

Silver Jubilee Year



The Bromsgrove Society
NEWSLETTER

Volume 25 No. 2

June 2005

£1

Hanbury Hall



*An Example of Local Eighteenth
Century Architecture*

The Bromsgrove Society

Reg. Charity No. 510542

President:

Graham Reddie MBE, 41, East Road, Bromsgrove. B60 2NW
01527 872055

Chairman:

Des Clarke, 19 Alvechurch Highway, Lydiate Ash, Bromsgrove B60 1NZ
0121 453 3034

Hon. Secretary:

Mrs Marion Lancaster, 5, Carnforth Road, Harwood Park, Bromsgrove. B60 2HS
Tel:01527 871874

Hon. Treasurer:

John Rowlands, 34 Pine Grove, Lickey, Birmingham. B45 8HE
Tel: 0121 445 3017

Subscriptions are due on June 1st of each year and should be sent to:

Membership Secretary:

Mrs Jill Palmer, 37, Fordhouse Road, Bromsgrove B60 2LU
Tel: 01527 871340

Individual Membership	£7
Family Membership	£10
Pensioners & Students	£5
Pensioners Family Membership	£7
Corporate Members	£25 Minimum

Newsletter Editor:

Anne Maguire, 6 Broad Street, Bromsgrove B61 8LW
Tel: 01527 871354

The Newsletter appears three times a year in March, June and September The Editor welcomes letters and short articles on topics related to the Society's aims and interests. Please submit copy (typed if possible) by the last day in January, April and July for each respective issue. Suitable Photographs to illustrate articles are a great help, and will be carefully returned to the owner after use.

This newsletter and past editions can also be read on the Internet at:

www.bsoc.co.uk

From The Editor

This edition of the Newsletter is very definitely a commemorative issue of our twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations.

The Bromsgrove Lecture, delivered by The Duke of Gloucester, is reported in detail and photographs of the blessing of the Rogation Crosses on Sunday 1st May give a vivid picture of the day. Our thanks should go to the organisers of the events.

On a reminiscent note, Rashwood Court, as described by Hazel Sparkes, reminds us of Sir Hugh Summer, who was well-known in the town and an extract from The Bromsgrove Messenger of 8th May 1980 takes us back to our roots and the reason the society was formed.

“A Meeting by a group of like minded people, concerned that too much of Bromsgrove's heritage was being bulldozed in the name of progress was set to take place at the Council House. The final straw had been the demolition of a row of 19th century almshouses in Stratford Road. It was proposed the group would call itself the Bromsgrove Society.”

Anne Maguire

From the Membership Secretary

June means subscription time! A reminder to members who do not pay by Bankers Order that your subs are due on June 1st. The current rates are printed on the front inside cover of the Newsletter and prompt payment is appreciated. Thank you for your support.

The Society would like to thank all our Corporate Members for their continued support. They are:-

All Saints Garage Ltd.

Baylis and Co.(Bromsgrove) Ltd.

Bromsgrove Golf Centre

Central Office Services

Clarks Motor Services

Designed Systems Interiors

Harris Super Coaches (Bromsgrove) Ltd.

Thomas Horton & Sons

The Ladybird Inn

Lloyds TSB Bank

Mr.B.Manning (B.G.M. Associated)

Millfields First School

Morton Fisher, Solicitors

Polymer Latex

A.Victor Powell

R. & S. Antiques

Regal Garage (Bromsgrove) Ltd.

Rotary Club of Bromsgrove

Scotts, Solicitors

Weaver PLC

Webbs of Wychbold

X.L.Displays

We welcome as new Corporate Members:

Jukes Insurance Brokers, Lignum Crafts, The Red Lion (Bromsgrove), Rashwood Care Home, Townsend Textiles and Wilsons Pet Centres Ltd.

New Members who have recently joined are:

Mrs. M. Adie, Ms. R. Clarke, Mr. G. Evans, Dr. H.B. Fischer, Mr. & Mrs. M. Garner, Mr. R. Lilley, Mrs. S. Lloyd, Dr. D. Nokes, Mr. & Mrs. J. Sharp, Mr. A. Turner, Mrs. S. Waldron and Mr. & Mrs. K. Ward. Welcome to the Society.

