

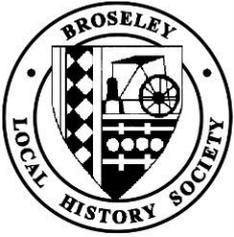
NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY

May – 2022

Issue: 53



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

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

May 4 - 'Caughley' (250th Anniversary), Allan Smith

June 1 – Walk to Caughley (arrangements at May meeting)

July 2 - Trip to Coventry (details to be announced)

Sept. 7 - Janet Doody, *Broseley Baptist Chapel*

Sep. 17 - BLHS Open Day 10am – 3pm Victoria Hall Broseley.

Oct. 5 - AGM, followed by refreshments and Society reminiscences ([see below](#))

Nov. 2 - Steve Dewhirst, *Benthall Railways* (joint with IGMT Friends at Coalbrookdale)

Dec. 7 - Annual Dinner.

Our 50th Birthday Party

This year is the Society's 50th birthday. We began as the Wilkinson Society in 1972 and changed our name to the Broseley Local History Society in 1997. To celebrate this milestone in the Society's history, following our AGM we are planning to put on refreshments and a presentation of images and reminiscences. We invite members to contribute to this with photos/slides and memories of trips, events

and talks organised by the Society. Do let me know if you can help (neilclarke19@btinternet.com).

Other Events

Open Day- Saturday 17th September, 2022

In October 2017, the Society held a very successful Open Day in the Victoria Hall, and the intention was to hold another in 2020. Unfortunately, Covid prevented that taking place. The Committee feels that as the Covid situation has improved another Open Day can now take place. This has been arranged for Saturday 17th September in the Victoria Hall, opening to the public at 10am until 3pm. This will coincide with the National Heritage Open Days which are from the 9th to the 18th of September.

Following the previous Open Day, we had many enquiries as to when another was taking place and since that time numerous new people have moved into Broseley who seem very interested in the history of the town. It will give people the opportunity to learn about the town in which they live. It will be of a similar format as the previous one, displays about various aspects of the town life and the opportunity for members of the public to bring along anything they would like to share with others and have the chance to have them photographed or photocopied. Tea and coffee will be available during the day. The committee would be pleased to have help with any aspect of the day.

Gill Pope 4th. April 2022

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Broseley Local History Society would like to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which will be celebrated nationally in June. Unfortunately, we will be unable to celebrate it in June as we do not have any meetings in the Social Club after our May meeting until we meet again in September.

We will put a display out at our September meeting in the Social Club and if any members have any interesting memorabilia of either the Queen's coronation or any subsequent events in her reign, we

would be delighted to display them, please bring them along.

Gill Pope 4th. April 2022

The Reverend Michael Pope

Michael, who was a member and committee member of Broseley Local History Society for twenty years, died in April 2020. It was at the start of the Covid pandemic and sadly only nine members of his family were able to attend his cremation at Telford. Michael had written his funeral service in the weeks before he died and of course this could not be used. It is the wish of his wider family and friends that a Thanksgiving Service should be held to celebrate his life and ministry now that Covid restrictions are no longer in place.

The Service has been arranged for Saturday 21st May 2022 in All Saints' Church, Broseley at 12 noon. During this service a new priests chasuble will be presented to the church and blessed in memory of him. The family would be pleased for anyone who wishes, to join them at this service.

Gill Pope 4th. April 2022

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Michael & Ros Donald from Broseley

David Bowen from Broseley

David & Diana Lowe Broseley

Jeremy Flaherty Coalbrookdale

Frank Wilkie Shrewsbury

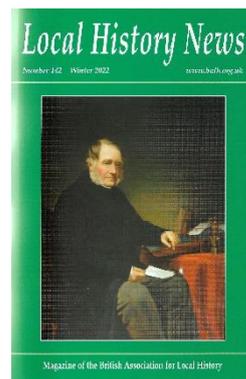
SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

and talks organised by the Society. Do let me know if you can help (neilclarke19@btinternet.com)

What's On Elsewhere?

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY NEWS



Local History News contains: Profiles of 3 of the members awarded the Personal Achievement Awards for 2021: Jeff Childs from Swans, Jaqueline Cooper from Claverley and Brian Hastings from Whitburn. Notification that the William Salt Library, the County Museum & Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Archive Service are to become part of the Staffordshire History Centre, and this means a disruption of services.

Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer from Historic England is now freely available online, displaying archaeology that has been recorded using over 30 years of aerial photographs, currently the project has covered the west of Shropshire along the border with Wales.

Chaddesley Corbett LHS (Worcestershire) have recently produced 'How It Was Chaddesley Corbett 1900-1950' by Sylvia Beardshaw.

