

Newsletter

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

Incorporating the Wilkinson Society



February 2012

MEETINGS

Meetings of the Broseley Local History Society are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm 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 7.30 pm to allow speakers a prompt start.

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

PROGRAMME

- 7 Mar Annual Wilkinson Lecture, *Joseph Priestley and the Wilkinsons* by Diana Clarke.
- 4 Apr *Wenlock Past and Present*, Joy Sims and Ina Taylor.
- 2 May *Coalbrookdale Literary & Scientific Institution*, John Powell.
- 6 June Summer Evening, visit to Stanley Hall, Astley Abbots, details to be announced.
- 7 Jul July Outing, coach trip to Liverpool Waterfront.

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

David and Joan Dormer, Broseley
Jackie Foster, Broseley
Brian Byng Mason, Wolverhampton
Beryl Smowton, Broseley
Phil Yates, Nordley

FORTY YEARS OLD

2012 sees the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Broseley Local History Society (previously known as the Wilkinson Society) in 1972 by Ralph Pee. Ralph lived at The Lawns and was interested in the life and achievements of the former famous resident of his house – John Wilkinson, the 18th century ironmaster. In its early stage, the programme of meetings and annual Journal focused on industrial history, but after 25 years the Society was re-launched in its present form to reflect the growing interest in the wider social history of the Broseley area. An annual lecture still maintains the link with John Wilkinson, his contemporaries and the times in which he lived.

CONTENTS

Programme	page 1
New Members	page 1
Forty Years Old	page 1
Forthcoming Events	
Queen's Diamond Jubilee	page 2
Summer Evening	page 2
July Outing	page 2
Previous Meetings	
Christmas Dinner	page 3
More Memories of Broseley	page 4
Shropshire's Finest Churches	page 5
Obituary	
Ken Jones	page 7
West Midlands: The Workshop of the World	page 8
Olympic Torch	page 9
Commemorative Plaques	page 9
Caughley Monument	page 9
Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust	page 10
Severn Gorge Countryside Trust	page 10
What's On?	page 10
Bookshop	page 11
Mailbox	page 11
Booking Forms	page 15

The Society will be celebrating this anniversary at the October AGM, when Neil Clarke will be giving a short history of the Society, followed by drinks and nibbles. If anyone has any memories of Society events they would like to share, please contact a member of the committee or email: steve@broseley.org.uk.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Saturday 2 June - Tuesday 5 June
Cemetery Chapel



At the beginning of June Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of her accession to the throne. To celebrate this momentous event in the life of our nation the Society proposes to arrange a display of artefacts connected with her reign and the Royal Family. This will be staged in the Cemetery Chapel in Ironbridge Road and will be open to the public from Saturday 2 June until Tuesday 5 June.

To make this event a success the Society would like as wide a range of artefacts as possible. If anyone has such things as pictures, commemorative items, coins and medals, descriptions of events (local or national) or anything relating to the Queen and her family throughout the last century, please contact the chairman Gillian Pope tel: 01952 883960 or complete the form on page 15.

Volunteers will be needed to man this exhibition throughout this period and if anyone can help the Society would be most grateful. Please also contact Gillian Pope if you can spare an hour or two.

A Royal Diamond Jubilee celebration is a very special event, occurring perhaps only once in a millennium. Broseley already has the Victoria Hall which celebrates Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. The Society believes that as a community Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee should also be celebrated and hopes that members will join them in this undertaking.

Summer Evening

Wednesday 6 June

Plans for this year's Summer Evening are for members to visit Stanley Hall, Astley Abbots, the home of Michael and Clare Thompson.

Stanley Hall was first built in 1642 but has been much added to and changed over the years. Originally U shaped, it is said that half of it was destroyed during the Civil War. The grounds were laid out in the early 19th century by Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt Jones, brother-in-law of the notorious Jack Mytton. Of special interest in the grounds is the newly restored cup and dome Ice House. Built in 1818 at a cost of £150 this is the only ice house in the country with a glass bridge giving a view into its depths.

Stanley Hall was once the family home of Lord Berners, but this eccentric gentleman sold it in the early 1900s and moved to Faringdon House in Oxfordshire where he built the Faringdon Folly – the last Folly to be built in England. In 1924 much of the Hall was pulled down so that now only about one third of the original building remains. Michael Thompson is the third generation of his family to live there.

Further details will be available later, but please book this date so as not to miss out on what promises to be a most interesting evening.

July Outing

Saturday 7 July

This year our July outing will be to the Waterfront at Liverpool, a World Heritage site. The area contains some of Liverpool's most famous landmarks, and attractions include the Albert Dock, Tate Liverpool, the Maritime Museum, the Beatles' Museum and the new Museum of Liverpool – all of which are within walking distance of one another.



The Museum of Liverpool is the largest museum built for over a century and tells the story of how the city transformed itself from a small tidal inlet into one of the world's great ports, pioneering the world's first commercial wet dock in 1715. Also to be seen is the famous Lion steam locomotive and the Dockers Umbrella, the world's first elevated electric railway.

The Maritime Museum focuses on some of the key moments in Liverpool's maritime history, including the importance of the docks in World

War II, the Titanic and its disastrous sinking, the Forgotten Empress and Lusitania tragedies and Liverpool as a gateway to the New World. It also holds one of the finest collections of ship models in the world as well as housing the International Slavery Museum.

A little farther afield is the Walker Art Gallery which displays some of the best European paintings, sculpture and other works from the 13th century to the present day, while in a building adjacent to the Albert Dock there is the story of the Beatles.

In other words, there is something for everyone – and even better there is no charge for any of these museums!