Jill Palmer, Membership Secretary

From The Chairman

The 25th Anniversary of the foundation of The Bromsgrove Society has been celebrated by the lecture on '18th Century Architecture' given by The Duke of Gloucester and also by the marking of the medieval rogation crosses in the town. The next event will be a stall at the Elizabethan Market on 25th June and the Architectural Awards for 2005 to be presented at the AGM. Six entries have been received for the Architectural Awards on this occasion and the judges are already busy with their deliberations.

Prior to the Duke of Gloucester's lecture the committee chairmen, president and chairman were introduced to the royal party. The Duke spent several minutes talking to me and jokingly intimated that he had a 'day off' on Friday 8th April (due to the Pope's death and postponement of the royal wedding). The Duke was also interested to know what the Bromsgrove Society was doing and I was able to advise on all the activities, publications and our latest projects including the crosses and church steps.

Audit and verification of Accounts: In accordance with the note included in the March 2005 Newsletter the executive committee agreed at their March meeting to appoint Elaine Duffill of Fullard Duffill & Co. of 106 Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove B61 0DT to carry out an 'independent examination' of the Society's accounts for the year ending 5th April 2005.

The independent examination is less onerous than audit but is acceptable to the Charity Commissioners and it is the recommended course for the Society to proceed.

At the AGM on 7th July 2005 an item will be included To amend the Constitution of The Bromsgrove Society, Clause 5, to delete the words 'audited accounts' in line 3 and substitute 'independently examined accounts'. An amendment to the constitution requires 28 days notice to all members and a two thirds majority of members present at an AGM or Special General Meeting.

Secretary: The position of Honorary Secretary is still to be filled and we would welcome the suggestion of a competent person to undertake this duty. Please contact the chairman with any positive suggestion.

Des Clarke.

Information please on Bromsgrove Home Guard and Royal Observer Corps

I am researching the life and work of the Bromsgrove Stained Glass Artist Albert Edward Lemmon (1889-1963)

During World War II he was a member of Bromsgrove Home Guard and Royal Observer Corps Based near Caspidge House west of Pikes Pool Lane.

A. E. Lemmon produced a Card (Christmas?) showing the ROC Hut Do you have a copy which I could photograph?

Please contact Roy Albutt, 11, Great Calcroft, Pershore, WR10 1QS 01386 552127, or email roy_albutt@11.fsnet.co.uk

Out and about with the History Group.

The History Group has recently attended two events in the local community.

On 9 April, we were at the very successful launch of the Hughes Collection project at the Methodist Centre, where we displayed the results of research we had done, using resources such as the 1901 Census, to find out more about some of the people already identified in the photographs. We also showed a selection of advertisements from local trade directories. Bromsgrove Library has a good collection of trade directories for the town and surrounding area mainly covering the period 1860 to 1912. To find out more about the Hughes Collection and its future programme of events visit www.thehughescollection.co.uk or look out for the information leaflet.

On 24 April, we attended the National Trust's World War Two event at Hanbury Hall, where we used words and photographs to give an impression of life in Hanbury during the war. We also displayed a small collection of artefacts and documents including a gas mask in its original box, an ARP helmet, Home Guard training certificates and a copy of Make Do and Mend. During the first two weeks of May, at the invitation of the Library Manager, part of the display was shown at Droitwich Library.

Attending these events also gave the History Group an opportunity to promote the wider work of the society and to make available membership forms to potential new members. We are hoping to attend other similar events.

This year's Elizabethan Street Market will be on Saturday 25th June. We hope you will support The Bromsgrove Society's stand, which will be located outside Barclays Bank. This important event in the town will be used to inform people of our current projects and to celebrate twenty-five years of achievement. Will those running the stand be wearing the optional Elizabethan or Medieval style costumes that are an established part of this annual event? Come along and find out.

Pat Tansell

Corporate Members

Our current schedule of corporate members is set out below

All Saints Garage Ltd.	Morton Fisher, Solicitors
Baylis and Co.(Bromsgrove) Ltd.	Polymer Latex
Bromsgrove Golf Club	A.Victor Powell
Central Office Services	R. & S. Antiques
Clarks Motor Services	Rashwood Care Home
Designed Systems Interiors	The Red Lion (Bromsgrove)
Harris Super Coaches (Bromsgrove) Ltd.	Regal Garage (Bromsgrove) Ltd.
Thomas Horton & Sons	Rotary Club of Bromsgrove
Jukes Insurance Brokers	Scotts, Solicitors
The Ladybird Inn	Townsend Textiles
Lignum Crafts	Weaver PLC
Lloyds T.S.B. Bank	Webbs of Wychbold
Mr.B. Manning (B.G.M. Associated)	Wilson's Pet Centres Ltd
Millfields First School	X.L.Displays

The Bromsgrove Lecture 2005

Given by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester KG.GCVO. on 18th Century Architecture. Des Clarke the Society Chairman welcomed everyone to Bromsgrove School Memorial Chapel especially their Royal Highnesses, distinguished guests including the Lord Lieutenant, the chairmen of the County and District Councils, and Julie Kirkbride MP.

