

Newsletter

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society

Incorporating the Wilkinson Society



May 2013

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

- 5 Jun Summer Evening, see page 2
- 6 Jul July Outing, see page 2
- 3 Sep *Shropshire's Narrow Gauge Railways* by Nick Coppin
- 2 Oct AGM followed by a talk by Ron Miles
- 6 Nov *Fords and Ferries, Part 3* by Neil Clarke. Joint Meeting with the Friends at Coalbrookdale
- 4 Dec Annual Dinner

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

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NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Colin and Ina Taylor, Much Wenlock

WANTED – NEW EDITOR

The Society is looking for a new editor for its *Newsletter* with effect from October 2013.

This position would suit someone with a little spare time, an interest in the town and some dtp experience.

While this publication has expanded over the past few years, that does not mean it has to continue like that. The new editor would have carte blanche to produce it in any length or format. The most important thing is that it keeps getting published so that all members, in particular those unable to get to meetings, can keep up with happenings and events.

Anyone interested should contact the chairman Gillian Pope, tel: 01952 883960 or email: gill.h.pope@googlemail.com.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The two most important upcoming events are the Summer Evening in June and the coach trip to the Potteries in July.

Summer Evening

Wednesday, 5 June

Home of Janet and Chris Doody

Rosehill, Moss Lane, Wrockwardine Wood

Tickets £5.00 per person

Janet and Chris Doody have kindly offered to hold a barbeque for members in their garden in Wrockwardine Wood on 5 June. This summer evening will include a guided walk for active members up to and down the remains of one of the inclined planes built on the Shropshire Canal from 1788-92. If you have not already obtained your ticket contact Janet Doody on tel: 01952 610000 or email: janet.doody27@googlemail.com

July Outing

Saturday, 6 July

Trip to the Potteries

Depart Broseley Square 9.00 am

Return approx 5.30 - 6.00 pm

**Cost (includes entry to Museum) £16.00 each
(concessions £15.00)**

This year's July trip will be to the Potteries and will include visits to the Wedgwood Museum and visitor centre at Barlaston and the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent. Full details appear on the booking form on page 13 so if you have not already booked, send your cheque to Michael Pope, 2 Dark Lane, Broseley, TF12 5LH, **by 29 June** to ensure your place. Please make your cheque out to Broseley Local History Society.



PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Thomas Parker, Engineer Extraordinary

Thomas Parker, Engineer Extraordinary, was the subject of the talk given by Janet Doody at the February meeting. This description of him was certainly well deserved as he spent his life in scientific experimentation and invention, with long lasting benefits to society. *Thomas Parker, 1843-1915*



Born in 1843 in Coalbrookdale, he left school early to join his father at the Coalbrookdale Company. However, he continued his education at the Coalbrookdale Institution where he proved to be very inventive, constructing a small steam engine when he was only 14 and two years later building a violin which he kept all his life.

When still only 19 he left the company to go "tramping around the country", during which time he not only got married but made use of the many free libraries in the country as well as attending a number of scientific lectures.

In 1867 he returned to the Coalbrookdale Company where he became foreman of the engineering shop, later working as a chemist in the electro-plating department. At the same time Thomas was experimenting in a number of scientific fields, one of which was in the development of a gas engine. He also, alongside a Wolverhampton businessman Paul Bedford Elwell, began to experiment with improvements to accumulators and alternators.

In 1882 he joined forces with Elwell to form Elwell-Parker Ltd, the first company in the Midlands to manufacture electrical equipment, at first building accumulators and later developing dynamos. This company was responsible for the design, construction and installation of dynamos and electric lighting for the Trafalgar collieries in the Forest of Dean, the first electric installation in the country.

By 1889 this company had amalgamated with a number of similar companies to form the Electric Construction Corporation which built a factory in Bushbury, Wolverhampton. Surprisingly, Thomas did not join the Board of Directors, but instead was appointed Works Manager. This corporation did not last long, however, and in 1893 a new company, the Electrical Construction Company, was formed. This new venture proved equally unsatisfactory and within the year Thomas, together with five of his senior staff, resigned and set up the firm of Thomas Parker Ltd, with the then Mayor of Wolverhampton, Charles Mander, as one of the directors. Thomas himself was appointed managing director for a contract period of ten years.

This company prospered, receiving contracts from Wolverhampton Council for electrical plant for the new power station and electrical distribution system as well as equipment for the new Folkestone electricity works. The company also installed electric lighting at Wightwick Manor, home of the Mander family, as well as a generator for Cragside, Victorian inventor and innovator Lord Armstrong's property in Northumberland, famous for being the first house in the world to be lit by hydro-electricity.