The coach will leave Broseley Square at 8.15 am and return by about 7.00 pm. There is ample free parking in the Library car park in Bridgnorth Road. The cost of the coach will be £12.50 per head. For further information tel: Michael Pope at 01952 883960 or just complete the form on page 15 and return to him by not later than 23 June.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Christmas Dinner

Once again the Society's Christmas Dinner was held at the Lion Hotel in Broseley's High Street with a good turn out enjoying this annual event. Unfortunately the Society's chairman, Gillian Pope, having recently undergone surgery, was unable to join in the fun although she is now fully recovered and back in the driving seat.

During the evening Janet Robinson and Dot Cox entertained members with extracts from Joan Griffiths' book *Broseley Boys' School, 1863-1889*.

The foundation for this National School was laid in 1854 and it was opened the following year with space for 300 children. The meticulous records kept by the various headmasters not only reflect the attendances and activities of the boys during this period but also give a fascinating insight into the social history of the area as well as the troubles and misfortunes experienced by many Broseley inhabitants.

Village activities, as well as the weather, are seen to greatly influence attendance. When school

reopened in August 1870 after the summer holidays "Mr Maw's Treat to his work people, and a cricket match thinned the school a little". Haymaking and harvest also played their part in lack of attendance, with reports of children being away through working in the fields. Later that year, in December, "the weather was very wet and the School Rules were hung up in the school", perhaps to remind pupils that a bit of rain was no excuse for playing truant.

It seems that, for the time, the pupils did receive a well rounded education, subjects including not only the three Rs but also history, geography, singing and drawing. This latter subject was obviously not that popular, one report stating that while 41 boys "had given evidence" of being taught drawing, only two had proved proficient.

Reports on visits by school inspectors also provided interesting reading. In August 1879 a particularly disparaging report included the comment that "the answering in Grammar, Geography and History were meagre". George Ledger, the headmaster, obviously took exception to this when he wrote that "It is utterly untrue that the answering was meagre. The Inspector himself never heard one word of the History and his assistant at the close of the examination said that it was 'excellent and first rate'. That he seldom met with a class like them in History. That was heard by five different people and its accuracy can be proved by them."

The school was occasionally used for other purposes, as illustrated by the report after the Municipal Elections were held there in 1873. According to this report, the elections were a "noisy, dirty affair" making a great mess in the building, with both doors being broken.

Cases of sickness and poverty were also recorded, with reports of smallpox, scarlet fever and ringworm keeping children away from school. Not to mention the absence of young James Lee, who was unable to attend classes because his only pair of shoes had gone to be mended. Tragedy also struck when little Rob Sergeant was drowned in the Fish-house Pool after receiving, along with the rest of the school, a mince pie from Mr and Mrs Pritchard.

In marked contrast to today discipline was strict, with a J Pountney being whipped for saying “Bad Words to Pupil Teacher”. One James Hurdley was sent home when he “declined to be punished” for playing truant earlier that day. His father, however, sent him back to school where he was “well whipped for his truant playing”. One particularly troublesome boy, however, might be forgiven for the perhaps less heinous crime of “giving a boy a rose to smell into which pepper had been sprinkled”!

Joan Griffiths’ book is available from either E Davis Ironmongers, Broseley High Street or from Joan Griffiths, tel: 01952 883074, email: joan@griffiths883074.freerve.co.uk, price £12.95 excluding postage.

More Memories of Broseley

Yet More Memories of Broseley was the theme of the first meeting of the year when Joan Griffiths presented a further selection of photographs both old and new. On this occasion one of the first pictures she showed was not of Broseley, Shropshire, but of its namesake in Missouri, USA. This town was founded in 1915 by William Barron, the president of a company which manufactured barrel staves and headers. He was also in charge of the construction of a railroad to ship lumber in and out of the area and was responsible for naming all the towns along its route. He named Broseley after his wife’s home town in England. Still not a large town its population in 2000 was only 1,750.

Other more familiar photographs were those of old shops in the town including James Davies’ general store which faced the junction of Duke Street with King Street. This store obviously sold good

quality merchandise as a receipt made out to a Robert Thomas in 1925 showed him having bought a 12 piece Coalport china Indian Tree tea service for £4.5s.0d.

Another picture was that of the butcher’s shop in the High Street kept by the Misses Instone. Their father Samuel was Mayor of Wenlock and set up soup kitchens during the depression. It was said that he would not allow his own family to sit down to their meal before all others had been fed. This shop was mentioned in the *August 2011 Newsletter* where Iris Welch remembers that a cat could often be seen snoozing in the window. It is now the Old Butcher’s Bar.

Yet another old shop was the Bon Marche, now Downes’ Greengrocers, all decorated up for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. The old wall to the right of this shop has now been demolished and the adjoining house, once the home of Roberts the proprietors, now houses a card shop and a Chinese takeaway.

Of particular interest was a painting by Walter Owen of Benthall Cottage. Largely unknown today, an exhibition of his work was held in Shrewsbury on the occasion of his death in 1959. He lived in the Mines in Benthall and painted woodland scenes and landscapes and many historic buildings in the county. He was uncle to Jack Owen, past president of the Society who died in 2004, and was responsible for the pub signs for the *All Labour in Vain* in Horsehay (which now seems to have disappeared) and the *Forester Arms* in Broseley.

An unusual picture of the Iron Bridge showed the toll house building and the White Brickle as it was called. The picture probably dates from the 1850s

Broseley, Missouri, was named after William Barron’s wife who came from Broseley, Shropshire

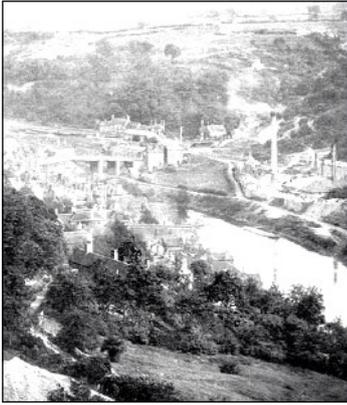


The Bon Marche all decorated up for Queen Elizabeth II’s coronation. The wall on the right has now been demolished. The shop is now Downes’ Greengrocers



Walter Owen’s painting of Benthall Edge cottage. An exhibition of his work was held in Shrewsbury on his death in 1959





This unusual picture of the Iron Bridge shows the Toll House building and the White Brickle as it was called. Taken probably in the 1850s before the coming of the railway, it shows Broseley Wood in the background

An undated picture of a Broseley Carnival procession



All photographs courtesy of Joan Griffiths

before the railway was built and shows Broseley Wood in the background.