Graham Reddie the President, first looked back to 1980, the year the Society was formed in a move designed to help protect the valuable older buildings particularly in the town centre, and secondly back to 1987 when His Royal Highness honoured the town by giving the inaugural Bromsgrove Lecture, on "The Importance of History". His lecture this year focused upon "Eighteenth Century Architecture", and was the opening event in the Society's year long celebration of 25 years of voluntary service to the town and people.



14- 18 High Street

Before setting the Lecture in its historical context, the President warmly thanked the Governors and Head masters past and present for their generosity in providing an appropriate venue for every one of the annual Bromsgrove Lectures.

The eighteenth century, he said, was one of great artistic success. Queen Anne ascended the throne in 1702 but was quickly followed by George I, George II and then George III, hence

the term 'Georgian architecture', which has proved so popular to this day. Within the century several famous Englishmen were born and died including artists Thomas Gainsborough and Sir Joshua Reynolds, composers Thomas Arne and William Boyce, men of letters like Oliver Goldsmith and Thomas Gray . There were several notable architects and His Royal Highness was then invited to tell us about them and their buildings.

The Duke's introduction to the subject was the statement that "it always seems to me that there are two different approaches to history of architecture. The first one is very simple, discover who built what and when and you have a story of how buildings developed over time giving you a verifiable history. The second approach is more difficult because it adds to the list of who, what and when the little question of why. Now 'why' is not verifiable, it could only be speculative but all the best architectural stories have to include why, or they could become very dull!"

He apologised for the fact that he had been unable to download his illustrative slides from his retrieval system and as a consequence his talk was to be in two parts, the first being the historical official line and the second an alternative story answering 'why' with a different view.

The initial transference of the predominantly Gothic style of architecture to the Baroque in the British Isles in the 17th and early 18th century was influenced by, not

only the former having run its course but also by the fact that the existence of the printing press meant that complex concepts could be circulated much more widely than before. It was therefore possible by the 18th century to add illustrations to illuminate the words and to circulate these, giving access to the theories of Vitruvius, who wrote architectural manuals in the 1st century and the advice explained by the Renaissance Italian Alberti. Renaissance architects tended to adapt their rules to suit themselves, for instance Bramante to clothe the grandeur of the Vatican; Palladio to reflect the growing power of the merchants of Venice.



The pioneer British architect to follow the classical path was Inigo Jones, who had travelled extensively in Italy measuring classical buildings, reading theories and calculating the properties of the different elements. This experience enabled him to introduce these theories in such public buildings as the Royal Exchange; a new West End for St. Paul's Cathedral, The Queen's Chapel in the Mall, The Queen's house in Greenwich and ultimately the Whitehall Banqueting House.

Classical architecture just survived the Parliamentary period but the restoration brought a new school of architecture led by Sir Christopher Wren. He was more familiar with French architecture than Italian, so his buildings tended to the Baroque rather than Vitruvian/Palladian school of Inigo Jones. Wren's finest building is St. Paul's Cathedral, but early in the 18th century his design was subject to criticism, namely that it was too foreign and had strayed from the rules delivering the classicism of the Inigo Jones school.

In 1715, Volume 1 of the Vitruvius Britannicus compiled by the Scottish architect Colin Campbell appeared, Volume 3 in 1725 to be followed by two further volumes completed after Campbell's death. This illustrated all the best classical buildings to be found in Britain, plus quite a few not built.

William Kent, who initially became prominent as one artist bitten by the classical bug, having been given the commission for painting the walls of Kensington Palace, also achieved the plum job of decorating the Prime Minister's splendid palace at Houghton and subsequently at Holkham next door. Whilst the outcome was somewhat disappointing his success as a furniture designer and as an architect overcame the perceived shortcoming. His design of Holkham Hall is a palace built of brick which invokes Imperial splendour.