While still at Coalbrookdale Thomas had become interested in the idea of electric trams, his initial involvement being in the development of the Portrush tram. Opened in 1881 it was the first tramway to be powered by hydro-electricity. While with Elwell-Parker he designed and constructed the electric plant for the Blackpool Tramway which opened in 1885, the first electric tramway of any size in England. It is still running today having recently been renovated.

Other projects in which Thomas was involved was the tram system in Birmingham which was converted from steam to electric; another was the development of an overhead wire system adopted by both the South Staffordshire Tramways and Hartlepool Tramways.

The company's largest contract, however, was for the design and electrical work for the Liverpool Overhead Railway which opened in 1893, for which Thomas Parker was awarded the George Stephenson Medal by the Institute of Electrical Engineers. The railway continued in service until 1956, being dismantled the following year.

In 1899 Thomas was appointed consulting electrical engineer to the London Metropolitan Railway Company with responsibility for its conversion from steam to electric power, later becoming a member of the Board.

Thomas Parker was interested not only in electric trams, but also in electric locomotives. By the end of the century he had such locos working in Staffordshire, Currie and on the London Underground's Bakerloo line. Nor did his company confine itself to Britain. In 1902 it was reported that a specially designed locomotive for

use underground, capable of hauling 25 tons at a speed of 5 mph, was working in the Broken Hill Proprietary in Australia, while Elwell-Parker electric locos were being used in the Crown Reef Gold Mine in South Africa as early as 1894. By 1899 the company was also building locos for an electric railway for that country's Gold Fields.

He was also interested in electric cars and could well have been the first person in Wolverhampton to drive one. As early as 1884 he regularly drove from his home in Tettenhall to the factory in Bushbury. Some of his prototypes had hydraulic brakes on all four wheels as well as four wheel steering. One imagines that Thomas would have been very impressed when, in 1899, the Belgian racing driver Camille Jenatzy broke the world land speed record in France with the world's first electrically powered racing car. Known as the Red Devil, Jenatzy was clocked at a speed of 65.79 mph, the first record of over 60 mph. His car, "La Jamais Contente", is currently in a museum in Compiègne.

Ever the essential entrepreneur, Thomas seems to have had his fingers in a lot of different pies. In 1876, together with Philip Weston, he developed the Parker & Weston steam pump, while in 1881 he won a silver medal at the International Smoke Abatement Exhibition for his development of the Kyrle open grate, the first to burn anthracite. Both these products were manufactured and promoted by the Coalbrookdale company. He was also involved in the development of the production of phosphorus which led to the availability of cheaper matches; while his development of the smokeless fuel coalite ultimately led to him being posthumously awarded a gold medal by the Smoke Abatement Society.

Believing it would be of benefit to British industry he devised a decimal system of weights and measures based on the existing British system, extending this idea to decimal currency and producing pattern coins. While in London he presented every MP with a coin and an explanatory booklet. These coins became known as Tom Parker's Pennies. It is unclear what came of this idea.

On his retirement from the Metropolitan Railway in 1908 Thomas moved back to Coalbrookdale.

However, he carried on his interests in science and technology. One of his ventures was the design and building of a motor launch; he also experimented with the cultivation of grape vines from which he produced his own wine.

Thomas and his son later established the Court Works Ltd in Madeley, a specialist foundry for castings for the electrical industry. There he designed and built a solar dial and perpetual calendar, a sundial for mounting on the outside of buildings.

Thomas was married for almost 50 years and he and his wife had nine children. He supported all their sons in their own business ventures and probably his daughters too. A lifetime member of the Liberal party, he was well liked by his fellow workers and once stated that “I believe in paying wages to first class servants and workmen (rather) than tolerating the parade of so many useless top hats and high collars.” A man with deep religious beliefs his notebooks were dotted with prayers and religious tracts. He died in 1915 and was buried at St Michael’s Church in Madeley.

Janet ended her talk by saying that it was surprising that Thomas had never received public honours and his many achievements had been and still are largely unrecognised by the public. There is no doubt however that, particularly in the field of public transport, these achievements have had a lasting effect on people’s lives today.

Annual Wilkinson Lecture

This year’s Annual Wilkinson Lecture, the title of which was *Edward Blakeway, Entrepreneur*, was given by Paul Luter. Paul has given well received talks to the Society on two previous occasions and in his presentation on Edward Blakeway he again displayed the results of his researches in a wide range of archives.

