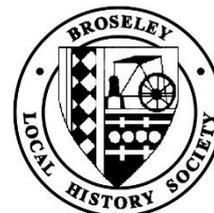


# NEWSLETTER

## Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



AUGUST 2019

### MEETINGS

Meetings of the Broseley Local History Society are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Broseley Social Club, High Street, unless otherwise announced. Car parking is available at the back of the Club.

Members are requested to be seated by 7.30pm to allow our speakers a prompt start.

Visitors are welcome but are asked to give a donation towards Society funds.

### BLHS PROGRAMME

4<sup>th</sup>. Sept. "Dawley Girl writes book on Telford" (Pat Bracegirdle).

2<sup>nd</sup>. Oct. John Randall (John Willock).

6<sup>th</sup>. Nov. "Both Sides of the River" - Joint meeting with the IGM Friends (Neil Clarke).

4<sup>th</sup>. Dec. Annual Dinner.

### What's On Elsewhere?

**September 18<sup>th</sup>** Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. *An Inspector Called – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Talk*. A talk by John Yates, retired Inspector of Historic Buildings, English Heritage. 7.30pm in the Glass Classroom, Coalbrookdale.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>**. Caughley Society Meeting Invitation to Members: 10:30-16:30 (approx.) at Coalport China Museum. This is chargeable. Please see BLHS website for further details

**October 16<sup>th</sup>** Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. *The Work of an Archivist – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Talk*. A talk by Sarah Roberts. Archivist at the Ironbridge Gorge Museums. 7.30pm in the Glass Classroom.

**November 6<sup>th</sup>** Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. *Both sides of the River: the Friends and the Broseley Local History Society* An entertaining talk by Neil Clarke and the annual joint meeting with Broseley Local History Society. 7.30pm in the Glass Classroom.

The Society has received many requests to hold another "Open Day" similar to the one held two years ago. Therefore, we hope to hold one in March next year. Details will be available nearer the time.

### NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Alison Ball - Walsall

Gina Barrett - USA

Stuart & Sarah Dawe - Broseley

### SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Janet Robinson would like to remind members who have not paid their annual subscription since the Annual Meeting in October that the cost of membership is £7 for single membership and £12 for double membership. Could you please let Janet have your payment as soon as possible.

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## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### BALH Award for Neil Clarke

#### LOCAL HISTORY DAY AND THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY (BALH) AGM

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June, Jim Cooper and I attended the BALH Local History Day and AGM, not only to support Broseley member Neil Clarke who was to receive a Personal Achievement Award, but also to represent our Society. The BALH can award up to 6 Personal Achievement Awards each year to “publicly honour local historians who have made outstanding and significant voluntary contribution to the subject” of local history.

The event took place in London at Conway Hall, (which is owned and operated by the Ethical Society and an interesting building in itself); the morning allowed time to browse the displays, the most interesting to us being the Royal College of Nursing Archives. Following the welcome by the Chair of the BALH, Professor David Killingray, was a talk on “Sites of Suffrage: local history and the suffrage centenary” by Professor Krista Cowman, University of Lincoln; in which she illustrated how local history research can add knowledge to much wider interpretations. I found this talk particularly inspiring and have added this area of research to my “to do list”, (one day I hope to achieve all these objectives!).

The presentation of awards followed, which not only included 5 for personal achievement, but one for the best Society Newsletter and a number for research articles and publications. After the business of the AGM, Dr Rose Wallis, Associate Director, Regional History Centre, University of the West of England delivered the BALH Annual Lecture “Rulers of the County: the magistracy and the challenge of local government c1790-1834”. I have to say I found this lecture a “challenge”, although I acknowledged the meticulous research undertaken, as a “layman/person” I found the content a bit heavy going though I am sure it was appreciated by the academics in the audience. It was a most enjoyable couple of days and opportunity to see a little of London, the weather was lovely and Jim and I managed to include a Thames river trip as well as a walk along the Embankment and South Bank.

