NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2019

MEETINGS

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

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

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

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PROGRAMME

6th March. *John Wilkinson Revisited (The Annual Wilkinson Lecture)* – Richard Sells

3rd. April. *War Memorials* – Janet Doody

1st. May. *The Story of All Saints Church Broseley* – Michael Pope

5th. June. *Summer Walk between the Coalport and Willey Wharf*

6th. July. *Sumer Outing to Hereford incorporating the Museum of Cider*



Photograph Courtesy of Hereford Cider Museum©

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Pam Johnson, Broseley.
Rita Powell, Broseley
Andrew and Gail Waters, Broseley.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

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

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Foresters of Watling Street, Dothill and Willey
(Neil Clarke)

Our annual joint meeting with the Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum at Coalbrookdale in November was attended by members of the Forester family.



The Forester family has played a significant role in the history of East Shropshire for over 800 years. The earliest recorded member of the family, Hugh, was appointed warden of the deer enclosure near the Wrekin in the late 12th century; and his descendant Edward built the first part of the Old Hall on Watling Street in about 1480. Edward's long-lived grandson, John, was a member of Henry VIII's court and, because of infirmity, was given permission to wear his hat in the king's presence. He accompanied the king at the meeting with Francis I of France on the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1521, and became Member of Parliament for the Borough of Wenlock between 1529 and 1536. John's grandson Francis built a new wing onto the Old Hall around 1620 and purchased the manor of Little Wenlock. In 1659 his great grandson William inherited the Dothill estate (to the north of Wellington) as a result of his mother's second marriage into the Steventon family.

William Forester took a keen interest in politics. He was a supporter of the Glorious Revolution, was made a Knight of the Bath by a grateful William III in 1689, and represented the Borough of Wenlock in Parliament for many years. His immediate successors increased the family's wealth by marriage**:** his son, also named William, married Catherine, heiress of William Brooke of Clerkenwell (London); and his grandson Brooke Forester married Elizabeth, heiress of George Weld of Willey. Brooke thereby inherited the Willey estate on the death of his father-in-law in 1748.

Brooke Forester's son, George, the so called hunting squire, was succeeded by his cousin Cecil in 1811. Cecil adopted the name Weld-Forester, built the grandly neo-classical new hall between 1813 and 1820, and was created 1st Baron Forester in 1821. He and his eight successors have continued to live at Willey Hall. By the end of the 19th century, the Forester estate covering almost 15,000 acres was the third largest in this part of the county; but it was drastically reduced in 1918 with the sale of Dothill and Little Wenlock, and the Old Hall in 1926.

Like others of their social standing, members of the Forester family have been involved in politics both at local and national level, and some entered the professions, particularly the army and the church. Much of the income from the Forester estate came from leasing land to tenant farmers. But the family also realised that the timber on the land and the mineral resources below ground could be exploited; and during the years of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries they leased land which was mined and quarried, had blast furnaces, limekilns and brickworks built on it, and wagonways driven through it. The New Willey Partnership of 1759, which included John Wilkinson among others, was an example of this.

In addition to the thriving Willey Estate, examples of the legacy of the family are a number of local street names; the coat of arms on a former Broseley public house; the memorial east window in St Lawrence's church, Little Wenlock; and the local hospitals (now residential/care homes) in Broseley and Much Wenlock.

At the end of the meeting, Lord Forester was photographed with the speaker, Neil Clarke.



Photos of Broseley over the Last 40 years. January 2nd 2019. (Steve Dewhirst**)**

The first meeting of 2019 enjoyed a presentation from Steve Dewhirst of some of his extensive collection of photographs of the last 40 years in Broseley. The audience were invited to contribute with comments and memories on the pictures, most of which showed locations within the memory of most of the members.

Steve had grouped the pictures into sections, and started by showing some of the buildings which were derelict 40 years ago. Some, like the Pipeworks, have been restored and have found a new use. The Old Fox Inn in Duke Street looked particularly dilapidated in the 1980s, however many of the audience were able to relate to the present, very tidy, building. Memories of old Mr Cis Roberts standing by the road chatting with passersby, were prompted by a view of the shed like home he had, again in Duke Street. (Now attractive cottages).

Several licensed premises also featured, having closed over the last 40 years, such as the Cumberland, the Pheasant and the Lord Hill, others had become hostelries or restaurants, such as the Old Butchers Shop Bar which was an eyesore in the High Street for many years, and formerly the Town Hall Garage.