After tracing Blakeway’s family roots in the Cronkhill area (near Atcham) and his early career in Shrewsbury, Paul focused on the entrepreneur’s activities in this area, particularly in the iron industry. He was one of John Wilkinson’s partners in the New Willey Company and he joined others in an iron making partnership at Snedshill (near

Oakengates). Paul also touched on Blakeway’s links with John Rose in the local china industry. These, and his many other enterprises, which included involvement in the Iron Bridge project, the Shropshire Canal Navigation and local banks, sometimes led to problems for Blakeway – he was bankrupted three times! Nevertheless, he survived to the grand old age of 93 on his death in 1811.

The full text of this talk will appear in the Society’s Journal later this year.

Subsequent to this lecture, John Powell wrote:

Paul Luter, in his talk *Edward Blakeway, Entrepreneur*, said he assumed that the “Tunnel Accounts” were held in the Library at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, since that was where the late Ken Jones showed him a photocopy of one of the pages. In fact, the document in question is housed in Shropshire Archives in Shrewsbury. It is a leather bound ledger (ref no 245/145) which is described variously on labels inside it as the “Horsehay Reckoning Book 1797” or “Wage Book, Horsehay Forges 1796-1798”. It was donated by H Simpson of the Horsehay Company.

As these titles suggest, it consists mainly of a couple of hundred pages listing wages paid to employees at Horsehay, with details of the tasks for which the wages are being paid. At the back of the volume, however, upside down, are about 20-30 pages headed “Acct. of Sundries at C. Dale Tunnel” listing items passing through the tunnel in 1793, sent by the Coalbrookdale Co, Richard Reynolds, Ketley Co, Horsehay Co, Thos Botfield of Old Park, Lincoln Hill Lime Works, Buildwas Lime Rocks and John Llewellyn of Wombridge. Amongst the more interesting items listed (under Richard Reynolds) are a number of boats destined for the Shrewsbury Canal. Additional pages list Coals received at Coalbrookdale Tunnel from Horsehay.

In December 1793, the tunnel and shaft system was replaced by an inclined plane down Brierly Hill, Coalbrookdale. It would appear, therefore, that the original purpose of the ledger was to record the Tunnel Accounts, and it was later turned upside down and used to record the Horsehay accounts.

Industrial Archaeology at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

Whilst the Ironbridge Gorge is widely acknowledged as being the 'Birthplace of Industry', it can also be considered the cradle of industrial archaeology as a discipline and in particular the location where the importance and significance of the legacy of our industrial inheritance was first understood and valued.

This was the subject of Shane Kelleher's recent talk to the Society when he reflected on the important role that archaeologists from the IGMT have played in understanding, valuing and conserving the industrial archaeology of the Ironbridge Gorge as well as their role in developing the techniques that underpin industrial archaeology as a discipline today. Shane also spoke about his own role as the museum's Archaeology and Monuments Officer, and highlighted a number of current and future projects as the museum's archaeology department embraces cutting edge technologies, contributes to the interpretation of the Ironbridge Gorge's diverse industrial heritage, and plans for the fostering of community engagement.

Too long to reproduce here, and too interesting to condense, the full text of this talk will appear in the Society's next Journal. Make sure you look out for it!

Leighton Model Farm

Leighton Model Farm near Welshpool was the subject of the talk given by Peter Platt at the May meeting. Although Peter is a one time lecturer in electronics, he says that he became interested in this model farm quite by accident when on the spur of the moment he decided to go shopping in Welshpool. On his way back the farm and its buildings caught his attention and he began to research its story.

One of the first things he discovered was that in 1845 the Leighton Estate had been sold to Christopher Leyland, a Liverpool banker. Two years later this gentleman gave it to his nephew John Naylor as a wedding present, along with a gift of £100,000. John Naylor, already one of the wealthiest men in Britain, promptly knocked down the original Tudor mansion and replaced it with a

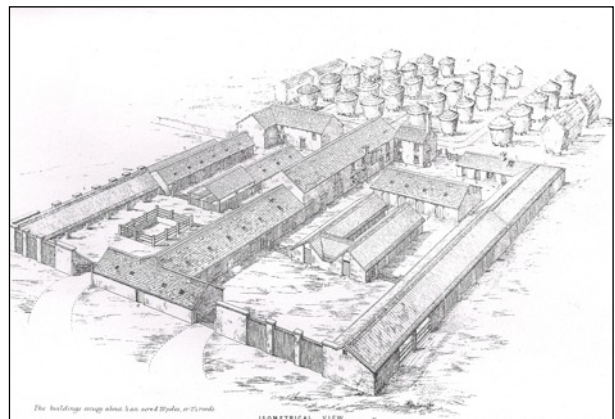
far more splendid building. This included a great hall, the interior design of which is attributed to Pugin and is thought to be styled on the Palace of Westminster.