*Janet Doody*



Neil Clarke receives his well-deserved Award.



### THE STORY OF ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCH.

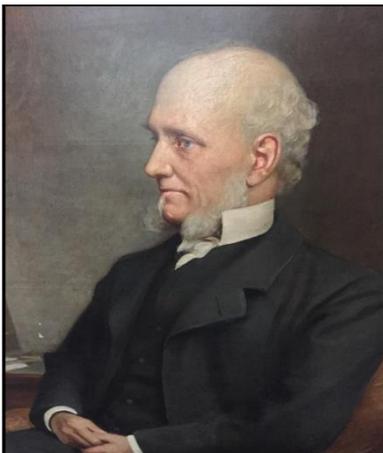
Michael Pope began his illustrated talk on May 1<sup>st</sup> by quoting a letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> December 1842. It was written by somebody who called himself an Antiquarian – obviously somebody interested in old buildings. The letter was headed – Our visit to Broseley Church – 24<sup>th</sup> December 1842. Speaking of the church he wrote – “ It’s Gothic tower, indeed is everything we could wish, though the body of the church has all the appearance of a respectable-looking farmer’s outhouse, and nothing more! It is said that the authorities are about to pull down the old building shortly for it has no interesting feature about it.”

The church referred to in the letter was the predecessor to All Saints’ and was dedicated to St. Leonard.



ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH BROSELEY

It had stood on the site for something like 150 years. The Rector in 1842 was the Rev'd Orlando Watkin Weld-Forester. He had been inducted into the living the previous year at the age of 28 having married Sophia Elizabeth Norman in 1840 and having succeeded his uncle, the Rev'd Townsend Forester who had been Rector of Broseley for 40 years from 1801. There is a memorial to Townsend in the Sanctuary in the present church.



REVEREND ORLANDO WATKIN WELD-FORESTER

The appointment of a priest to serve the locality goes back to at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century and its independence of Much Wenlock was probably achieved in 1595 with the granting of Burial Rights. In 1816 the advowson or right of presentation was sold by John and Mary Cage to a William Porter and he sold it to John Weld in 1620. From then on the Weld – later the Weld Forester- family enjoyed the right to appoint the Incumbent as Patrons of the Living. Following his appointment as Rector Orlando decided to do something about the Church. He would build a new one, worthy of himself, his family name and of Broseley. It would be the finest building in the town. A Petition was drawn up later in the year in the name of the Rector and Churchwardens and was signed by a large number of local people. St. Leonard's Church would have to be demolished and a new church built partly on the site of the old. The Committee then decided to appoint a young man in his early thirties, Harvey

Eginton as the architect of this new project. He was born in 1809, the son of Raphael Eginton, a glass painter living in Worcester. Harvey had learnt his architectural skills by studying the Cathedral at Worcester and absorbing information from his father. His rising reputation gained him an increasing number of commissions- new churches and schools, police stations and the restoration of Sudeley Castle and Astley Hall. Unfortunately, he was to die just a few years after the new church at Broseley was completed, on Ash Wednesday 1849, aged just 40 years. His legacy was to provide Broseley with the finest early Victorian Church in the County of Shropshire.

