

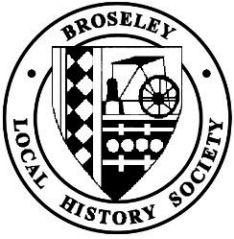
# NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

*INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY*

Feb – 2022

Issue: 52



## 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.

## CONTENTS

BLHS Programme	Page 1
New Members	Page 1
Subscriptions	Page 1
What's On Elsewhere	Page 1
Previous Meetings & Events	Page 2
Joseph Anstice & His Circle	Page 2
Events at Broseley Baptist Chapel	Page 2
Benthall Edge Archaeological Excavation	Pages 2-3
Champion Hovis Bakers of Broseley	Page 3
Unusual Names	Page 4
Mailbox	Page 4

## BLHS Programme

**PLEASE NOTE: To avoid any inconvenience, check the BLHS website to confirm prior to attending, to confirm that the event is still going ahead.**

March 2 – *The Wives and Daughters of the Lunar Society*, Kate Croft.

April 6 'John Wilkinson's Trade Tokens', Keith Robinson

May 4 'Caughley' (250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary), Allan Smith

June 1 Summer Walk: Caughley or Benthall Woods

July 2 (Sat.) Summer Trip: Coventry.

## Neil Clarke 18<sup>th</sup>. January 2022

### Other Events

None have been advised for the coming quarter.

## NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new member:

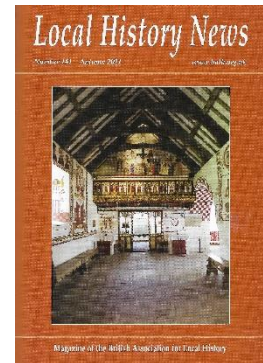
Janice Miles - Ironbridge

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to the Society have now resumed and can be paid either in cash or by cheque as before.

## What's On Elsewhere?

### BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY NEWS



I do enjoy Alan Crosby's 'editorials' (first & last) published in *Local History News*, his discovery of a gem of a book at a National Trust bookshop made me envious I've never found a bargain quite like that! The description of a visit to Alnwick Castle has inspired me to visit there - again, I only managed the gardens and the wonderful tree house for a coffee and never reached the house/castle itself!

There are interesting articles on local town memories that are now regularly posted on Facebook and similar web pages, and along with a review on the web site from "The Amateur Historian" of Summer 1957 entitled "Old People as a Source of History" – perhaps at last we "oldies" may be coming into our own!!

Amongst the history book reviews were 3 of local interest "The Scratch of the Hop – Hop Picking in Herefordshire, Worcestershire & Shropshire" by Marsha O'Mahony (full review online) – I didn't know Shropshire had a history, however small of hop growing; "The Country Houses of Shropshire" by Gareth Williams, a hefty tome in more ways than one, retailing at £95 and "Brick Making – History & Heritage" by David Johnson

I must once again recommend the ten-minute talks on the web site the ones I've watched have been very good and well worth checking out.

Forewarned - BALH Local History Day will be on Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022

And finally, don't forget the **Local History Photographer of the Year Competition**, with cash prizes, submissions open until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. For full details see the BALH web site.

**Janet Doody 21<sup>st</sup>. January 2022**

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND EVENTS

At the annual joint meeting with the Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in Coalbrookdale on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Diana Clarke gave an illustrated talk on 'Joseph Anstice and his circle'. See below:

### TALK: 'JOSEPH ANSTICE & HIS CIRCLE'

Joseph Anstice was born at Madeley Wood Hall on December 21<sup>st</sup> 1808, the second son of William Anstice, who was the joint owner of the Madeley Wood Company. Joseph spent the first five years of his life in Madeley before moving to a 'free school' run by his uncle at Enmore in Somerset, the home county of his parents. He completed his schooling at Westminster School before entering Christchurch College, Oxford where he was awarded a Double First in Classics and Mathematics in 1831. While at Oxford, he was a member of an influential group of friends, including William Ewart Gladstone, the future prime minister.

At the early age of 22, Joseph's precocious ability won him the post of the first Professor of Classical Literature at the newly established Anglican King's College, London, in 1831. The following year, he married his cousin Elizabeth at Enmore; in the next two years the couple had a son and daughter, both of whom sadly died in infancy. Joseph corresponded regularly with members of his family at Madeley and elsewhere, and he made occasional visits to his birthplace.