It was around this time that British agriculture was sinking into depression with home grown produce unable to compete with cheaper wheat imports. For while what can be called the second agricultural revolution was taking place in France and Germany, Britain was lagging well behind in the scientific development of farming methods. To try and address this, the English Agricultural Society, later known as the Royal Agricultural Society of England, was set up in 1838. Some time later the society offered a prize of 50 guineas to the author of the best 'Essay on the Construction of Farm Buildings'. This was won by Sir Thomas Tancred whose plan for his model farm included a railway line to the front of the processing plant as well as a manure depot.

In 1848 John Naylor set out to build a similar model farm which, unlike Thomas Tancred's design, included a farmhouse and cottages as well as pools. Over the next eight years Naylor spent over £200,000 on this project which, in a bid to minimise labour and increase efficiency, included the latest in Victorian farming technology.

The photographs which Peter showed during the evening clearly illustrate the thought and detail which had gone into the design of the buildings. Uniformly roofed with Welsh slate, most of the buildings had brick ends with wooden cladding for the walls, while the barn had an upper storey with

Sir Thomas Tancred's design for a model farm included a railway line to the front of the processing plant as well as a manure depot



Photographs courtesy Peter Platt



Leighton Model Farm was built in 1848. Unlike Sir Thomas Tancred's design it had a farmhouse and cottages as well as a pool. It also included the latest in Victorian farming technology. Photograph c 1992

alternate wall panels of glass and louvres. It also had a particularly impressive portcullis for its main door. Inside it had a wooden loft some 16 feet high, while a clearly visible 'rat ledge' could be seen on both the inside and the outside of the ground floor. The remains of an old railway system, with an eight foot gauge, can also be seen going through the processing rooms.

Peter also showed pictures of the hay barn which was built entirely of brick. This, unusually, had an underloft but no upper loft, while there was also a root house for growing turnips and mangolds for feed.

Although the main farm had been built all at the same time there had later been an extension in the form of two circular buildings. It was supposed that these were specially built for pigs and sheep, but Peter felt that the internal design made this unlikely. Their use remains somewhat of a puzzle.

Below left, the inside of the barn with its 16 ft loft shows the remains of an old 8 ft gauge railway system. It also had a rat ledge both on the inside and the outside of the building (see inset). Below right, a close up of the newly restored portcullis at the other end of the building

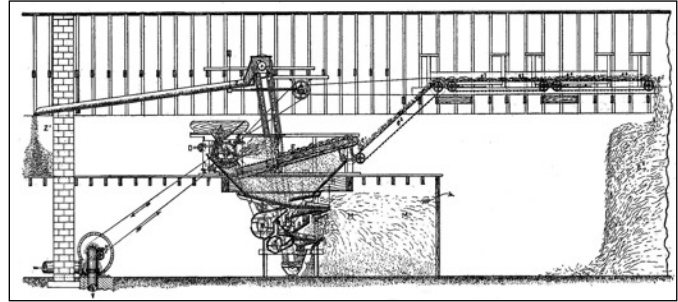
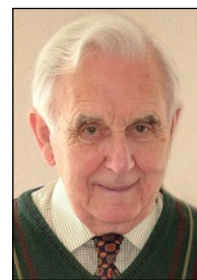


Diagram of a scotch dressing machine for threshing

The site also included a corn mill which was driven by a water turbine and old maps show that there was once a funicular railway to carry manure slurry from the farm buildings to a storage tank where it would then be forced through perforated underground pipes to fertilise the ground further downhill. Although now in private hands, the tank, old cable house and the top cable house can still be seen.

John Naylor died in 1889 but it was only 20 years later, on the death of his widow, that the estate was broken up. In 1931 the home farm buildings and some pasture land were bought by the now Powys County Council who in turn recently sold it to James Potter, the wealthy owner of the Welshpool based Potter Group of companies. He, in consultation with the council, is restoring it with the aim of turning it into a Welsh National Stud farm.

KEN JONES LOCAL HISTORY DAY



Ken Jones, OBE, died in 2012

A Day School, organised by the Friends of Shropshire Archives to celebrate the life and work of Ken Jones, was hosted by the Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum at Coalbrookdale on Saturday, 20 April. Over 70 people attended the event, which consisted of four talks and optional guided walks.

John Powell began the day's programme with an outline of Ken's life, focusing on his early railway career and his long association with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. He also stressed the national importance of Ken's oral history project. Barrie Trinder recounted Ken's contribution to the study of Holywell Lane, a squatter settlement near Lightmoor, and how this had informed work on

similar settlements in other parts of the country. John Lenton surveyed the development of Methodism in the area, and pinpointed the chapels with which Ken was associated at various stages of his life, at Lightmoor, Ketley Bank and New Hadley; Neil Clarke briefly outlined the history of Ironbridge Power Station and then described how the railway carried coal to the plant, along lines that would have been very familiar to Ken during his railway career between 1938 and 1954.