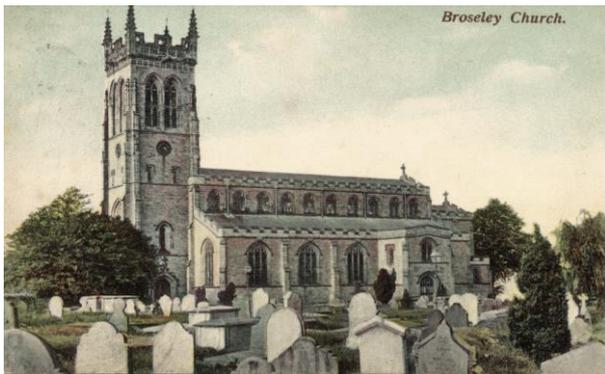
The next job of the Committee was to appoint a building contractor to undertake the building of the new church. They appointed a local firm to undertake the work – William Exley and Sons; Trow masters, makers of bricks, roofing and ridge tiles. On 7<sup>th</sup> January 1843 a Faculty was granted to take down the church and build a new one. John Randall in his book 'Broseley and its surroundings' states that the cost of building the new church was £3,388-4-0d but in the end the total cost seems to have been between nine thousand and nine and a half thousand – another problem for the Rector! The new church was Consecrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1845 by the Bishop of Hereford Thomas Musgrave and the Service was followed by a sumptuous feast provided for all and sundry.

In 1859 Orlando Forester became Rector of Doveridge in Derbyshire and then moved to the parish of Gedling near Nottingham where he was Rector from 1867 until 1887. In 1874 he became a Residentiary Canon of York Minster and Chancellor of the Diocese of York until his death in 1894. As well as his religious duties he became an authority on Astronomy and Photography. At Doveridge he built an Observatory and published various papers on Astronomical subjects. He was also a pioneer in the field of modern photography and had his own developing room. He died at his Cathedral duty house in York on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1894 aged 81 years and was buried at Willey.

Michael then went on to give members a tour of the interior of the church – the tower with its "Ring" of eight bells; the organ which was built by J.W. Walker & Sons of London which was originally installed in the west gallery and then moved to the north aisle before being returned to its original place in 1979; the memorial tablets most of which were removed from the earlier building and reinstated in the present one; the screen behind the High Altar which was designed by the eminent Victorian architect George Frederick Bodley and various other furnishings. He especially mentioned the stained-glass windows. The magnificent East window with its five panels was by William Warrington of London and dated 1861. It was installed in memory of the Thursfield Family who lived at Broseley Hall, as was the window in the north aisle. He especially mentioned the window behind the west gallery, and which is now totally obscured by the organ. It was installed in memory of William Exley who built the

present church, and which was donated by his four younger children. It is the work of Charles Eamer Kempe, one of the greatest Victorian Stained-glass artists. It is hoped that the window will be revealed in all its glory sometime in the future.

After Michael's talk the question arose as to why the dedication of Broseley Parish Church changed from St. Leonard to All Saints' when the new church was built. Was it because Linley Church was a part of the benefice of Broseley and the church there was dedicated to St. Leonard? was there a disagreement over who should be the patron saint and so All Saints' would encompass everyone's point of view? If readers have any further suggestions or information, then Michael would be pleased to hear from you!



**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BROSELEY**

*Michael & Gill Pope*

## **SOCIETY SUMMER OUTING TO HEREFORD**

Our coach awaited us in the Square as Chris, Jan, Harold and I rounded "The Corner Shop" in order to park in the old school yard. All aboard, names checked, heads counted. A drastic reduction in the average age of trippers this year with the inclusion of Gill & Michael's grandchildren!! Off we set with a scenic drive through the beautiful Shropshire and Herefordshire countryside that brought us to the city of Hereford and its cider museum.

Our party was divided into two groups for the guided tours and we were taken through the exhibits that explained cider and perry making from the farm to contemporary manufacture. The basic rural "on farm" production was very much a local seasonal occupation, using a cider press to crush the fruit and obtain the juice and then storing in barrels to "mature"; all this reminiscent of "The Grundy's" to many an Archer's fan!

This led on to a more commercial organisation by the Bulmer family that developed to a large site with a bottling plant and all year-round production. Bulmer's initially set-up the museum but as they became absorbed into various global drinks companies the museum became a charitable trust. After a quick coffee, most made their way into the city centre many ending up at the Cathedral. It's been a few years since I visited this magnificent building, in fact the Map a Mundi was then on open view and the chained library in a small room over the porch – all free too. Both are now on display in

a separate exhibition area for which an extra payment is required, but it was worth it. They are now cared for in controlled temperature and lighting conditions, better protected and better for viewing.