When the Baroque style began to falter in the 1720's Rococo principles were applied to produce a light and more feminine style of grandeur of which the Southern German school proved the most accomplished.

Late 18th Century architects were able to benefit from trading overseas, in particular the impact of mahogany, which grew half as big again as native trees, thus enabling large span structures to be created. Sir John Nash, with his commercial dexterity and Sir John Sloane with his sophisticated expertise completed the Georgian era. As the century ended Greek architecture and even Indian competed with the newly rediscovered Gothic to tempt the builders away from the New Palladianism.

The Duke then turned to what he termed "the socio-economic insight" section of his lecture, with a preview of the financial and economic state of the nation at the beginning of the 18th century. In the 17th century power and influence was in the hands of a small section of the population. This remained true even after Cromwell became Protector, although his political group held power.

During this period the merchants and bankers of London were sometimes able to thrive, sometimes not, but successful ship owners and other international traders were able to make spectacular profits and so compete with the landed gentry for power and influence both in the capital and in the provinces.

Generally speaking the rich were landowners, money, land, position and titles making it easy to guess a person's importance, both sociably and politically, but a capitalist system was beginning to develop. Naval dominance and exploration had



67 High Street

led to the foundation of trading companies, one of the most successful being the East India Company. However, fraudsters were about to take advantage of the ill informed, illustrated by the failure of the Louisiana Company and the South Sea Company, infamous for the "burst bubble" catastrophe.

However, not all were losers. A Doctor Guy made £60,000 profit and was able to found his hospital from the income. The "Bubble" of 1720 produced for almost the first time, instant nouveau-riche as a result of buying £1 shares initially and selling at up to £500 prior to the collapse of the Company. Those who made substantial gains were able to acquire landed estates and a mansion to express their new station in life. It was from this new group of the suddenly rich that the right to chose the "right" kind of architecture fell, if they were to be taken seriously, but flaunting of wealth by the uneducated became a suspect activity.

For the rich to build their country homes and express their status it was very important to do so in the right way. The Classical style reflected harmony and order.

Neo-Palladianism was considered suitably nationalistic but any tendency to the Baroque was considered foreign, suspect - probably Catholic in sentiment and definitely vulgar and showy in the way that it implied new money, easily acquired, simulating continental models created by absolute monarchs overlooking their unfortunate subjects.

The Duke concluded by stating that his audience may have thought it strange that he had talked about architecture and its evolution relating to country houses built for the benefit of the aristocracy and was therefore, somewhat peripheral to real life. It was necessary to remember that whereas today a country house is where the owner might like to retreat to in order to enjoy a little privacy away from urban life, in the 18th century they did not represent privacy but were the centres of social and political activity, being an expression of political influence as well as affluence. The house would be open to visitors of the uninvited kind and would be viewed by tourists who wished to visit these centres of intellectual expression and the owners would see it as reflecting local pride to travellers from elsewhere.

The country's heritage of fine houses, many built in the 18th century sets an example

for succeeding generations as well as showing how 18th century British endeavour was expressing a self-confidence that it could send all over the world in the following centuries.

In conclusion, a vote of thanks was given by John Weston who presented the Duke with a copy of "The Bromsgrove Guild" and Roger Brazier, a Society Vice-President presented a copy of the publication relating to his family firm entitled "Braziers, Builders of Bromsgrove".

John Sketchley

Rashwood **(Formerly Rashwood Court)**

Rashwood Court, as it was then known, was built in 1907 for Mr Walter Loveridge Hodgkinson. He came to live here following the death of his wife, Catherine Elizabeth (nee Fulford), in November 1906. They had a daughter, Agnes, and two sons, Henry and Walter.

Mr Hodgkinson was the Chairman of a brewery in Birmingham, known as the 'Holt Brewery Co. Ltd.'. He was also Chairman of 'Metropolitan Carriage & Wagon Co. Ltd.'

Mr Hodgkinson was a well-known member of the local Catholic community and was also the founder and financial backer of the Sacred Heart and St Catherine Church in Droitwich - which was three miles from his home. The Church was said to have been built in memory of his wife. Many tons of mosaic stones were used to embellish the Church and were stored in the cellars of Rashwood Court for safekeeping - a small amount remain to this day.

Mr Hodgkinson died on 22nd March 1935 aged 94.