At the close, John Ravenscoft, chairman of the Friends of Shropshire Archives, thanked everyone who had helped to make the event such a fitting tribute to Ken. The proceedings of the day will be published in the *Transactions of the Wrekin Local Studies Forum* later this year. For further information, contact Neil Clarke on 01952 504135.

GREENACRES SCHOOL VISITS BROSELEY

How the development of Broseley is linked to its geography was the basis of a Shrewsbury school's visit recently when Key Stage 2 teacher Rachel Howell, who lives in Broseley, brought Greenacres Primary School pupils to explore the town.

Their day started at the Birchmeadow Centre where Society chairman Gillian Pope explained to the children how Broseley had changed over the years, tracing its history through its industrial past to what can be seen today.

The children later visited the Haycop off Dark Lane where Adrian Miles, who had led its

Key Stage 2 pupils from Shrewsbury's Greenacres Primary School learn how Broseley's industrial past has shaped the town's history



regeneration several years ago, took them on a walk through the area and helped them to recognise and name some of the flowers and plants in the meadowland.

From there the children went on to visit the church before exploring the rest of the town centre and trying to identify some of the buildings Gillian had told them about. Later Gillian remarked how much she had enjoyed talking to them and how attentive they had been. They were, she said, a remarkable group of bright and inquisitive children who had asked very thoughtful questions and their teacher, Rachel Howell, was to be congratulated, not only on the preparation they had done but on their behaviour throughout the morning.

HANGING TREE PLAQUE

As previously reported in the Newsletter the Society, in conjunction with the Broseley Partnership, recently had a plaque made explaining the origin of the hanging tree stone plaque situated on a wall in Duke Street. At a ceremony in late March, with several inches of snow underfoot and more blowing a blizzard, quite a crowd turned up to watch the Rev'd Sue Beverley unveil this plaque which read "This stone depicts a hanging tree. Such mere or boundary trees were used to designate ownership of land and were useful in times of dispute." The original inscription on the stone plaque, now barely legible, reads "The tree has gone but here a stone".

To celebrate the event Jean Jones cracked open a bottle of champagne – to the delight of all and the

The Rev'd Sue Beverley unveils the Hanging Tree iron plaque in Duke Street



Eric Cox braved the weather to make sure the plaque was installed in time for the unveiling ceremony



Photograph courtesy Dot Cox



To celebrate the occasion Jean Jones cracked open a bottle of champagne, much to the amusement of passersby who were astonished to see Broseley residents enjoying a street party in the middle of the snow

amusement of passersby who were astonished to see Broseley residents having a street party on a Sunday afternoon in several inches of snow!

The plaque was funded by the Broseley Partnership and finally lays to rest all the myths about the Dead Walls and felons being hanged there. And no, there are no bones to be found, except perhaps in the small cemetery next door at the Pipe Museum.

WORLD WAR I EXHIBITION

While still early days, the Society is already planning an exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WWI. This will take place some time in 2014 in the cemetery chapel and will include photographs, books and memorabilia. With this in mind the Society will be asking members if they have anything they would like to lend to this exhibition, although they will obviously not be needed until much nearer the time. There are still people in this town who lost family members during this war and this exhibition will serve to remind people of how much they owe to these brave men.

MADE IN THE GORGE

Shropshire's Ironbridge Gorge is a well known destination for artists and craftspeople who have chosen to settle here and showcase their creativity through workshops and retail outlets. Now the Ironbridge Gorge Museum shops are promoting a Made in the Gorge range of products featuring the



Adrian Reynolds and Jenny Gunning are just two of the artists associated with the Made in the Gorge range

works of some of these designers and artists, many of whom still use the traditional skills and production techniques associated with the manufacturing history of the area. These products include metalwork, pottery, glass ware and slip decorated earthenware as well as dramatic images fusing the natural landscape with local industrial heritage.

The Made in The Gorge range is available in five of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums' shops, including the Gift Shop in Ironbridge itself as well as online at www.ironbridge.org.uk.

IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUMS APPOINTMENT

The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust has recently appointed a new Chief Executive, Anna Brennand. Anna is currently the Trust's Deputy CEO and Director of Finance & Resources, having joined the Museum in 2007 following a successful career in the City of London. She has also performed key roles in the not for profit sector and the leisure and hospitality industry. A qualified accountant, she is also a Board Member of the Museums Association.