There is an article on the Worcestershire Industrial Archaeology & Local History Society, who like Broseley are celebrating their 50th anniversary Local History Day & BALH AGM Saturday 11 June 2022 at Conway Hall, London, this year the guest speaker is television historian Janina Ramirez, personal booking and zoom link details will be available on the BALH website.

A bit closer to home, two Shropshire war memorials have received grants from War Memorials Trust for the repair and conservation of their memorials, Ightfield and Claverley. I don't know Ightfield but the Claverley one is unusual and worth a visit, as is the parish church with its wall paintings.

The Local Historian: The Associations Journal is in its 70th year of publication and has some interesting articles, 'Medieval life revealed in coroners' rolls', investigating sudden or unexplained deaths; 'The probate process in England and Wales' concerning the making of wills, probate inventories etc. During the early 1970's Dr Barrie Trinder ran evening classes transcribing fascinating local probate inventories, resulting in the publishing of 'Yeoman and Colliers in

Telford' and later 'Miners & Mariners of the Severn Gorge'; 'Women, railways and leisure in Victorian Britain'; 'Domestic Service & Migration in the early 20th century' relevant following International Women's Day on 8th March and finally 'Arnold Bennett 1867-1931'

Book reviews include: 'The Welsh Marcher Lordships' by Philip Hume & 'A Nation of Singing Birds – sermon and song in Wales' by Ronald Rees - anyone who has attended an international rugby game at the Millennium Stadium (or whatever it's called now) can vouch for the singing, especially if the roof is closed!! If anyone would like to read either of these publications check the BALH website or contact me: janet.doody27@googlemail.com

Janet Doody 11th. March 2022

PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND EVENTS

'Women of Excellent Understanding': the wives and daughters of the Lunar Society.

The Annual Wilkinson Lecture, given by Kate Croft on 2nd March

In all the historical attention to the men who were members of the Lunar Society, Kate Croft reminded us of the many gifted women associated with the group and picked out a few of them for her talk. She emphasised the supportive role many played as wives, but also their personal talents often overshadowed in history by the fame of the men.

James Watt, developer of the steam engine, became a widower in 1773. His first wife, Margaret (Miller), known as Peggy, who died in childbirth while he was away on business had capably run his business as an instrument maker. On his marriage to his second wife, Ann (McGregor) in 1777, Watt moved to Birmingham initially to help repair a Newcomen engine, but eventually to develop a viable steam engine at the Soho Foundry in partnership with Matthew Boulton. Like Peggy, Ann actively involved herself in Watt's business interests, as well as supporting him through his depressive episodes.

Mary, sister of ironmaster John Wilkinson, married Joseph Priestley, scientist, writer, philosopher, and much more. In his Autobiography, Priestley warmly recognised both her intellect and her capable handling of everything that made it possible for him to concentrate on his work. The title of Kate's talk, 'Women of Excellent Understanding', is a direct reference taken from Priestley's tribute to his wife.

Honora (Sneyd) Edgeworth was well-educated in the home of Anna Seward of Lichfield and a close acquaintance of Erasmus Darwin, founder of the Lunar Society. A writer and educationalist herself, she married Richard Lovell Edgeworth, an inventor who was also interested in social improvements and educational reform. On her marriage, Honora became the stepmother of Maria Edgeworth, who she encouraged through an educational programme devised by Richard and herself in partnership. Schooled by both parents, Maria became famous as a novelist, and for collaborating with her father on 'Practical Education', one of the earliest comprehensive studies on raising and educating children.

On their marriage in 1764, Sarah (Sally) Wedgwood brought Josiah Wedgwood the wealth he needed for his pottery enterprises. Not only that, but the well-educated Sally was also involved in the business from the start, both in the design side and in accounting. She, like Josiah, actively campaigned for the abolition of slavery. Their daughter, Sarah, continued Sally's legacy, becoming a founder member of Birmingham Ladies' Society for Anti-Slavery.

Kate Croft's research highlights not only the importance of the much-underrated domestic responsibilities of these women which provided the scaffolding the men needed to pursue their work, but also brings forward their own personal aptitudes and capabilities.

Diana Clarke

Diane Clarke 31st. March 2022
(Submitted by Neil Clarke)

Articles

The Oakengates Wakes – A Childhood Experience

This small memoir is written with many thanks to Janet Doody for her fascinating article, 'Broseley Wakes', in the Broseley Local History Society Journal No. 43, 2021.

According to the Victoria County History of Shropshire (vol.11 1985), the Oakengates Wakes mutated from an annual event in which the pubs were the main attraction along with bull baiting, athletics and horse and donkey races, to an annual funfair¹. In spite of this transition, the Wakes in Oakengates retained its name and continued long after Wakes had perished elsewhere.

