NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the **Broseley Local History Society**

INCORPORATING THE WILKINSON SOCIETY

MAY 2019

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.

PROGRAMME

5th. June. *Summer Walk between the Coalport and the Severn Valley Way.*

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

4th. Sept. "Dawley Girl writes book on Telford" (Pat Bracegirdle).

2nd. Oct. John Randall (John Willock).

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

4th. Dec. Annual Dinner.

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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:

Amanda Holmes.	Manchester
Terry & Debbie Harris.	Broseley
Chris & Elaine White.	Broseley
Jocelyne Barbier & Ian Lowis.	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

BALH Award for Neil Carke

It was with great pleasure and pride that the committee of Broseley Local History Society were informed that Neil Clarke had been awarded the ' 2019 British Award for Local History ' for Personal Achievement in Local History.

Neil was nominated as a result of all that he has done over the years to further local history, through teaching, lecturing and the giving of presentations, besides belonging to many organisations in the County and no less belonging to our Society from it's start as The Wilkinson Society which met at The Lawns in Church Street. We are grateful for the input that Neil continues to give to Broseley Local History Society.

Neil has also published four books about Shropshire, the "Industries of East Shropshire, Railways of East Shropshire, Roads of East Shropshire and Waterways of East Shropshire".

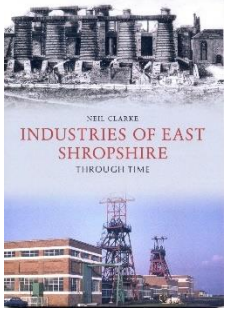
Unbeknown to Neil, his nomination went before a panel in February and they wrote to our committee saying that " His involvement in Local History clearly justified the Award ".This is a prestigious award not given to many people.

Neil will be travelling to London on Saturday 1st June to receive this award during Local History Day.

Congratulations Neil.

Annual Wilkinson Lecture (March)

Because of illness, Richard Sells was unable to give his talk on 'John Wilkinson Revisited'. Instead, Neil Clarke showed a selection of images from his recent book 'Industries of East Shropshire Through Time', covering the area's natural resources, manufacturing industries, and industry today. See the image of the front cover below:



THE ART OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

The art of the war memorial was the subject of the talk given by Janet Doody in April, through their designers and artists together with the interpretation of their creations was the subject. Although concentrating on WW1 memorials located in Shropshire, an express tour of the UK and Flanders was also included!

Civilisations have erected memorials to their dead for centuries; early ones commemorated a battle or "Hero" but during the 19th century this began to change and symbolise human sacrifice rather than a victory or the victorious.

At the end of WW1 the then Imperial War Grave Commission appointed three renowned architects to create National Memorials: Sir Reginald Blomfield (Menin Gate & the Cross of Sacrifice), Sir Herbert Baker (the Tyne Cot Memorial) and probably the most well-known, Sir Edward Landseer Lutyens.



MENIN GATE & THE CROSS OF SACRIFICE

Lutyens designed the Thiepval Memorial and the Stone of Remembrance, he was also asked to design a temporary non-denominational monument for the Peace Celebrations on 19th July 1919. The Cenotaph erected in just 6 hours became a visible focus for public mourning and was rebuilt as a permanent memorial. Subsequently almost every parish and community erected a memorial to those it had lost.

Some members will recall the large war memorial at Port Sunlight, designed by Sir William Goscombe John; it has the unusual theme of the "Defence of the Realm" with the rare inclusion of both women and children. At Chirk a "New Sculpture" style of the 1920's by the infamous Eric Gill, is very much of the period.

The Shropshire county memorial stands in the Shrewsbury Quarry; the statue of St. Michael was created by Allan Wyon, who also designed the Cambrian Railways memorial located in Oswestry Park. Wyon later became vicar of St. Newlyn, Cornwall.

A number of memorials including, such as the soldier in Ironbridge were designed by Arthur Walker. The soldier originally faced the railway station, as if awaiting the return of his friends. Sadly, he now faces the shops in Ironbridge Square. In Bridgnorth, the pose of the soldier that dominates the Castle grounds has generated much debate; is he throwing a grenade or urging an advance? The designer was Shropshire born Capt. Adrian Jones who had been an army veterinary officer.