During her time at Ironbridge, Miss Brennand has led the successful, multi-award winning £12 m redevelopment of Blists Hill Victorian Town and was instrumental in Ironbridge securing Major Partner Museum status from Arts Council England, making Ironbridge one of only 16 museums in England to secure national funding under the Renaissance scheme. Anna is currently leading the Trust's redevelopment of the Museum of Iron at Coalbrookdale, one of the most important projects in its 45 year history.

Miss Brennand succeeds Steve Miller who leaves the Trust in June to take up a post as Head of Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service.

WHAT'S ON?

Blists Hill Victorian Town

Saturday 22 June

Blitz Hill evening event

To celebrate its 40th anniversary, Blists Hill will be jumping into the 20th century to the years of World War II. For this evening event, come dressed in period civilian costume, pick up your ration coupon at the gate and experience the food and entertainment of the day. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

For details of entrance fees call 01952 433424 or visit www.ironbridge.org.uk.

Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 July

Treasure Island Weekend

Dress as a pirate or your favourite character from Robert Louis Stevenson's famous novel, Treasure Island. The open air museum will be running a special literary themed event with actors recreating scenes from the popular maritime book of mutiny and buried treasure.

Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 July

Ironbridge Gorge Brass Band Festival

This festival will feature 16 brass bands including the Jackfield Elcock Reisen Band. Daytime admission is free with a ticketed charity gala concert on the Saturday evening. This concert will also feature Helen May, mezzo soprano, with proceeds to Severn Hospice. Tickets cost £10.00 and can be booked online at www.eventbrite.co.uk or www.ironbridgebandfestival.co.uk. For more details email junior14@talktalk.net or tel 07583 279608.

The Brass Band Festival is not to be missed



Coalbrookdale Gallery

Next to Ingenuity

Friday 26 April – Friday 31 May

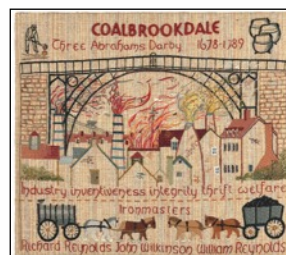
Stream – Luce Choules

An exhibition of work exploring the monuments and landscapes of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site. Admission free.

Wednesday 22 May – Wednesday 5 June

Exhibition of Quaker Tapestry

An exhibition of colourful panels of embroidery from the Quaker Tapestry Centre in Kendal, Cumbria. The modern bright textile panels give a fascinating insight into key events of the last 350 years from a Quaker perspective. They have been created by some 4,000 men, women and children aged between 4 and 90 years, from 15 different countries and were embroidered over a 15 year period between 1981 and 1996. Free entry.



A Quaker Tapestry panel on show at the Coalbrookdale Gallery

Ongoing to Saturday 31 August

An exhibition by artist Jon Mills of whimsical sculptures showing the adventures of Mr Watt, Grumpy Man of Metal, who features in a series of illustrated books and makes unusual metal objects such as a crab's bicycle, flying machine and a new kind of trumpet.

Friday 21 June – Tuesday 31 December

Pit Profiles: Re-Profiled

An exhibition of miners' portraits and their personal stories made up of evocative contemporary photographs of colliery workers taken by Anton Want along with a selection of drawings of pit workers by H Andrew Freeth, originally published in the 1940s and '50s. Free admission.

Ingenuity

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 June

Float a boat

Design and make a sailing boat and test it on the Ingenuity pool of doom. There will be a small additional charge for materials; activities vary from day to day.

Saturday 20 July – Sunday 1 September

Wild Weather

Discover more about the science and technology behind our weather. Take part in interactive demonstrations, understand how wind turbines generate electricity, find out how a rainbow is made and watch a hurricane being created. Then make some weather-inspired creations including kites, rain sticks and windmills at drop-in workshops. Activities will vary from day to day and there is a small additional charge for materials.

Coalport China Museum

Monday 27 – Friday 31 May

Coalport flowers ceramic drop-in Workshops

Create your own unique work of art inspired by the floral designs on Coalport china. Activities vary from day to day and carry an extra charge.

Mondays to Fridays only from 22 July – 30 August Ceramic ‘Sea Worlds’ drop-in Workshops

Activities include painting mugs with brightly coloured fish, creating a clay rock pool and sculpting sea creatures. Activities vary from day to day and ceramic items carry an extra charge.

Jackfield Tile Museum

Tuesday 28 – Friday 31 May

Tuesdays and Fridays only from 30 July – 30 August Tile Decorating Workshops

Try tube lining to produce a tile featuring your own design and choice of colours. Activities vary from day to day; tiles cost from £5 each.