Town Hall Garage – now Clays

Many shops had closed or changed in appearance, prompting contributions from the members about shopping there.

Some buildings were shown under repair, such as the cottage on the corner of the High Street and Fox Lane, held up by a series of acrow props and the old half-timbered cottage in Coalport Road, adjacent to the John Wilkinson School, which needed serious surgery some years ago.



17th. Century Cottage on Coalport Road

Jackfield bridge was replaced during the time covered by the talk, and Steve had several pictures of the old bridge, with a Bailey bridge erected to carry the traffic while demolition took place.



Old Free Bridge

While looking at Jackfield, Steve included the former bus shelter in the centre of the village.



Old Bus Shelter on Calcutts Road

At the end of his talk, Steve included a few very interesting old photos that have come from the Forester collection, showing the buildings visible in the area of Broseley Church during the Victorian era. The industrial areas now occupied by the Tileries and the Wilkinson Avenue housing developments were shown, along with some local residents in the fashions of the day.

As the meeting was so soon after the festive period, the society provided a glass of wine and a mince pie which were eagerly sampled by the audience during the interval of Steve's talk. To the treasurer's horror, one member was heard to remark that this would be good to do at every meeting!

Broseley Local History Society Christmas Meal

Members and friends of the Broseley Local History Society gathered together on 5th December to partake of the annual Christmas meal at the Lion Hotel. The room was bright and festively decorated and included a Santa's Grotto; unfortunately, Santa was missing, resting after too many mince pies perhaps?!



All Seated!

Following much chat and well - wishing we found our places, all duly labelled with both name and our meal – thank goodness I'm sure I'm not the only one who can never remember EXACTLY what was ordered! After Michael said Grace, with crackers pulled and party hats on, "jokes" read and cracker gifts retrieved from under the table where they had landed, the meal was served.



Tucking In

The food was "top notch" plentiful and tasty (including, so I'm told the sprouts – I hate sprouts!), the roast parsnips and potatoes were particularly delicious and crispy. The desserts, especially the "hanky-panky" pudding on our table were well received, although Harold, a true traditionalist did choose the Christmas Pudding, and all finally ending with mince pies and coffee.



Coffee and Chat

An entertainment is fast becoming a tradition after the Broseley Local History Society Christmas meal and this year was no exception. Gill, whose grandparents had been licensees of the Lion, and who had herself been born there, had recently discovered reminiscences of Broseley between the wars that her mother had written. Tales, both of funny and sad recalled days before TV and way before mobile phones and the internet, where amusement and recreation were produced from the very community itself. Hopefully some of these poignant and amusing memoirs, which everybody appeared to enjoy, will find their way into the newsletter sometime.

I think everyone who attended had a thoroughly entertaining evening and for all you who missed this capital treat, I know it's a busy time but put the date in your 2019 diary NOW, you will have a great time !!!!!

Janet Doody

What's On?

9th February. Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society (SAHS)

Dr Andy Wrigley "A review of Recent Archaeological Investigations in
Shropshire" 2.30pm at The Shirehall, Shrewsbury
20th February Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust.

A talk by Ray Farlow "Butcher, Baker, Candlestick maker" An illustrated talk
on the local industries. 2.30pm in the Glass Classroom, Coalbrookdale.

9th March SAHS, A talk by Neil Clarke "Thomas Telford and the Holyhead Road in East Shropshire" 2.30pm at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

19th March Shropshire Family History Society. A talk by Nigel Hinton "The
Shrewsbury Drapers Company" 7pm in The Chapel Community Centre,
Crosshouses.

20th March Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. A talk by Joanna
Turksa Industrial Heritage Support Officer for IGMT "Perceptions of Sustainability in a Heritage context: Sustainability Theory and Practice at National Heritage Organisations in Scotland" 2.30pm in the Glass Classroom, Coalbrookdale.

17th April The Coalbrookdale Archives Lecture. A talk by Dr Roger White
"Building a powerbase, reflections on the excavations at Frogmore House, Atcham in 2017 "(A Saxon wooden palace) 7.30pm in the Glass Classroom, Coalbrookdale.