THE IRONBRIDGE MEMORIAL

A simple memorial cross of red stone in the churchyard of St. Andrew's Quatt was designed by Clough Ellis, the creator of Portmeirion; who later bought and developed the Mytton and Mermaid at Atcham. At Coalbrookdale the iron memorial was made by the Coalbrookdale Company and

designed by Mr. Harold Fowler, one of the company's draughtsmen. At Maws in Jackfield a mural of their coloured tiles names all employees who served in the Great War.
A number of memorials take the form of stained-glass windows made by some famous manufacturers, Charles Kempe & Company, (Melverley & Donnington Wood) and Morris & Company (Shifnal & Wroxeter). Shropshire has its own stained-glass artist, Margaret Agnes Rope who produced a number of memorials, including a window in Shrewsbury's Cathedral. In 1923 she became a Carmelite nun.
More recently the focus for remembrance has been the National Memorial Arboretum. Mainly reflecting later conflicts, the Shot at Dawn memorial, created by Worcestershire born artist Andy De Comyn as a gift to the families of those executed in WW1 who were campaigning for pardons. It is a concrete figure of a blindfolded soldier with a target hung around his neck, over 300 wooden stakes are arranged in a semicircle behind each bearing the name, rank, regiment, and date and age at death of each man. The figure is based on Private Herbert Burden of the 1st Northumberland Fusiliers who was shot at Ypres on the 21st July 1915 age just 17 years. Shrewsbury's Private Denis Jetson Blakemore is represented; he was charged with desertion and executed at 4.30am on 9th July 1917.



SHOT AT DAWN

A number of new memorials have recently been unveiled representing those previously forgotten; "They Had No Choice", is dedicated to all animals that served and died alongside British and Allied Forces in wars and campaigns throughout time". Sited in Hyde Park, it was designed by David Backhouse, who also produced the "Stream of Life" sculpture that was once in Central Square, Telford.



ANIMALS IN WAR

The Monument to the Women of WW2 symbolises the jobs women did during the war through their uniforms. Designed by John W. Mills, (who also designed the Turing statue at the University of Surrey). It still courts controversy as many believe that the clothing with no figures still portrays women as invisible.
More controversial still is the RAF Bomber Command Memorial, commemorating the crews from Britain, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Poland and other countries of the Commonwealth, as well as civilians of all nations killed during the raids. Liam O'Connor designed the memorial of Portland Stone and Philip Jackson the bronze sculpture of the aircrew just returned from a mission.



RAF BOMBER COMMAND MEMORIAL

New local commissions include the Ludlow War Memorial by Polish born Walenty Pytel, who studied at Hereford College of Art. Alfie Bradley from the British Iron works, Oswestry (creator of the Knife Angel), designed the Roebuck Sculpture at the National Arboretum which commemorates the 100th anniversary of the RAF and all those who served. And finally, Neil Dalrymple has been commissioned to produce a mural made as a ceramic stoneware relief to commemorate the Armistice and the end of the Great War for Pant Memorial Hall.

Janet Doody

BROSELEY TENANTS COMPLAIN - GRATES THAT WILL NOT COOK

Shrewsbury Chronicle – 8th January 1948

More complaints from tenants regarding the grates fitted in the recently erected council houses in Dark Lane were heard at the monthly meeting of Broseley District Committee on Wednesday, Alderman Collins presiding. The complaints chiefly referred to the difficulty in cooking but there were also some assertions that the fires smoked and that the hot water systems were unsatisfactory. The Town Clerk, (Mr A. G. Matthews) read letters from the committee's architect, (Mr Brian Cooper) stating that the trouble with regard to not being able to get hot water would disappear if the grates were used as intended. The best way to use them was to keep them going night and day, and this should not involve the use of much fuel, as the makers claimed that during the night the grates could be regulated to burn only half a pound of fuel per hour. If the tenants would use the grates in this way, they would always have hot water. The hot water tanks might also be protected. It was possible (the architect wrote) that the complaints were due to the fact that tenants were not able to get coke or other smokeless fuel. He understood that the complaints about cooking stoves had been abandoned.
Mr Wedge said the reason that some tenants had abandoned their complaints was because they

were sick and tired of making them and were doing their cooking by gas. A tenant who attended the meeting said that for 12 months he had tried everything he could think of to improve matters but without result. He had spent over £35 on electricity and electric appliances.
It was agreed on the motion of Mrs Hoy that an alteration to the chimney, which had been successfully tried at Much Wenlock to obviate the smoke nuisance, should be carried out at Broseley as an experiment.
An application by a Birch Meadow tenant for permission to keep a pig and a few fowl was refused, but on the motion of the Rev. Preb. C. S. Jackson it was agreed to make efforts to secure land near the council houses on which tenants could keep pigs and poultry.
Janet Doody

Street Light Replacement Work in Broseley

The once ubiquitous concrete post with its sodium lamp is disappearing from the streets of Broseley. Working on behalf of Shropshire Highways, Jones Lighting are removing Stanton & Staveley posts dating from the 1960s. Now seen on many roads around town, the modern replacement columns are far more slender, made of lightweight extruded aluminium and topped with LED lamps. These emit a pure white light in contrast to the predecessor sodium lamps with their orange and yellow glow.