After four distinguished years at King's College and the publication of a number of works, Joseph's own health deteriorated and he became too ill to carry on, leading to his premature death in 1836. During his final months, he tasked himself with writing, this time in the form of hymns. These were published after his death and two found their way into *Hymns Ancient & Modern* in 1861. Joseph, who was buried at Enmore, never saw his second daughter, Josephine Elizabeth, born posthumously in 1836.

The 60 plus people who attended this presentation on the life of a distinguished son of Madeley appreciated the amount of research that had gone into the talk, which included using the Anstice Papers in the IGMT archives and correspondence with the current Professor of Classics at King's College.



Mr. Anstice House "Madeley Wood Hall" 1805

Diane Clarke Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2021.  
(Submitted by Neil Clarke)

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## Articles

### EVENTS AT BROSELEY BAPTIST CHAPEL

A collection of reports regarding events held at the Baptist Chapel in Chapel Lane noted on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1944 that:

"A feature of Sunday Services was the presence of a number of black American Troops who, at the evening service sang a number of Negro Spirituals; also, at the afternoon service Corporal Thomas of the U.S. Army sang the solo "Well Done" supported by several of his comrades."

Does anyone remember seeing these troops that were probably from Atcham or even being on the congregation and hearing them sing?

The photograph below of two Military Police was believed to have been taken in Broseley and comes from a collection of Mrs Gill Pope, it is not known whether they took part in the chapel services.



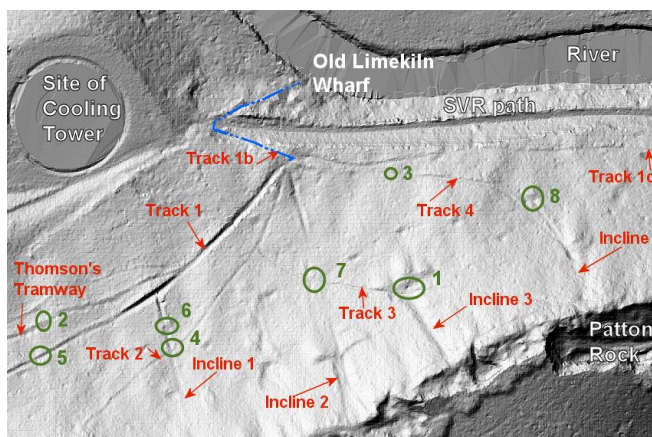
Janet Doody 13<sup>th</sup>. January 2022

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### BENTHALL EDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

The Nuffield Report on Benthall and Broseley Wood (available on our website) contains a detailed survey of the limestone quarries and trackways on Benthall Edge. Since the report was

published Lidar images have become available that show features not identified in the Nuffield Report. Further research has revealed that the Coalbrookdale Company were probably the first to extract fluxing stone in the 1750's. The last quarry for this mineral in association with the Lightmoor Furnaces operated until around 1840. Patton's Rock continued to quarry and burn limestone; it operated until 1865 and was briefly re-opened in the 1930's. A study of the Lidar images has revealed the route of twelve tracks, many of which are believed to have been railways, and also the sites of six inclined planes have been identified. See Lidar Image below:



**BENTHALL TRAMWAYS LIDAR**

The railways would originally have had wooden rails and sleepers and may have been modified to have cast iron plates fixed on top of the rails, a system introduced by the Coalbrookdale Company in around 1767. Later railways had 'L' shaped plateway rails and fragments of these have been found on a railway dating from the 1830's.

A joint project funded by the BLHS, Severn Gorge Countryside Trust and the IGMT has been put together to conduct an archaeological excavation of some of the sites which are believed to be the from the earliest period of operation. The sites are on the Edge south of where the old Severn Valley Railway is blocked off by the Power Station fence. The dig will be over the three days 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April. It will be supervised by an archaeologist from the Clwyd Archaeological Trust and is open to people associated with the three sponsors. If you are interested in volunteering for the dig, please contact Steve Dewhirst - [steve@broseley.org.uk](mailto:steve@broseley.org.uk) for further details.