Even more interesting were the Race Meeting notices for September 1938 for events apparently held near the Fiery Fields. One of these was the Ladywood Stakes which was open to children under 14 and carried a first prize of £1.0s.0d. Races were apparently held regularly on the meadow between the Fiery Fields and Lodge Lane.

As a finale to this evening of reminiscences, Joan showed a picture of a Broseley Carnival procession in the High Street. While it is undated, many members will remember these occasions with nostalgia and regret that they no longer take place.

Shropshire's Finest Churches

Shropshire's Finest and Most Interesting Churches was the title of the talk given by Richard Bifield at the Society's February meeting. Richard is currently Publicity Officer of the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. This Trust was set up in 1991 to raise funds to help maintain the more than 350 churches in Shropshire in regular use, most of which are over 700 years old and many of which are listed buildings.

Richard opened his presentation with a series of photographs grouped by architectural period, explaining that most of the earlier buildings had been added on to over the years. The first ones showed stone work from the Roman site at Wroxeter which had been incorporated into the village church. This church also had a font which was certainly pre the Norman period. Next came the Anglo-Saxon period, from 950-1100, where a local example was St Giles in Barrow. This has the only Saxon chancel arch in the county, as well as a Norman font and arch.

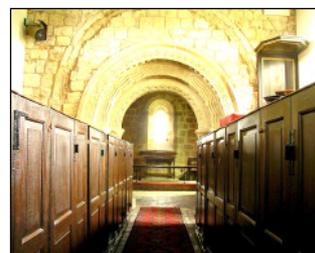
Illustrating the Norman Romanesque period, from 1050-1200, were photographs of Heath Chapel in Diddlebury and St James, Stirchley. With the latter the east end of the building is the oldest with the west end having been added in Georgian times. It also has an unusual feature in its box pews as well as a plaque in memory of Thomas Botfield, owner of the Old Park Ironworks, who died in 1801.

Then came English Gothic architecture, which covers three periods – Early Gothic from 1200-1300, Decorated from 1300-1350 and Perpendicular from 1350-1550. A fine example of Early Gothic is St Mary's, Acton Burnell, while St Andrew's in Shifnal has the best example of Decorated Gothic in the county. Also of interest is St Peter's, Worfield which has possibly one of the finest spires in Shropshire; while probably one of the best towers from the Perpendicular era is that of St Mary's, Shawbury, which also features Norman arches, a doorway and font.

Of even greater interest, however, is the church of St Bartholomew's at Tong which has a central octagonal tower with a spire rising from it designed to house the Great Bell of Tong. It also has fan vaulting in the ceiling, a very rare feature

Fan vaulting in St Bartholomew's, Tong

Box pews in St James', Stirchley



in Shropshire. Among its many other features is a Green Man carved under a misericord and a plaque of the original Tong Castle which was demolished in 1954.

According to Richard not many churches were built in the 16th and 17th centuries, although Langley Chapel is one of them. However, the 18th century saw a Greek revival, one of which is St Andrew's in Quatt, although this has since, as Richard put it, been 'Geogianised'. This period also includes Thomas Telford's famous churches at Bridgnorth, Madeley and Malinslee as well as probably the best known church in Shrewsbury, St Chad's. This was built in 1792 by George Stewart, who also built Attingham Park.

Of the churches built in the early Victorian period, the most important to members of this Society is Broseley's own All Saints' Church, built in 1845 by Henry Eginton to replace the old St Leonard's. It has an attractive west stained glass window by Kempe, unfortunately now hidden behind the organ. This church recently received a donation of £10,500 from the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust towards the £220,000 cost of repairing the roof.

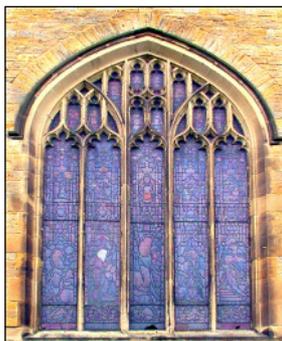
Of the high Victorian period St George's in Telford is a fine example, with the Church of the Epiphany in Peplow being an example of the late Victorian period.

The final photograph in this part of Richard's presentation was in complete contrast to Roman stone work in Wroxeter Church, being an ultra modern 20th century building in Lawley, Telford, the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints.

All Saints', Broseley recently received a £10,500 grant from the Historic Churches Trust



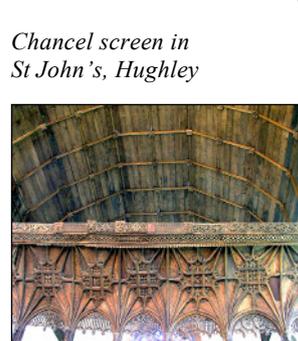
Kempe's west window in All Saint's, Broseley is now hidden behind the organ



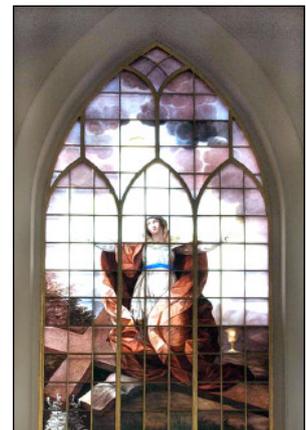
Having followed the various stages of architecture through the ages, Richard then turned to some of the finest features in Shropshire's churches. The first of these was the fine porch of St Mary's in Edstaston, followed by Stottesdon's Norman font and the Saxon mural in Claverley church. St Mary's Shrewsbury has an interesting ceiling and Hughley a beautiful chancel screen. Of even greater interest was the unusual window in St Alkmund's church in Shrewsbury painted by Francis Eginton of Birmingham. Installed in 1795 in one of the four remaining cast iron frames, it is a rare survival of his work. Another lovely ceiling is that in St Mary's, Bromfield.