It was still, unequivocally, the Oakengates Wakes in about 1954 when we sisters (Diana and I) were taken by our father one Saturday afternoon to a field somewhere in Oakengates to the Wakes. There were stalls and tents; no bulls or baiting or drunkenness and roistering. It was all marvellous. Because we were about 10 and 7 years old, we were massively entertained by the simplest thing, like the mirrors in the distorting mirrors tent which transformed us, with every movement, into taller/shorter/fatter/thinner wiggly people.

But the most memorable thing was to come. The vivid, unforgettable thing. This thing was The Snake Woman. Her tent smelled of trampled grass and behind a kind of small fence there she was. She was dressed in a slightly risqué, theatrical costume which was embellished with lots of fringes. Some of this outfit was obscured by a huge snake, an enormous python, which was wrapped, from her shoulder, all around her body.

We had never, ever, seen anything like it before. We were utterly, completely, transfixed. We weren't frightened, even though snakes have a very bad press. We just stared. It was utterly compelling. The Snake Woman must have been used to this kind of reaction and approached us gently. She was the most exotic person we had ever seen. (We lived in Lawley Bank, which didn't offer much in the way of exotic). She was very kindly and invited us to stroke the snake. I reached out a hand, a bit tentative, expecting the sensation of damp slime. Instead, the skin was dry and smooth with just the faint, subtle texture of tightly articulated scales. It was silkily beautiful and an early example of experience over expectation.

However, Diana was then invited to wrap the snake around herself. Or maybe it was the other way round (but that's Diana's story). The Snake Woman didn't ask me. Maybe I was of a size which could be swallowed, though it didn't appear to be a particularly hungry snake. We left the tent with an

indelible memory and a small piece of dried, translucent, sloughed-off snakeskin in a tiny envelope.

I wonder now about The Snake Woman. Where did she and her snake come from? Why had chosen to earn a living by introducing her enormous python to wide-eyed children? However, it was, she arrived in Oakengates on that Saturday afternoon, and I am very grateful to her and her python for that extraordinary and unforgettable childhood experience.

Margaret Barrett, Chippenham (Diana Clarke's sister)

Submitted by Neil Clarke 14th. April 2022

Unusual Names - Pleasant Paine

Following on from Jan Doody's research when she came across a GRACIOUS HARDACRE, I have been looking at some of my family history and find I have a six times great grandmother, born in 1710 and named PLEASANT PAINE. One can only surmise that the pain referred to was that of childbirth and the daughter was approved of. Or they didn't consider the surname!

The family recalled the name and called her great granddaughter (born in 1804) Pleasant Curling Gisby. She died in 1882, and her name was remembered when *her* granddaughter (born 1885) was called Pleasant Gisby Adams.

Fortunately for me the name seems to have fallen into disuse, unless of course anyone knows differently. This family were all in Kent, perhaps it's common there.

Dot Cox

and another item....

Champion Hovis Bakers of Broseley

There was an interesting item in the last newsletter about Kenyon's Bakers of King Street, Broseley. I live in the house immediately adjacent to where this shop used to be, and my house, when we bought it 40 years ago, had been attached to the bakers, which had by then been demolished and replaced by the 1970s house standing there now. (38, King Street).

When we first came to Broseley, local people used to tell us about the bakery next door, and particularly that there was a cat which loved to lie in the sunny shop window on the warm bread. I suppose it kept the newly baked bread warm!

I wonder if these feline antics led to the demise of the business.

Has anyone another memory of this bakery, or the other shops along King Street?

Dot Cox 3rd. March 2022

MAILBOX

A Poem

THE IRON BRIDGE

The third Darby was a foundry-man,
a bridge he built of iron span,
it wed the Dale to Broseley town
and made him King with iron crown.
A Bridge he made to cross the ravine
Twixt horse drawn cart to coke and steam.
That silver plane in azure sky,
It is his gift to you and I.
So, when you cross this iron way
think of those this very day,
who smelt the iron and cast in sand,
a touch of magic by their hand.
In a future year and day
ships from earth to stars will soar away
and all these ships will take with
our heritage of iron men

A.J. Dodd – Coalbrookdale

This poem was discovered amongst a collection of papers recently received by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, does anyone know the author?
Janet.doody27@googlemail.com

Janet Doody 10th. March 2022

National Cemeteries Week

As you will see below from the National Federation of Cemetery Friends (NFCF), the 5th National Cemeteries Week is being held this year between 30 April and 8 May. The Friends of the Red Church is planning to hold two guided walks which are being advertised nationally next month by NFCF. I have no idea what the response will be, but I hope that it might result in generating awareness in a few visitors.