Mr and Mrs Hugh Sumner came to live at Rashwood Court in 1935 with their son and daughter, John and Jean. They had lived previously at "Battlefield" on the Kidderminster Road, Bromsgrove.

After the marriages of John (a Grenadier Guard) and Jean, Mr and Mrs Sumner felt that Rashwood Court was too large for their needs so they donated it to the Distressed Gentlefolk Aid Association and moved to Rashwood Lodge a short distance away. They continued living there until May 1971.

'Rashwood', as it became known, was perfect for a nursing home. It had twenty-five rooms, including thirteen bedrooms, and was converted to provide a home for twenty-one residents. In 1952 another wing was added increasing the number of bedrooms to twenty-six. The house was refurbished between 1985 and 1988 in line with current Fire and Safety Standards. An extension was started in 1994 to provide two more wings, each with twenty beds, and the work was completed by the summer of 1995 at a cost of £1.8 million.

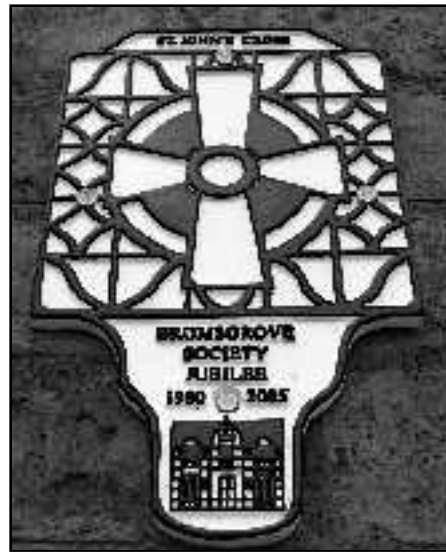
The Lord Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester, Sir Thomas Dunne K.C.V.O. officially opened the new buildings on Monday 20th May 1996.

The Home provides an exceptional standard of care to those in need.

Hazel Sparkes.

Editor's note: Hazel Sparkes is Activity Co-ordinator for Rashwood Care Home who have recently joined the Bromsgrove Society as Corporate Members. Short articles like this are always very welcome and the Editor would be pleased to receive similar contributions from other Corporate Members.

Bromsgrove Rogation Cross Ceremony 1 May 2005



Clr. Ted Tibby accepting the Information Board from The Society on behalf of the District Council.



The blessing of the Lenten's Cross at All Saints Church.

Bromsgrove town centre was the scene on Sunday May 1st for a unique celebration combining all the major local churches with representatives of the town, led by the Revd. Nigel Marns, Vicar of St. John's Church, to bless six new plaques at the sites of long-lost medieval crosses.

A procession of clergy and church members joined with Clr. Tibby, chairman of the District Council, Jeremy Sharp, Bailiff of the Court Leet, also officers and members of The Bromsgrove Society, to bless the plaques representing the locations of the medieval Wayside Crosses in the town. The plaques are a gift from the Society to the town marking the Society's 25th anniversary.

Over 100 people gathered outside Lloyds Bank in the High Street where The Bromsgrove Society chairman, Des Clarke handed over an information board and the plaques to Clr. Tibby who accepted them on behalf of the District Council. The information Board beside Lloyds Bank shows the location of each of the plaques, designed by Tony Turpin, a member of The Society.

Led by the Vicar with the Town Crier, Kevin Ward, the procession then visited the six locations of the plaques for a short symbolic ceremony at each, where the original purpose of the crosses was unfolded. Their origin dates back to the fifth century and research by Dr. Alan Richards shows the Crosses existed in the town in 1615. The last one was removed in 1732 although some of the stone bases remained for centuries.

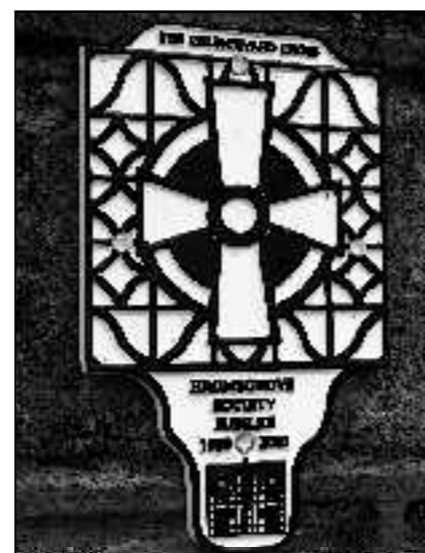
Rogation days existed before the Reformation and are thought to have been times when prayers were offered for the new spring-sown crops and /or checks made on the Parish boundaries in the days before ordnance maps were invented. The ceremonies changed with the passage of years due to conflicting catholic and protestant attitudes. Thus the re-joining together of various denominations for the ceremony was itself a significant event.