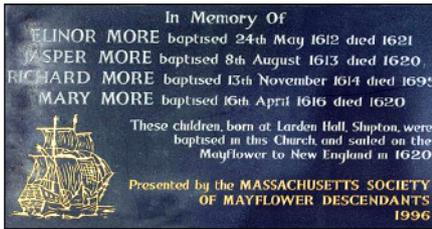
Oddities, Curiosities and Surprises was the title of the next section and included the church at Melverley with its timber framing (one of only seven in the country); Hope Baggott where the tower rests on millstones; Minsterley and Astley Abbots where one can find Maidens' Garlands; Lilleshall's sundial complete with instructions; and Tong with its gravestone to Dickens' fictional Little Nell. Other famous people named were Thomas Parker, inventor of the dynamo, in Madeley Parish church, William Penny Brookes whose grave is in Much Wenlock churchyard, and playwright John Osborne who was buried at Clun. Finally, and perhaps most moving of all, was the plaque in Shipton Church to the four children born to Katherine More between 1612 and 1616. Her husband, convinced that they were not his children and who were subsequently abandoned by their mother, had them shipped off to New England on the Mayflower in 1620. Only one of them, Richard, survived beyond 1621. He became a seaman and ship's captain, making his home in

Painted window by Francis Eginton in St Alkmund's, Shrewsbury



Chancel screen in St John's, Hughley





Shipton Church Memorial to the infant children of Katherine More who were put aboard the Mayflower



Members voted St Lawrence's, Ludlow, with its beautiful ceiling, the best church in Shropshire

All photographs courtesy of Richard Biffield

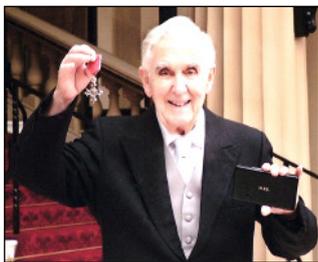
Salem; he lived just long enough to witness the Salem Witchcraft paranoia of 1692.

In conclusion, Richard said that his presentation was based on work in progress and there was still much research to be done with the remaining churches. Nonetheless, members agreed that the finest church in Shropshire was undoubtedly St Lawrence's in Ludlow, with its wonderful ceiling and misericord carvings, whose early beginnings date back to the 11th century.

Further information on the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust may be found on their website www.shropshirehct.org.uk.

OBITUARY

Ken Jones, MBE, 1921-2012



It is with great sadness that *Newsletter* learnt of the death of Ken Jones. Ken was a past president of the Society, serving from 2006-2008, and a well known figure on both

sides of the river. In 2010 he was awarded the MBE in recognition of his services to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. Here two members of the Society, and long time friends of Ken, remember him with both admiration and affection.

Ken Jones, a long-standing member of our Society and a past president, died peacefully on 2nd February, aged 90. He had been unwell for

some time but did manage to attend our joint meeting with the Friends of the Museum at Coalbrookdale in November.

Born at The Stocking, Lightmoor, in 1921 Ken was the son of a railway signalman. He himself joined the Great Western Railway at Oxley Shed (Wolverhampton) in 1938, later transferring to Wellington Shed where he eventually passed as a driver. Among his turns of duty was working on the Wenlock Branch between Wellington and Craven Arms, a line he had known intimately as a boy. In later life he was to write the definitive history of this line.

Following his marriage to Dorinda, Ken moved into local government in 1954 as he realised his employment on the railway would involve a lot of time away from their new home in Hadley. They later moved to Little Wenlock where they joined the congregation of St Lawrence's Church (Dorinda becoming organist and Ken sidesman) and played a full part in village life. Ken travelled daily to Bridgnorth where he worked for the District Council.

Ken's interest in the industrial and transport history of the area found a focus when the Ironbridge Gorge Museum was set up in 1968. He and Dorinda joined the newly formed Friends group and Ken was successively its Secretary, Chairman and Vice President. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Museum, serving on the academic and curatorial committees, and latterly became a Vice President. In recognition of his 40 years' service to the Museum Trust and the Friends, Ken was awarded an MBE in the Queen's honours list in 2010.

Ken contributed significantly to the history of this area. Beginning with the recording of reminiscences of former employees of the Coalport China Works in 1976, he spent the next 30 years creating a unique oral history archive. In 1998 Oakwood Press published *The Wenlock Branch*, a work which had been a labour of love for Ken for many years, and in 2009 The Dog Rose Press (Ludlow) published *Pitmen, Poachers and Preachers*, in which Ken examined life and the Poor Law in the Madeley Union of Parishes from

1700-1930. In addition to his published work, Ken lectured widely on the oral history of the East Shropshire Coalfield.

A widower for the last two and a half years, Ken gradually reduced his commitments, but he was still involved in Museum activities and represented the Friends on the Wrekin Local Studies Forum. Ken was special to all who knew him and, described as 'the perfect gentleman', he will be sadly missed.

Neil Clarke

I first met Ken Jones in about 1986 when I began going to the Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum Social History Group meetings on Thursday evenings. As we both lived in Little Wenlock it made sense to take it in turns to drive. We always left at 7.00 pm and, since it was only a ten minute journey, we invariably sat in the car park for twenty minutes chatting and discussing our researches of the previous week. I never thought of leaving later because I had Ken to myself for a while, and Ken never suggested we left later because he was, well because he was Ken. Of course when I later joined the Broseley Local History Society I had even more of Ken to myself while we travelled to the meetings. And so it continued for over twenty years.