A really good day, the weather stayed kind despite the recent vagaries of a British summer, Chris really would have liked to have spent longer at the cider museum, but I needed food (more than the tearoom provided!) so perhaps another visit may be forthcoming! Many thanks to Gill and Michael for once again organising a successful trip, we were all sorry Michael wasn't feeling up to "cider sampling"; but we did think of you, Michael with a toast of the golden liquid!!! The next page has some pictures of the happy (merry?) event:



**ADMIRING THE CIDER PRESS**



**DISPLAY OF CIDER CUPS**



**HOW IT ALL WORKS!**

One of our members, Jocelyne Barbier took some wonderful photographs both at the Cider Museum and in Hereford Cathedral and she would like to share them with the members of Broseley Local History Society.

The links are as follows:

<https://www.irista.com/gallery/w6ztwk0ojmio>  
and <https://www.irista.com/gallery/xxks6buwdhht9>

*Janet Doody / Gill Pope*

## CHOLERA IN BROSELEY

Following recent discussions with a former Curate of Broseley (1972-76), the Reverend John C Oakes, he passed me a summary he had made some years ago of the 19<sup>th</sup> century cholera epidemic in Broseley. This article relies heavily on that, supplemented by a recent review of Broseley Parish records and a photograph supplied by local resident, Lynn Ball.

Cholera first hit Broseley in 1832. It was the result of one of the earliest identified pandemics which started in Bengal in 1826 and spread to Persia, Afghanistan, Russia and Western Europe by 1830. The first cases in Great Britain were reported in Sunderland in September 1831 after the port authorities failed to implement a directive to quarantine all vessels arriving from the Baltic. The disease was previously unknown in England and surgeons thought it was transmitted by touch or from bad smells; there was no known cure. Symptoms started with giddiness, vomiting and diarrhoea. In many cases death followed in just a few hours. By November 1832, the disease had spread throughout the country, with over 52,000 fatalities.

In October 1831 an Order in Council recommended that Boards of Health should be set up in every town. The Broseley Board was established at a public meeting in the Town Hall on 28 November 1831. It included the Rector, Rev'd Townsend Forester, the three surgeons, William Hifields, Richard Thursfield and Richard Wyke, members of the banking Pritchard family and others. It was to meet every Monday evening at 6 p.m. Broseley was divided into three districts, each under the control of one of the surgeons and every house was inspected. The standards of living left much to improve; some houses were described as being "in a disgusting state and wretchedness" and many more were "unclean."

At first, all went well and in February 1832, the Broseley Board of Health was suspended as cholera had not appeared in the town. However, this was premature as two cases were reported by Mr Thursfield on 13 July. They were buried immediately.

Attempts were made to stop the disease by isolating the sick, burning the victims' beds and clothes, painting the walls and roofs of the houses with lime wash and covering drains and sewers, where these existed. On 23 July, Mr John Griffiths was asked to build a special carriage to collect victims and

corpses, some of the sick being taken to Calcutts House which effectively became an isolation hospital, where some patients recovered. Following a request from the Board of Health, a piece of land 40ft x 20ft adjacent to the Red Church graveyard was given by the landowner, Francis Harries for burials due to cholera as it was not thought "right" to use the main cemetery. The first burial recorded specifically in the Cholera Field is dated August 18<sup>th</sup> 1832. The outbreak in Jackfield was recorded in the London Morning Chronicle of 11<sup>th</sup> September 1832 stating that between 12<sup>th</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> September, 25 cases had been reported with 9 deaths. By October 1832, the epidemic subsided but at least fifteen burials had taken place in the cholera burial ground.

The following year was free of cholera and in June 1833, the Broseley Board of Health was dissolved. Unfortunately, this was ahead of a further outbreak in 1834 with twenty-two more burials. The figures for both years are thought to underestimate the severity of the outbreaks, an example clearly being the deaths in July 1832 which had not been recorded as due to cholera.