22nd May A talk by Janet Doody, "Lilleshall Company Housing in Wrockwardine Wood "7.30pm in the Glass Classroom, Coalbrookdale

The above "What's On?" is a taster of what's going on locally. Details of these meetings and more can be found at the Wrekin Local Studies Forum website.
http://www.wlsf.org.uk/category/calendar/

Mailbox

Request for Information on Benthall Hall and Clementina Benthall

My name is Johnnie Manckiy; I am researching British Country Houses used as homes for evacuated schools during the war for a series of books I am writing. My first book was on Thirlestane Castle, Lauder and its use by St. Hilary's School for Girls. You can find it on Amazon.

I am now researching Benthall Hall and its owner Mary Clementina Benthall during the 1930's and 1940's. Mary is an important and interesting person in the history of the estate. I know it was due to her that the estate was saved and brought back for the Benthall family. I was interested to read on the Trust site that during the war she drove a Mobile Canteen around Exmoor. During the war she rented Benthall to a boys prep. school Langley Place which had been evacuated from East Sussex. I hope to be able to include a chapter on Benthall in my next book.

Could please help me? Is there anything you can tell me about Mary Clementina Benthall or Benthall's use by Langley Place during the war?

I would welcome any help you could give me.

Thank you for everything,

Johnnie Manckiy

Editor
The Committee is delighted that Mike Wallage has offered to edit our Newsletter. We are very grateful to Mike as the newsletter is such an important way of keeping our members in touch with the activities of Broseley Local History Society.

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to those members who have indicated that they would be happy to have an electronic copy of the *Newsletter*. If there are any other members who would prefer it this way, please contact the membership secretary, Janet Robinson, email:

janetc46.jr.jr@gmail.com

Those of you who would still prefer to have it in its printed version can continue to look forward to receiving it through the post

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BROSELEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

SUMMER OUTING ———————SATURDAY 6th JULY 2019

This year our Summer Outing will be to the Cathedral city of Hereford on the banks of the River Wye.
During the morning we shall visit the Cider Museum which is the only Arts Council "Accredited Museum" dedicated to the history of cider making. The Museum was set up as a Trust in the 1970's by Bertram Bulmer, Norman Weston and John Hudson. They realised that unless a collection was started, then much of the history of cider making would be lost. The Museum is housed in a former cider making factory dating back to 1888. This was the birthplace of Bulmer's cider.
Henry Percival Bulmer started making cider in 1887 and was then joined by his brother. A year later they purchased a plot of ground on the outskirts of Hereford to build a 'shack' to make and store cider. Extensive cellars were later excavated in 1889. The buildings were eventually acquired by the Trust and it was opened in 1981. It now portrays how cider making went from being a cottage industry to a major industrial process.
We have arranged a guided tour of the premises and there is a cafe, shop and cider tasting area!

The Museum is a ten minute walk from the attractive city centre where there are numerous places to eat, shops to enjoy and buildings of historical interest. The most famous building is the Cathedral dedicated to two Saints - S. Mary the Virgin and S. Ethelbert the King. It's most famous treasure is the Mappa Mundi, a mediaeval map of the world created around 1300 by Richard of Holdingham. A new library building was built in the 1990's to house the map and the chained libraries from the Cathedral and All Saint's Church. It was opened by Queen Elizabeth 11 in 1996.

In 2017 a new monument and stained glass window was installed in the nave to commemorate the Cathedral's connection with the S.A.S. which had its headquarters at nearby Rotherwas. A recent find has been a portrait which hung in the vergers vestry and has now been attributed to Thomas Gainsborough. Adjoining the Cathedral is the award winning Chapter House Garden which has been redeveloped by the Friends of the Cathedral. Next to the garden is a cafe offering home made hot and cold meals

The coach will leave Broseley at 9.00am from the Broseley Square Bus Stop. There is ample free parking in the car park next to the Library in Bridgnorth Road. The cost for the day will be £15.00 which includes coach travel , entry to the Cider Museum and a guided tour. We aim to be back in Broseley between 5.30pm and 6pm.

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BOOKING FORM

SUMMER OUTING TO HEREFORD ————————— SATURDAY 6th JULY 2019

NAMES/S ————————————————————————————-

ADDRESS ————————————————————————————-

POST CODE ————————————— TEL. NO. ————————————————

NUMBER OF PERSONS ————————@ £15 .00 per head

TOTAL PAYMENT ————————————————————

Please make cheques payable to Broseley Local History Society and return this part of the form, together with payment, by no later than June 28th to Michael Pope, Rivendell, 2 Dark Lane, Broseley. TF12 5LH. Telephone number 01952883960.