Ken had a delightful sense of humour; his chortle when he related how he forgot protocol and turned his back on Her Majesty after receiving his MBE was not disrespectful but simply proof that he too could be overcome by nerves. On another occasion his neighbours were concerned that ShropDoc were an unusually long time in attending to him. Again he was amused to relate how they had spotted his photograph with the Queen and had stayed to watch the video.

We occasionally thought about a joint trip to one or other archive about the country but never actually got round to arranging one until last year. Seats were reserved at the John Rylands Library in Manchester and we were all set to go on 13 April but Ken was taken ill the week before. We did not cancel, but merely postponed the trip. While Ken made something of a recovery in time for his 90th birthday, he never fully regained his strength and stamina.

Ken was not finished though. He had a desire to access the Ancestry website to look at family and career records of railway locomotive drivers and I agreed to help. He gave me the names of many drivers who had been stationed at Wellington or Wenlock and we found 64 of them. But an hour or so was as much as he could cope with and it took about three sessions. Still he was not finished. Ready for the fourth session, he produced from memory another longer list of drivers he had worked with. Unfortunately he did not feel up to sitting with me at his computer. That list, I think, is still on his desk.

There are many more people better qualified than myself to give an appreciation of Ken Jones. This is a purely personal reminiscence. All who knew Ken will have similar recollections because that was the sort of man he was. Thank you Ken.

Jim Cooper

WEST MIDLANDS: THE WORKSHOP OF THE WORLD

West Midlands: the Workshop of the World, c1750-1950 was the title of the talk given by Prof Carl Chinn, MBE, at the annual Ironbridge Lecture in Coalbrookdale in December. Professor of Community History at the University of Birmingham and Director of the Birmingham Lives Project, he is the author of 29 books and a frequent contributor to local radio and newspapers.

In his inimitable Brummie style, Prof Chinn gave an inspiring and fluent presentation showing his tremendous understanding and knowledge of local history of the West Midlands. Starting with the example of the Great Exhibition of 1851 he showed how it depended completely on the area for the supply of the thousands of cast iron components and sheets of glass that went to make up the Crystal Palace. These were delivered and erected well within the short time allowed before the opening. Many of the exhibitors and their products also came from the area.

This led to the origins of the iron and steel industries through the training given to the first Abraham Darby before he went to Bristol to make brass and then on to Coalbrookdale to smelt iron

with coke. The great importance of John Wilkinson was highlighted with mention of him coming to Broseley from Cumbria, having ironworks across the country and becoming the father of the South Staffordshire iron and steel industry.

In his wide ranging talk, Prof Chinn covered many other vital contributions the area had made to the prosperity of Britain at a time when it was a world leader. After the lecture he stayed on to talk to several members, saying that the Society was doing a valuable service and to “keep up the good work”.

Vin Calcutt

OLYMPIC TORCH



Most people will be aware that the Olympic Torch will be passing through Broseley on 30 May this year. This is a great opportunity for Broseley to show itself off to the expected influx of visitors from other areas, as well as attract local and national media interest.

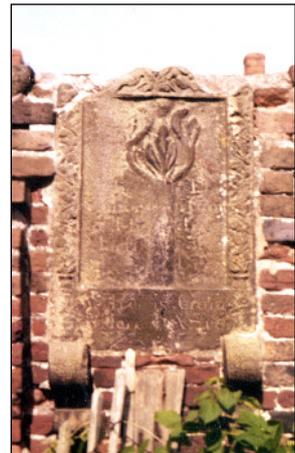
Broseley Partnership, a body charged with promoting Broseley to the wider world, is planning to mark this event with such things as a commemorative plaque, music and an Olympic torch medallion for local primary and pre-school pupils. Community activities and displays are already being planned by BroADS, Broseley Camera Club and Broseley in Bloom while some High Street shops are planning window displays or a special ‘Olympic Day’ product.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to show what a great town Broseley is – make sure you don’t miss out on the fun!

COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

Members will already be aware that, over the past few months, the Society has erected ten commemorative plaques around Broseley. These have been so well received that the Broseley Partnership, a group tasked with promoting Broseley to the wider world, have asked the Society to arrange for a further plaque which will be paid for by the Partnership.

This plaque of the Hanging Tree in Duke Street is to be resited so it can be seen from the road



This will call attention to the site of the Hanging Tree at the Dead Walls in Duke Street, where an existing inscribed stone is to be moved from an inside to an outside wall. This stone is said to observe the site of an original oak tree which served as a boundary marker; such oak trees were apparently known as hanging trees. Part of the inscription appears to say “The tree is gone in(?) Henry Aston” although much of the inscription is unclear. The Society would like to find out more about this stone and if there is anyone who can help, please contact Gillian Pope on tel: 01952 883960 or email: steve@broseley.org.uk.

CAUGHLEY MONUMENT

The Society was recently contacted by the Caughley Society, a group formed in 1999 to promote research and study into Caughley china. In 2002 this Society had erected a Monument to the Caughley China Works in Pound Lane, Broseley; their chairman was now asking if the Society would be responsible for keeping this Monument clear of grass and weeds so that visitors could better appreciate it. Since this was also dedicated to the memory of Stephen Perry, a member of Broseley Local History Society who had been killed in a tragic accident earlier that year, member Phil Robinson promptly got on his bike and went and cleared the site. Stephen had been asked to lead a walk around the old Caughley site the previous year, following the publication of an article on these China Works in the Society *Journal no 22*, and members will remember his enthusiasm for his subject on that evening.