There are some reports that the burial ground was consecrated by the Bishop of Hereford, however there is no record of this in the Diocesan Archives at Hereford and the land is now thought to be unconsecrated. One of the conditions in the donation of land for cholera burials was that the any gravestones should lie flat with the ground. An evocative photograph of one stone has survived with the victim's name and date of death scratched on it presumably by a distraught bereaved relative. It is to Thomas Crump who was buried, aged 34 on October 4<sup>th</sup> 1834. Today this stone has been sympathetically restored and erected by the landowners to mark the site.



IN MEMORY OF THOMAS CRUMP

The spread of cholera was not formally related to contaminated water and food until 1854, by a Dr Snow in England. The work of George Pritchard and others in Broseley to develop clean water supplies suggests that this cause was already considered likely, together with the appalling living conditions. As is well-known, the former Memorial fountain in Broseley and the Memorial Church of St Mary's in Jackfield recognise his significant contribution to the health of the district.

## Ironbridge Modelling

Gavin Smith's lecture on the restoration of the Iron Bridge brings back to mind the mementoes that can be available. People have been making models of the Iron Bridge ever since it first hit the public imagination. It is of course famous as a first in cast iron construction. Besides that appeal, it also looks just as a bridge should, with a good base and a graceful loadbearing arch that takes the weight of the useful deck. This all appeals to modellers whether they highlight geometric simplicity, want to reproduce every structural detail or make something in between. A completed model can be placed on display to advantage and the techniques used to reproduce the structure remain a source of satisfaction.

Many years ago, I was privileged to see a model of the bridge made in brass by army craft trainees at Donnington. Each piece of the brass structure was machined to represent closely one of the components of the bridge. The model was on loan for display at the Design Engineering Exhibition at the NEC around 1985 and had to be returned for final silver plating before being donated for use in pride of place in the Officers' Mess.

There are also models of a much simpler ambition. (Fig 1) The smallest Meccano model seen is mounted on just one plate but much bigger models have been constructed and the Bridge is used in the emblem of the Telford & Ironbridge Meccano Society. The Ironbridge gift shops do sell a small interesting diecast souvenir only 32mm long. A Google of the topic brings up an interesting variety of models including one made from matchsticks exhibited by Brighton Toy Museum. (Fig 2)

There are two kits newly available that make modelling much easier.

Under the 'Modelux' name is marketed a kit made from laser cut 1.3mm mountboard. (Fig 3) It includes the five arches complete and ready for assembly with the supplied spacers. The finished model is 255mm long, 100mm high and 45mm wide. The card comes in a shade of pale blue so a quick repaint with a Bauxite colour is essential before assembly to reproduce the recent repaint of the bridge. The design has been presented with a flat deck since the makers assume that modellers will want the model to be functional in a rail or road layout and will run traffic across it. Their publicity shots do show it complete with a Hornby goods van on deck mounted rails which shows that, once glued together, the structure is sufficiently strong for the purpose.

'Severn Models' are located in Broseley and produce a large range model kits based on superb brass precision etchings. Their kit No S1 enables a modeller to produce a very realistic representation of the bridge. This is a more advanced level kit, due to the small components and while the traditional method of soldering can be used for assembly it does take considerable skill to avoid excess solder on the joints. The makers expect that most modellers will now use ACC instant clear glue and this does have the advantage that the components can be painted before being assembled. The finished size is approximately 86x37x42mm (3.4x1.5x1.7 inches). Scale approx. 1:450. The

addition of model abutments make the finished item much more realistic and it is up to the modeller to use a favourite technique for scenic work.

Both kits can be obtained online or at modellers' exhibitions.

Fig 1 A very basic small representation of the bridge in Meccano.

Fig 2 Showing the use of matchsticks to make a good representation of the Bridge (Brighton Toy Museum).

