Colliery Guardian, 9th October 1858 Fatal Accident at Coal Pit:

On Monday morning last, an accident occurred at a small shaft on Lord Forester's estate, near Willey Park, by which a man named Lawrence Lloyd was killed, and another man named John Hill, severely injured. The shaft is one of a number sunk to reach some inferior coal that lies near the surface, and it is customary when the pit is about to be abandoned and filled up, to abstract the trees or timber from the workings. The men were so employed when the accident occurred, a quantity of earth falling upon them.

Shropshire News 7th October 1858 reported "On Monday morning an accident occurred at an old pit near the Park on Lord Forester's estate at Willey. The pit was one of a number that have been sunk for the purpose of getting at one or two of the lower coal seams which lie near the surface, and which soon being exhausted, it is customary to abstract the timber or "trees" as the props are called. The men were so employed when the earth fell which caused the accident".

Other than the few lines printed as above there is no report of doctor's or police and visit, no follow-up report of an inquest, so it was probably put down to an "accident" and a loss of life all to save money retrieving previously used pit props.

Lawrence Lloyd had been born at The Mines, Benthall to Samuel, an agricultural labourer and Mary and baptised at St. Bartholomew's Church, Benthall on 28 April 1829. In 1841 he still lived at home and worked as a collier, along with his sister Ann who was a pit bank girl. On 30 December 1845 Lawrence married Mary Richards at Benthall Church and lived on Benthall with his family until his death. The couple had 6 children, sadly their eldest son Thomas, died in 1851, age 6 and the youngest son Lawrence Palmer Lloyd was born after his father's death, being baptised at Benthall on 3rd July 1859 together with brother, another Thomas who had been born in 1857. This left Mary widowed with 5 children, living on Bridge Road, Benthall

John Hill was also born in Benthall, to Hiram and Mary Hill and baptised on 22nd June 1802; John married Sarah Cox in 1830 and in 1852 was living at The Mines, where his occupation is stated as engineer. Following the accident the family moved to Bilston, where John died c 1873.

(pictures below courtesy of BLHS)



WHAT'S ON LOCALLY by Janet Doody

26th October-12th November Shroud of Turin Exhibition: St. Leonard's Church, Bridgnorth

8th November REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – Local Parades and Services

21st November: Christmas Craft Fair, Much Wenlock

27th November: Christmas Lights Switch On, Bridgnorth

28th November: Christmas Lights Switch On in Broseley and Ironbridge

5th December: Much Wenlock Christmas Fayre

19th December at 7.30pm St. Leonard's Church, Bridgnorth /A WEST END CHRISTMAS: Hits from the West End; Live Orchestra

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 publicity officer "Jocelyne" on jocelynebarbier@hotmail.com

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 (£10 for a single 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.**

Cheques to be sent to: BLHS, 3 Tarbach Close, Broseley TF12 5SF

Broseley Local History Society Committee

Committee Members

Chair Kathryn Warren

Secretary Dot Cox

Treasurer Reha Deric

Membership Secretary To be appointed

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

Janet Robinson

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>

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Printed by MDT Reprographics



BROSELEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Christmas Extravaganza!

WEDNESDAY 2ND DEC AT 6PM

At the Social Club downstairs

ONLY £20 PER PERSON

- STARTING TIME: 6PM FOR ORDERING DRINKS
- STORYTELLING: 6.30PM BY NICK DOWNES
- CHRISTMAS BUFFET STARTS AT 7PM (COLD MEAT, PIES , PÂTÉS, CHRISTMAS CAKE & DESSERTS, GLUTEN FREE AVAILABLE, VEGETARIAN OPTIONS ETC.)
- TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS BY THE CADENCE SINGERS AT 8.30PM & CHRISTMAS QUIZ

- Reply by 13th November 2026 with your name(s) and payment(s) to:
BLHS, 3 Tarbach Close, Broseley TF12 5SF
- Payments: cheques or bank transfer **ONLY**, details can be found on page 7
- Queries to jocelynebarbier@hotmail.com