The Caughley China Works were founded around 1772-1775 by Thomas Turner, originally from Worcester, and Ambrose Gallimore of Staffordshire. Caughley made a fine translucent soapstone porcelain, similar to that made at Worcester, and mainly decorated in underglaze



A fine example of Caughley china

Janet and Phil Robinson have offered to keep the Caughley Monument clean and tidy

blue patterns in the Chinese style. Almost all of Caughley's products were useful tablewares. After Gallimore's death in 1790, Turner continued as sole proprietor until October 1799 when he sold the entire interest in his business to one of his former apprentices, John Rose of Coalport, who operated both factories until about 1814 when most of the Caughley factory was dismantled to enlarge the Coalport works.

Examples of Caughley China can be seen in Ironbridge's Coalport China Museum, and pieces will also be on display in the new museum now being created in the former Music Hall in Shrewsbury, due to open in the spring of 2013, and will include a portrait by Lemuel Francis Abbott of Dorothy Turner, first wife of Thomas Turner, the proprietor of the factory.

IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM TRUST

The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust (IGMT) has been given a share of a £20 million pa Major Grants funding stream from Arts Council England, covering the three year period to 2015. The Trust is one of 16 leading museums in the country awarded a grant as part of the Arts Council's Renaissance programme for leading regional museums and is recognised as one of the most entrepreneurial museums in the UK and also a centre of learning.

SEVERN GORGE COUNTRYSIDE TRUST

As a result of the improvements to the areas controlled by the SGCT during the three year period of their Telford Access to Nature

Partnership, Friends of this enterprise formed the Telford Green Spaces Partnership. Now members of this group are to lead walks and hold events over all the 18 improved sites from 30 May – 10 June. A programme of these events will be available from early April, contact Cadi Price on tel: 01952 433880, email: cadiprice@severngorge.org.uk or visit their website: www.severngorge.org.uk. Prior booking for walks is required.

Funded by Natural England and the Big Lottery Fund The Trust's free *Walking the Gorge* map has now been revised, with the new version *Exploring the Gorge* including woodlands with interpretation panels, an improved path line and map information.

The SGCT Little Acorns Family Nature club continues to flourish during school holidays with a regular attendance of about 16 people. In February half term, they explored the little known Preenshead woodland near Maws Craft Centre to find newly placed geo-caches and took a Valentine walk through Rough Park.

The Trust is starting up an Outdoor Learning programme and a new course 'Birds and their Habitats' will be held in Benthall Woods, Devil's Dingle, Buildwas and the Wrekin on the four Saturdays between 28 April – 26 May. It will be led by ornithologist Glenn Bishton who will share his vast knowledge of the life of local and visiting birds while exploring these different habitats. The course costs £60 and further information can be obtained from Cadi Price at the Trust.

WHAT'S ON?

Ironbridge Gorge Museums

Enginuity

23 March – 30 September

CORE – A Digital Art Installation designed by international artist Kurt Hentschläger.

Jackfield Tile Museum

2 – 5 April

10 – 13 April

Tile decorating drop-in workshops.

Coalport China Museum

2 – 6 April

9 – 13 April

Ceramic drop-in workshops with an Easter theme.

Blists Hill Victorian Town

Friday 6 – Monday 9 April
Easter Bank Holiday Weekend activities.

Blists Hill Victorian Town

Saturday 21 April – Monday 23 April
St George's Day Celebrations
Open air performances of St George and the Dragon performed by travelling actors from the Prince Albert Players.

Jackfield Tile Museum Footprint Gallery, Fusion

Wednesday 18 July –
Saturday 1 September
Fourth International Garden



Photographer of the Year exhibition
View the skills of the winning and finalist photographers in this exhibition of photographs of gardens, plants, flowers and botany.

Ingenuity

Ongoing until 9 September
Our Sporting Life: The Science of Sport exhibition

Coalbrookdale Gallery

Ongoing until 9 September
Our Sporting Life: Sporting Heroes

For details of events, entry fees and opening times for all Ironbridge Gorge Museums contact tel: 01952 433424 or visit www.visitironbridge.co.uk.

Industrial Heritage at Risk

Saturday 21 – Sunday 22 April
The Architectural Heritage Fund and English Heritage have made funding available to tackle some of the work needed on heritage sites at risk. This weekend will give delegates the chance to find out what is going on, as well as allow hard hat visits to sites in Shropshire.

Speakers include Shane Gould and David de Haan. Visits include Ditherington Flax Mill, Mill Meece Pumping Station and Blists Hill.

For a full programme and booking form visit www.industrial-archaeology.org, or contact Steve Dewhirst on steve@broseley.org.uk. Bookings should be made by 26 March.

Please note not all the venues visited on this weekend are suitable for wheelchairs..

Birds and their Habitats

Starting Saturday 28 April
A four Saturdays course to be held in Benthall Woods, Devil's Dingle, Buildwas and the Wrekin. Led by ornithologist Glenn Bishton. Cost £60, further information from Cadi Price tel: 01952 433880, email: cadiprice@severngorge.org.uk or visit their website: www.severngorge.org.uk.

Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival

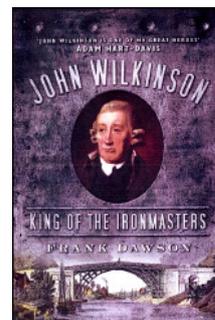
Saturday 5 – Sunday 13 May
This Festival features 32 free guided walks covering a range of interests and abilities. These include some challenging full day outings in and around the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site as well as family adventures, historic trails and wildlife walks. The walks are graded into four levels of difficulty ranging from a gentle two hour family treasure hunt up to a strenuous 15 mile circular hike over the Wrekin, ideal for more experienced walkers happy with steep climbs and rough terrain.

All walks are free but places are limited so booking is essential. To reserve a place or request a copy of the programme contact the Ironbridge Visitor Information Centre email: tic@ironbridge.org.uk or tel: 01952 433424. For additional information visit www.visitironbridge.co.uk.