Fig 3 The completed 'Modelux' bridge painted with a bauxite colour.

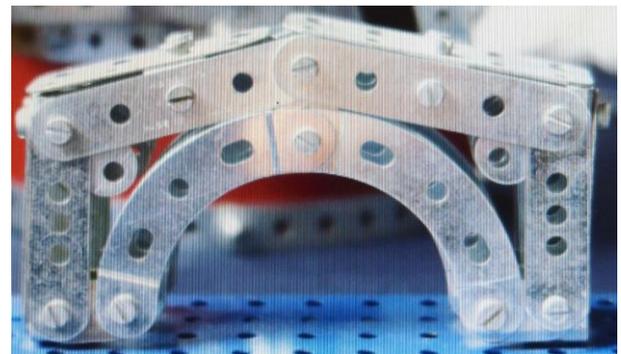


FIG 1



FIG 2



FIG 3

*Vin Calcutt*

## Mailbox

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Dear Fellow Members,

Routine tasks such as tending the garden can lead to some interesting archaeological finds when living in a town like Broseley. Recently unearthed in my front garden is this fragment of a clear (temporarily painted white to highlight its design) glass bottle. Depicting the Iron Bridge, it is possibly the remnant of a 1/2 or 1/3 pint milk bottle, perhaps once supplied by a farm in Dawley or Lawley? Another plausible suggestion is it contained mineral water or beer bought from the former Kings Head public house, located a short distance from where the bottle was found!



Enquires have been made to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, but unfortunately they have not been able to provide any information. If you can help identify this bottle or have a complete example, please contact Steve Dewhirst, email: [steve@broseley.org.uk](mailto:steve@broseley.org.uk)

Tim Shields

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Dear Fellow Shropshire Historian,

I would like to bring to your attention the sad state of affairs existing at the Shropshire Archives. It has been run down over recent years and requires our help to put it right. I have made a website explaining the situation and a course of action. Would you please bring this to the attention of your members and others who might be interested.

The website is: <http://shropshirearchives.uk/>

Nick Harding

The Kangaroo Inn  
Aston-on-Clun  
SY7 8EW.

Thank you.

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## BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY - (BALH)

As a member of the above, the society receives copies of the "Local History News" and "The Local Historian" which are available FREE to members at our meetings.

From the "News":-

Updates from, Societies, Archives, Libraries & Museums:

Lichfield has a new library following a 2 year and £1.4 million development, includes TIC, museum and access point to the Staffordshire Record Office digitised archive collection.

Cheshire Archives has a new website:

[www.cheshirearchives.org.uk](http://www.cheshirearchives.org.uk)

The Locksmiths House Museum, Willenhall (one I have yet to visit has anyone been?), run by the Black Country Living Museum who hold over 14,000 items in its archive collection relating to this business.

Tracing the Belgian Refugees in WW1 the University of Leeds is currently running this project, there were two families in Dawley, were there any in Broseley?

Balsall Heath LHS are researching children who were sent to Canada from Birmingham Children Homes. This episode of British History has recently attracted investigation, I discovered ancestors who were sent to Canada, have you a similar story?

Janet Doody

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## 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:

[janet46.jr.jr@gmail.com](mailto:janet46.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.

### Newsletter Editor:

Could I possibly ask all Contributors to this Newsletter to try their best to see that all content reaches myself during the last week of the month preceding publication. Email address is:

[mike.wallage@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.wallage@btinternet.com)

Also, if possible, could you include "BLHS" in the subject line of the email to make it easier to find in all the plethora of mails I sadly receive. Many thanks in anticipation for both these requests.

Mike Wallage

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<i>Chairman</i>	Gillian Pope
<i>Secretary</i>	Dot Cox
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### WANTED

**A new Treasurer to the Society.  
Jim Cooper is moving house  
and is to resign the post  
at the AGM in October**

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