As is normal for our guided walks, this is open to local people as well and the attached invitation will be publicised locally mid-April.

This is for information, but since non-members of NFCF are also invited to join in the week, Broseley Town Council and the Gorge Parish Council may like to advise others who are involved in running our local cemeteries and graveyards of the existence of this "National week." For example, Broseley has what I think must be one of the country's best kept graveyards with an interesting chapel and I am wondering if this event might be of interest to those involved in its organisation.

Many thanks

Graham Hollox 4th. April 2022
(Submitted by Neil Clarke)

www.cemeteryfriends.com



Return of National Cemeteries Week

30th April to 8th May, 2022

Dear Cemetery Friends

Welcome to National Cemeteries Week and thanks to those who have already registered their interest. Although we were prepared for this annual event in 2020, all plans had to be abandoned because of Covid-19, so it is with pleasure that we invite you to this delayed fifth NCW. Welcome also to new members who have joined the National Federation of Cemetery Friends since 2019, we hope you will see this week as an opportunity to make your presence known in your communities.

Once again the NFCF is synchronising its National Cemeteries Week with Hospice UK's [Dying Matters Awareness Week](#) and both have agreed to share publicity.

National Cemeteries Week presents us with the opportunity to draw attention to the work of voluntary groups in their local cemeteries, to emphasise the benefits to their area and raise awareness of an important local amenity. Local authorities or owners without Cemetery Friends are also welcome to join in.

Events will be listed on the NFCF website and it will be helpful in raising public awareness if groups can seek local publicity. We will be sending a poster for you to advertise your own events. Meanwhile, we invite members to please register your interest as soon as possible, details can be sent later.

Please contact me at ncw@cemeteryfriends.com to register or if you have any queries.

Best wishes

Emer Seamark
NCW Coordinator

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Contributions

I am conscious of the fact that I rarely thank contributors for their timely, well written and interesting articles. It makes my job so much easier. So this is the lazy persons way of saying thank you to you all. It is appreciated!

Mike Wallage 24th. April 2022

**SUMMER OUTING – SATURDAY 2ND JULY 2022
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL AND CITY**



Your committee has taken the decision to both reinstate the annual outing and the original planned trip of 2019 to Coventry – yes, we've decided to send you all to COVENTRY!!! All the information given here is as it stands at the moment but as much as possible you will be kept up to date with any changes.

EXCEPT THE PRICE - which we have managed to keep the same at just £20; this includes a guided tour of the Cathedral during the morning but unfortunately at the time of writing both the 'Blitz Experience' Museum and the Tower Climb are closed (charges usually apply), as is the Cathedral Café. After the tour you will be free to explore the city; next to the Cathedral is the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, (open 10.00am-4.00pm, free entry) which houses galleries of British & European Art, displays of Coventry's social & industrial history and of course the legend of Lady Godiva. The Café Alfred within the 'Herbert' is currently open.

The Coventry Transport Museum is also within walking distance and houses the largest publicly owned collection of British vehicles, telling the story of Coventry & its people through the rise & fall of its largest industry. It is open 10.00am-5.00pm (last entry 3.00pm), entry charge is currently £14.00 (£10.50 seniors) for a 364 day ticket and it also houses Esquires Coffee serving food and beverages, from 9am – 5pm.

Also, within walking distance Spon Street, home to a high concentration of medieval buildings, many of which have been saved from demolition and rebuilt on the site. They now house retail premises and a public house.

The coach will leave Broseley Square Bus Stop at 9.00am; there is free parking in the carpark adjacent to the Library in Bridgnorth Road. If you have any concerns regarding this outing, please

feel free to get in touch but we all hope to see you there.

Janet – janet.doody27@googlemail.com

Janet Doody 18th. March 2022

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

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
<i>Secretary</i>	Dot Cox
<i>Treasurer</i>	Reha Derici
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Janet Robinson 26 Coalport Road Broseley TF12 5AZ 01952 882495
<i>Programme Secretary and Journal Editor</i>	Neil Clarke
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To see this Newsletter in full colour, visit the website at www.broseley.org.uk.

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BOOKING FORM
SUMMER OUTING TO COVENTRY – SATURDAY 2ND JULY 2022

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE: _____ TEL. NO: _____

MOBILE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NO: OF PERSONS _____ @ £20 PER PERSON

Email: janetdoody27@googlemail.com tel: 01952 610000 or 07548 804179

Address: Rosehill, Moss Road, Wrockwardine Wood, Telford, Shropshire TF2 7BJ