For more information on these and other activities, contact the Ironbridge Gorge information centre, tel: 01952 433424 or visit www.visitironbridge.co.uk.

Claverley Village Hall

Saturday 13 July – Tuesday 16 July

10.00 am – 7.00 pm (4.30 pm Tuesday)

Graveyard Tales

Organised by the Claverley Memories Local History Society this is their 15th family history exhibition. So if you want to know who you are, go along and let their experts help you find out. Admission £1.00.

Details from telephone 01746 710154 or email: claverleymemories@hotmail.com.

BOOKSHOP

Pancakes & Prangs, Twentieth-Century Military Aircraft Accidents in Shropshire, by Thomas Thorne, published by Bridge Books; hardback, 304 pp, illustrated, indexed.

This book provides a comprehensive account of all known military aircraft that came to grief in the county (approximately 700 incidents). Whilst most people are aware of the enormous price paid by the pilots and aircrews of all nations during the two world wars, many do not realise the heavy toll of airmen who lost their lives during training. Because of its location Shropshire was deemed ideal and thousands of potential airmen went there for flying training. This book examines the details of every accident and provides biographical notes on the airmen concerned. It will be of interest to Shropshire local historians, aviation enthusiasts, aircraft archaeology groups and family historians.

Available at a cost of £25.00 from Bridge Books, www.bridgebooks.co.uk, or for £23.50 including free postage and packing from the author, email tomthorne83@yahoo.co.uk.

MAILBOX

Although I live in British Columbia, Canada, a few years ago I stayed at the Lion Hotel in Broseley where my great great grandmother, Eliza Jane Ward, was born in 1842. Her father was Richard Ward, publican at the Lion before he moved the family to Leicester, having been appointed a clerk in the post office there. He died in Leicester Gaol in 1855 having been convicted of embezzlement from the post office. Eliza Jane's mother was Maria Shaw, the daughter of William Podmore Shaw and Sarah Ford who married in Stoke-on-Trent in 1791 and moved to Broseley around 1806. William was a china potter, so I suspect he came from the Potteries to work at the Caughley or Coalport manufactories.

With the help of your tithe map of 1838 and other documentation, I think I have been able to identify my family's house on Church Street. The owner in 1838 was Maria's sister Elizabeth Shaw. Her brother William Podmore Shaw Jnr, was born in Broseley in 1820 and died in 1868 of "softening of



This house in Church Street, which is thought to have belonged to Elizabeth Shaw in 1838, may perhaps have been a small school

the brain.” Apparently there is a gravestone in the Broseley churchyard for him, his wife Anne (Evans) and his sister Elizabeth. On Eliza’s death certificate William is described as an “inmate.” An inmate always referred to someone living in an institution such as a workhouse, lunatic asylum or prison. I think it possible that Elizabeth ran a small private boarding school in her house on Church Street. Could Elizabeth Shaw, aged about 34, have been using her house as some sort of institution?

William Podmore Shaw, her brother, certainly seems to have acquired a good education, as he rose to the position of bank clerk with Pritchard’s bank in Broseley. By the time of his early death he was worth £2,000. He was an official mourner at George Pritchard’s funeral, which appears to have been a big affair.

Carolyn Paisley
carolyn.paisley@gmail.com

There was no prison or asylum in Broseley so that suggests the workhouse but, given his future career, this does not quite make sense. The new Poor Law was introduced in 1835 and Broseley became part of the Madeley Union but the Broseley Workhouse continued in use until 1863. I think however that most of the poor relief was actually outdoor relief in that the recipients did not live in the workhouse. There certainly were private schools in Broseley presumably catering for the middle class.

Steve Dewhirst

I have taken over as editor of the Newsletter of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society and am keen to expand it to include short contributions, of general interest, from societies around the county. Do any of your members have anything they could send in which might interest our readers? If there is anyone interested

in this Society, please visit our website www.shropshirearchaeology.org.uk.

Shelagh Hampton
shelagh228@msn.com

I am researching my wife’s family history (her maiden name was Davies) and I know that her great grandfather, Stanley Davies, was born in Broseley and came to America from England. His parents were Samuel Davies and Margaret (Lloyd) Davies and they lived in King Street. Samuel was a butcher. I have found them in the 1841, 1851 and 1861 censuses for Broseley, Shropshire. Samuel, however, is not listed in the 1871 census and I assume he had passed away but Margaret was continuing with the business along with some sons. Other than the census reports, I am at a loss as to how to find more information on Samuel and Margaret. I should appreciate any help your members can give me and am interested in any stories or factual data pertaining to Samuel and all of his family, especially if I could find some descendants living there now.