OLD & NEW POSTS



INSTALLATION UNDER WAY IN KING STREET



THE OLD STANTON & STAVELEY TYPE 10 CONCRETE POST WITH SODIUM LAMP (CLAY PIPE MUSEUM)

For some time, pre-cast concrete posts have been out of favour with highway agencies and local authorities. Introduced in the 1930s, they became widespread throughout the UK in the 50s and 60s but are susceptible to structural deterioration as they age. A particular weakness is the reinforcing steel bars found inside many, which if compromised by moisture can cause corrosion to spread from within. Other factors contributing to their demise include the road safety concern of concrete being a rather unforgiving material upon impact. Light from sodium bulbs has also been criticised for polluting the night sky of our towns and cities.

As LED lighting provides a more energy efficient, low maintenance and cost efficient solution, it was only a matter of time before a programme of replacement work came to Broseley. Although architecturally understated, hopefully one or two of the old buff concrete posts will survive the changeover. Perhaps left in a tucked away cul-de-sac or a quiet side road, enabling people to experience in a small way street lighting of the past.

Tim Shields

What's On?

May 18: *Madeley Streets and Houses, Photographic exhibition.* Jubilee House
May 22: *Lilleshall Company Housing in Wrockwardine Wood.* A talk by local Historian Janet Doody in the Glass Classroom, Coalbrookdale. **7:30pm.**
June 1: *Shropshire Family History Fair.* Shirehall Shrewsbury 10am – 4pm.
June 15: *Madeley Canals and Railway.* A talk by Neil Clarke. Miners Arms, Prince Street Madeley. **2pm.**
June 25: *History on Foot. Building the Ironbridge 1778 -1779.* David De Haan. Bedlam Furnaces Car Park. **2pm.**
July 17: *The Iron Bridge Project – 50th. Anniversary Talk, the £3.6m restoration of the Iron Bridge*. Dr. Heather Sebire and Bill Klemper. in the Glass Classroom, Coalbrookdale. **7:30pm.**

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

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

I have recently researched the temporary "pre-fabs" erected post war in Madeley and the 12 that are still standing in Station Road and just wondered did Broseley have any of these temporary homes? I spent a lot of time during the school holidays with my grandparents (Ted & Esther Hough, Bridgnorth Road) in the 1960's but have no recollections of any but I was only about 6 or 7!!!!!
Janet Doody

Dear Fellow Shropshire Historian,

I would like to bring to your attention the sad state of affairs existing at the Shropshire Archives. It has been run down over recent years and requires our help to put it right. I have made a website explaining the situation and a course of action. Would you please bring this to the attention of your members and others who might be interested.
The website is: http://shropshirearchives.uk/
Nick Harding
The Kangaroo Inn
Aston-on-Clun
SY7 8EW.

Thank you.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY - (BALH)

As a member of the above, the society receives copies of the "Local History News" and "The Local Historian" which are available FREE to members at our meetings.
From the "News":-
1st June - Local History Day 2019 and the BALH AGM, Conway Hall, London includes the Annual Lecture "Rulers of the County: the magistracy and the challenge of local government, c1790-1834" given by Dr Rose Wallace, of the University of the West of England – see BALH website.
Countryfile Live – "This Summer's Best Day Out", is on the 1st-4th August at Blenheim Palace and the 15th – 18th August at Castle Howard
Updates from, Societies, Archives, Libraries & Museums:
Lichfield has a new library following a 2 year and £1.4 million development, includes TIC, museum and access point to the Staffordshire Record Office digitised archive collection.
Cheshire Archives has a new website: www.cheshirearchives.org.uk
The Locksmiths House Museum, Willenhall (one I have yet to visit has anyone been?), run by the Black Country Living Museum who hold over 14,000 items in its archive collection relating to this business.

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

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

Janet Doody

Dear Steve,
I am using this email address as it is the one given on your website, but I hope it will be of interest to your committee and wider membership. I thought you would want to know that St Paul's Church, Lindale, the supposed final resting place of John Wilkinson, has been closed.
https://www.nwemail.co.uk/news/17396042.worshippers-bid-tearful-farewell-to-st-pauls-church-lindale/
The keys remained with Rev Wilson for one month and so some metal detectorists have been in and located the probable position of the iron coffin in front of the chancel steps. On Monday we hope that a team from John Moores University are coming with further equipment to try to determine the size and depth of the object found. As you probably know, there is a plaque to John Wilkinson's wife in the church but no mention of him.
The diocese, having closed the church, are unable to do anything with the building. It is grade 2 listed, so cannot be demolished. It is surrounded by the churchyard which will be retained, so is of no use for housing or conversion. They have asked interested parties, including the Parish Council, if they can suggest any use for it and offered it at a peppercorn rent. If you would like any more information or would like to make any comments, you can contact Mike Squire, Chairman of the Parish Council, on squiremike@btinternet.com. or at the address below.
Kind regards
Christine Squire
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Grange over Sands
LA11 6JX
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DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS

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

janet46.jr.jr@gmail.com

Those of you would prefer to have it in its printed form can continue to look forward to receiving it through the post.

Newsletter Editor:

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

mike.wallage@btinternet.com

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

Mike Wallage

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

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