BOOKSHOP

John Wilkinson – King of the Ironmasters, by Frank Dawson.

This book will shortly be available. Published in paperback, with 192 pages and well illustrated, the book gives a unique insight into the 'King of the Ironmasters'. A must for admirers of John Wilkinson, it will be available at the April meeting.



MAILBOX

Amberley Publishing are currently looking for new or experienced authors to contribute to their Through Time series of local history books. A potential title is *Ludlow Through Time* with the possibility of covering other towns and villages in Shropshire.

The Through Time concept is a 96 page, then-and-now picture book, containing around 92 old photographs, each paired with a new photograph in full colour showing how the same scene has changed over time. Each set of photographs has a short descriptive caption.

Any members who might be interested in producing this kind of material, should contact j.pettican@amberley-books.com

Subsequent to her request for information on Orchard House in the May 2011 Newsletter, Shirley Runte has now written to thank Shelagh Lewis, Rev Shinton, Diane Kaiser and Joan Griffiths for their patience with her ‘never ending questions’.

Thank you, Shirley, nice to know we might have been of some help.

Editor

I am a researcher for a new Discovery channel documentary on the history of inventions. I am interested in the impact of John Wilkinson’s boring methods on the cannons used during the Napoleonic wars, and especially keen to track down a source for something that I have seen on the internet, that it was the confidence that their guns would not explode which enabled the British crews to win in Trafalgar.

Does anyone know of books on Wilkinson which might be the source for this claim, or of any primary sources that mentioned it?

Helen Craig

Wilkinson’s cannon boring method of 1774 (well described by Douglas Braid in articles in Wilkinson Studies, Vols 1 & 2) certainly gave Britain technical superiority in arms production which was soon apparent to the French. The cannon used on board French naval vessels were at this time still made of charcoal smelted iron, liable when fired “to shiver into a thousand pieces, killing the gunners and spreading terror among the survivors”, with adverse results on the course of naval actions. Accordingly, in 1775 Marchant de La Houlière, a French government spy, came to England and visited Wilkinson’s foundries at Broseley and Bersham. He reported back that no

cannon made from coke smelted iron had burst aboard British ships since their adoption. He was authorised to invite John Wilkinson’s younger brother William to France in order to introduce the manufacture of cannon after the English fashion.

William Wilkinson spent eight years in France as a highly paid government technician. Between 1777 and December 1780 he built and equipped, with the help of the French engineer Touffaire, a State ironworks, cannon foundry and boring mill on the island of Indret on the Loire near Nantes; and between 1781 and 1784 he helped set up the State ironworks at Le Creusot, near Montcenis in Burgundy (with the coke smelting of iron beginning the following year).

Clearly, as a result of these developments, French arms production had greatly improved by the time of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. Whether French guns were the equal of British by the time of the Battle of Trafalgar, I do not know; but no doubt British sailors in that action could be confident that their guns would not explode when fired. The actual source of that last statement is unknown to me.

Neil Clarke

As from February Benthall Hall, which is a National Trust property, will be extending its opening hours and will be open weekends from February through to the end of October, as well as on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from March. For this to be a success they need to recruit more room guides and people to work in the new tearoom.

If any members are interested in these volunteering activities, they should contact Emily Knight either by tel: 01694 725001 or email: emily.knight@nationaltrust.org.uk.

My great great grandfather’s name was Henry Lloyd and so was his son. That son had 10 children, among them Jabez, Hiram and Thomas (my grandfather). They seem to have lived in Severn Row and then at the Tuckies and in Jackfield. In 1880 Hiram Lloyd was the tenant of a public house called the Globe Inn. Does this still

exist? Jabez was a bricklayer and my great grandfather Henry was on the Jackfield Barge at Ladywood. In 1891 my grandfather Thomas was working as a glazier dipper in the encaustic tile works. If anyone knows more of this family I should be pleased to hear from them.

Pauline Emenev

paulybob79190@live.co.uk

B D Shinton's Inns and Aleshouses of Broseley has this to say about the Globe: Only two licences have been positively identified: Jane Lloyd in 1868 and William Lloyd in 1838. A Miss Sarah Lloyd is shown in 1863 as a beer retailer in King Street.on 30th June 1828 William Lloyd took John Randall's public house. This may be a reference to the Globe. The house was still open in 1879, but closed by 1902. The tithe map shows the Globe. Look at the index <http://www.broseley.org.uk/images/tithe.PDF>. Plot 323 is the Globe and this can be seen on the map <http://www.broseley.org.uk/TitheMap/Broseley%20Tithe%20Map%2003.jpg>

Steve Dewhirst

Mike Hudd is interested in the Maw family. His ancestor was a brother of George Maw of Maw's Tile Works, who at one time lived at Benthall Hall. They were the sons of John Hornby Maw who lived from 1800-1881, at one time occupying Barratts Hill House in Broseley. Mike asks if anyone knows where this house is.

I am looking for information on Mary Sancta Stoneham who lived at Ingleside, Coalbrookdale, Shropshire and Charlotte Elizabeth (Stoneham) Edalji, who lived at the Cottage, Bull Ring Street, Much Wenlock, Shropshire. Does anyone know if these houses still exist?

Dr Alan F Jones PhD

My wife Lorna's great great grandfather was William Bird (or Burd) and he was the ferry master at Buildwas. He apparently drowned there on 15 January 1916. Would anyone have any information about him?

Richard Conaghan

William Burd was the ferryman at the Benthall Edge Ferry (also known as the Meadow Ferry) probably from the late 19th century until he tragically died (drowned?) in 1916. The ferry (and cottage) just inside Buildwas parish is shown on the 25 inch OS map of 1882 and is likely to have been in use for some time before that.