Glenn Wolfe
Pennsylvania, USA
gdw133@verizon.net

In answer to a letter from Ann Beal of Canada regarding the old Prince of Wales pub, the February 2013 Newsletter printed a quote from Dave Shinton’s book *The Inns and Aleshouses of Broseley* which stated that this pub was situated in Cape Street. As one Society member was quick to point out, this pub was actually in King Street. In response to this Dave Shinton writes:

It is now 21 years since The Inns and Ale Houses of Broseley first appeared. Since that time, chiefly with the assistance of others, a great deal of extra material has been gathered.

Recently a member of the BLHS kindly pointed out an error which has lain undetected for all these years. For some reason now unknown I had recorded The Prince of Wales as being in other than King Street, where it indeed stands.

It could well be that there are other wrong attributions which readers have picked up, or there may be Society members who have history of

particular houses which will be of interest to a wider readership. As I now turn my hand to more work on the book I invite any such goodly folk to contact me with the datum that they hold.

The Rev'd Dave Shinton

d.shinton@btinternet.com

Could anyone give me any information on the Brew House in Cobwell Road and whether the name or the house has any historical significance? I lived there when I was a child in the late 1950s and early 1960s when it was simply known as 27 Cobwell Road. I notice that a lot of the houses around the area seem to have acquired names, along with the jitties, which is why I wondered if there was any historical reason for the name.

Linda Edwards

lped@bigpond.com

Does anyone know how this house in Cobwell Road got its name of the Brew House?



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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I am afraid I do not have any information on the house. I am not sure when it was named the Brew House but as far as I am aware there is no evidence of it having been a brew house or a pub.
Steve Dewhirst

Last year I contacted your Society for information on my father John Percy Weston who grew up in Broseley in the 1920s. He was a member of the church choir from the age of seven and vice-captain of the school football team.

I was delighted with the response from members and especially the supply of relevant photographs. Please find enclosed a donation towards Society funds in recognition of my appreciation.

Susan Donaldson

Thank you for your kind donation. We shall be pleased to put this towards our recently created Research Fund which has been set up to encourage members to explore topics in line with the aims of the Society – that is the research, preservation and promotion of Broseley's unique heritage.

Editor

DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS

In view of the increased cost of postage and printing, it has been suggested that some people might be happy to simply receive notification that the latest *Newsletter* has been put up on our website, rather than receiving a copy through the post. Although this suggestion may not appeal to everyone, if there are any members who would prefer to receive it this way, would they please contact the membership secretary, Janet Robinson, email: pandjrobinson@hotmail.com.

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.



BROSELEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

July Outing - Saturday 6 July 2013

This year's July Outing is to the Potteries where we shall visit the Wedgwood Museum and Visitor Centre at Barlaston and the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent.

The Wedgwood Museum chronicles the life of Josiah Wedgwood I, the 'Father of English Potters'. A fascinating individual, scientist, artist, entrepreneur and social reformer, he was one of the most important figures of his age - almost the equal of John Wilkinson! The Museum also houses paintings by famous artists and has an outstanding display of some of the world's finest Wedgwood ceramic pieces. There is also a factory shop and an excellent self service restaurant and tearoom which serves award winning home cook food, of course on Wedgwood china!

Admission to the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery is free and the Museum takes you back in time to discover the history of the Potteries. You can also see a WWII Spitfire, Ozzie the famous Pottery Owl and visit a secret garden. It also houses a fine collection of Staffordshire ceramics and a unique collection of works of art including Picasso, Dürer and Degas.

Lunch will be available at the Wedgwood Museum or bring your own packed lunch. The restaurant serves everything from a sandwich and soup to a three course meal.

Entry to the Wedgwood Museum for group bookings is £8.00 pp or £7.00 for concessions; coach travel is £8.00 pp. The full cost of the outing, therefore, will be £16.00 pp or £15.00 pp for concessions.

Dep: Broseley Square 9.00 am

Ret: Between 5.30 and 6.00 pm

There is ample free parking in the Library car park in Bridgnorth Road.

Please make your cheque payable to Broseley Local History Society and return this form **by not later than 29 June** to Michael Pope, Rivendell, 2 Dark Lane, Broseley, TF12 5LH, tel: 01952 883960.

BOOKING FORM

JULY OUTING TO THE POTTERIES, SATURDAY 6 JULY

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____ Tel: _____

No of persons @ £16.00 per person _____

No of persons @ £15.00 per person _____

Total payment: _____

Please make your cheque payable to Broseley Local History Society and return this form **by not later than 29 June** to Michael Pope, Rivendell, 2 Dark Lane, Broseley, TF12 5LH
Tel: 01952 883960