**Steve Dewhirst 19<sup>th</sup>. January 2022**

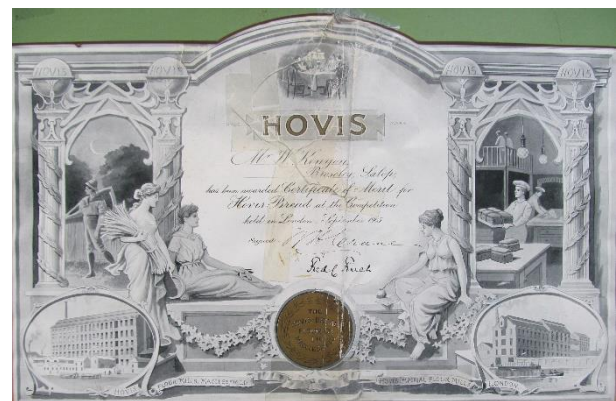
### **CHAMPION HOVIS BAKERS OF BROSELEY**

In September 1905 Mr William Kenyon of 38 King Street, Broseley was awarded this certificate of merit in a competition for baking Hovis bread that

had been held In London. William, of Church Hill, Ironbridge was born on 10 May 1862 and trained with confectioner Theophilus Jordan of High Street, Madeley.

Following his marriage in 1888 to Annie Emily Boden William and his wife, moved to the bakery in King Street, Broseley. On 4th September 1889 their daughter Lily was born followed in 1895 by another daughter Blanche. William and Annie continued to live in King Street until their deaths both in early 1950.

In 1911, Lily was a music teacher and in 1915 she married William Scott, a designer at Maws Encaustic Tiles, and by 1939 they were living at 45 King Street. Blanche also became a schoolteacher and in 1928 married Albert Wase, a motor mechanic and in 1939 they lived at 15 High Street. But that is not all in the way of champion bakers. On 17 July 1929 John Harrison, baker, and confectioner of 1 High Street, Broseley also won 2 special prizes at National Hovis Competition which took place in Macclesfield. See the first Certificate awarded below:



**Janet Doody 19<sup>th</sup>. January 2022**

Sources:

Certificate – Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

[www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

### **UNUSUAL NAMES! GRACIOUS HARDACRE**

Anyone who has attempted their family research has no doubt turned up some unusual first names; personally, during the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century "Clementina" occurred a few times, thankfully disappearing before it reached me!!

Recently while researching the Broseley Parish, I came across a GRACIOUS HARDACRE, male not female, he married Anne Shaw at St. Leonard's, Broseley on 18 September 1759. Ann died in 1799 and was buried at Broseley on 2 June, whilst Gracious died in August 1807 and was also buried at Broseley on 30 August 1807. They had 2 children

baptised, James on the 12 September 1762 and Patty on 5 November 1766, sadly Patty was buried on 9 October 1767, and James on 16 December 1788. James doesn't seem to have married and I discovered no other children.

I didn't find a Gracious Hardacre who was baptised in the area, for the period Hardacre does not seem to be a local name; however, I did find a Gracious Hardacre who was baptised on 18 November 1732 in Huntspill, Somerset. If it is the same Gracious, then what brought him to Broseley in the 1750's – work, I guess!

It's surprising where researching on a tangent can lead!! Anyone else have unusual names in their family trees?

**Janet Doody 22<sup>nd</sup>. January 2022**

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## MAILBOX

**Received from Dot Cox 26<sup>th</sup>. January 2022**

Hello All,

You may be interested in an item on Antiques Roadshow last Sunday Jan 23rd, which may be a repeat. About halfway through a lady appeared with a rather nice pot, which was Benthall pottery, and Broseley was mentioned as that is where she had acquired it. **I wonder if this information could be put in the newsletter** if it hasn't been compiled yet, as members may be interested. People can obviously track down the programme on their TV player, or alternatively here (courtesy of Jocelyne Barbier) is the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000hrfg/antiques-roadshow-series-42-castle-ward-2>

Best Wishes

Dot

## DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS

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, email: [janetc46.jr.jr@gmail.com](mailto:janetc46.jr.jr@gmail.com)

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

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<i>Chairman</i>	Gillian Pope
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**To see this *Newsletter* in full colour, visit the website at [www.broseley.org.uk](http://www.broseley.org.uk).**

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