Neil Clarke

I am working on a history of the Preen family and am having trouble finding them in Broseley/Benthall after about 1760. I have found some C of E marriage records but baptisms and burials are very scanty. Do the Baptist and other Free church registers still exist and is it possible to check them for my missing entries?

Susan Laflin

Preens@blueyonder.co.uk

The best place to try would be Shropshire Archives.

Steve Dewhirst

I have been going through some material I filmed for my Bittern Country Our Heritage and came across the remains of Leighton Furnace. It is no more than lots of grass covered rocks and an old barn. It was under the control of Backbarrow, supposedly during John Wilkinson's time. Have you heard of it?
Chris Abram

Leighton Furnace was in North Lancashire and was built and operated by the Backbarrow Iron Company (founded in 1711). Isaac Wikinson, John Wilkinson's father, was 'potfounder' at the company until 1748. A Description of Furnace and Smelting at Leighton, in Yealand Redman, Lancashire (c 1722-40) is given in Schubert, pp 431-33.
Neil Clarke

I was born in 1976 in Broseley. My parents used to live in Wilkinson Avenue and Park View and my grandfather and sister still live in the town. My father and I were recently reminiscing

Norman Jones in his cycle shop in Duke Street in 2000



about Norman Jones and his cycle shop in Duke Street and were wondering what has happened to both Norman and his shop.

Paul Daly

Norman Jones is still very much alive and well although he closed his shop some years ago. This photograph of him inside his shop will probably bring back memories for many Broseley people.

Editor

I was recently reading *The Severn in South Shropshire* by Ralph Pee where there was a mention of ‘Pop’ Jones. Does anyone have any other information on him or pictures, or know where I could find out more? I am very interested as he was my great great grandfather.

Carla Jade

Some years ago I sent your Society pictures my father, Fred Roberts, took in the 1950s and 1960s of the main street carnivals for an exhibition you were having. Our family used to have the shops, house and apartment opposite the town hall, diagonally opposite the park on High Street.

There is a chance that I shall be in the area in late April or early May this year following a visit to London. It will be my first return following a 43 year absence. On the possibility that I shall visit, I was wondering if those who remember my family might like to get in touch with the idea of getting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<i>Chairman</i>	Gillian Pope
<i>Secretary</i>	Dot Cox
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jim Cooper
<i>Curator</i>	David Lake
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Janet Robinson 26 Coalport Road Broseley TF12 5AZ 01952 882495
<i>Programme Secretary and Journal Editor</i>	Neil Clarke
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Jan Lancaster
<i>Publicity</i>	Michael Pope Richard Sells Janet Doody
<i>Website</i>	www.broseley.org.uk
<i>Email</i>	steve@broseley.org.uk

together when I am in the area. I shall be leaving Australia on 10 March but shall have email access along the way.

David Roberts

In response to the communication from Jim Lyon regarding Alexander Brodie in the *November 2011 Newsletter*, Society chairman Gillian Pope says that in 1901 her maternal grandmother, Edith Hewlett, became lady’s maid to a Mrs Brodie who lived in the family town house in Lexham Gardens, Kensington. She thinks it very likely that it was the same Brodie family as that of Alexander as evidence points to Mrs Brodie knowing the Hewlett family.

Edith Hewlett was obviously very well thought of as, after his wife’s death, Mr Brodie gave both Edith and her sister Amy items of jewellery which had belonged to his wife. He also gave Edith a set of silver fish knives and forks on her wedding to Archibald George Oswell in 1913.

Edith Hewlett was lady’s maid to Mrs Brodie who lived in Kensington

In 1923 Edith moved with her husband and small daughter to the Lion Hotel in Broseley where she remained until 1948.

This Mrs Brodie may have been related to Alexander Brodie



Newsletter is sympathetic to the concerns of certain of its correspondents who are reluctant to see their email address appear in the public domain. If there is anyone who does not wish their contact details to be published, they are welcome to make use of the Society’s email address steve@broseley.org.uk. Any respondent without access to email may pass on information to any member of the committee.

To see this Newsletter in full colour visit the website at www.broseley.org.uk.

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION



SATURDAY 2 - TUESDAY 5 JUNE

At the beginning of June Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of her accession to the throne. To celebrate this the Society will be arranging a display of artefacts connected with her reign and the Royal Family in the Cemetery Chapel in Ironbridge Road from Saturday 2 June until Tuesday 5 June.

To make this event a success the Society would like as wide a range of artefacts as possible. If anyone has such things as pictures, commemorative items, coins and medals, descriptions of events (local or national) or anything relating to the Queen and her family throughout the last century, please contact the chairman Gillian Pope tel: 01952 883960 or complete and return this form to: Mrs G Pope, Rivendell, Dark Lane Broseley, TF12 5LH.

Stewards will be needed to man this exhibition throughout this period and if anyone can help the Society would be most grateful. Please also contact Gillian Pope if you can spare an hour or two.

I am willing to lend the following items to the display in the Cemetery Chapel:

I am willing to act as a Steward on the following day(s):

Sat 2 June _____ Sun 3 June _____ Mon 4 June _____ Tues 5 June _____ Times to be arranged.

Name: _____ Tel no: _____

Address: _____

TRIP TO LIVERPOOL'S WATERFRONT



SATURDAY 7 JULY

This year our July outing will be to Liverpool's Waterfront, a World Heritage site. The area contains some of Liverpool's most famous landmarks, and attractions include the Albert Dock, Tate Liverpool, the Maritime Museum, the Beatles' Museum and the new Museum of Liverpool – all of which are within walking distance of each other. For further information see pages 2 and 3. Please make sure of your place by filling in this form and returning to Michael Pope, Rivendell, Dark Lane, Broseley, TF12 5LH by not later than 23 June.

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Post code: _____ Tel: _____

No of persons @ £12.50 per head _____ Total payment: _____

Please make cheques payable to Broseley Local History Society.