Until the 19th century there were no other churches in the Parish of Bromsgrove except St. John's, and coffins had to be carried some many miles for burial in the Churchyard, and the location of the crosses formed suitable places for the pall-bearers to rest, pray and sing. The centuries-old ritual was re-enacted at the ceremony - but fortunately without the presence of a coffin!

Des Clarke

Photographer: Martin Griffith

Cross Ceremony 1 May 2005



ene on Sunday May 1st for a unique
cal churches with representatives of the
Vicar of St. John's Church, to bless six
medieval crosses.

members joined with Clr. Tibby, chairman
Bailiff of the Court Leet, also officers
ociety, to bless the plaques representing
Crosses in the town. The plaques are a
ng the Society's 25th anniversary.

yds Bank in the High Street where The
arke handed over an information board
cepted them on behalf of the District
le Lloyds Bank shows the location of
Turpin, a member of The Society.

Kevin Ward, the procession then visited
short symbolic ceremony at each, where
s unfolded. Their origin dates back to
lan Richards shows the Crosses existed
removed in 1732 although some of the

ormation and are thought to have been
r the new spring-sown crops and /or
in the days before ordnance maps were
d with the passage of years due to
itudes. Thus the re-joining together of
ay was itself a significant event.

no other churches in the Parish of
ins had to be carried some many miles
location of the crosses formed suitable
and sing. The centuries-old ritual was
ately without the presence of a coffin!



Dedication of the Black Cross.



Prayers at St. John's Cross led by Fr. Pat Branagan.

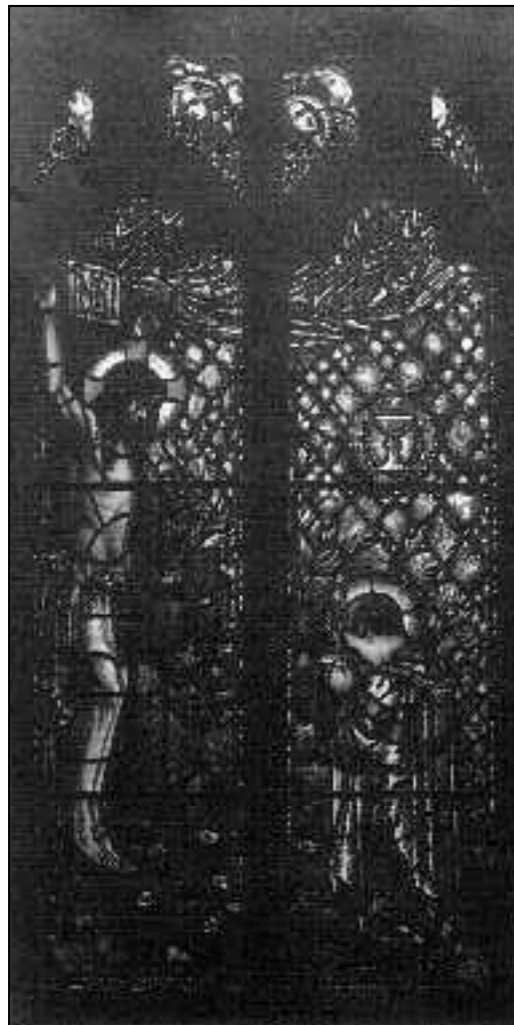
Stained Glass Windows by A.J. Davies of the Bromsgrove Guild

Stained Glass Windows at Two Locations in Canada

A J Davies made windows for many foreign locations. I am aware of around a hundred windows which were made for locations mainly in Canada and South Africa but also for Kenya, Mozambique, New Zealand, Australia and Egypt.

St Thomas's Church, Toronto

In a letter received by Mrs Monica Parker of Droitwich from her niece, Anne Pepper, who lives in Toronto, Canada, was a cutting from St Thomas's Church Newsletter giving details of five memorial windows made for the Church in the 1920s. Anne, who had been unaware that the windows were from Bromsgrove until the article appeared in the Newsletter, writes 'Isn't it extraordinary that the windows in the Baptistery were made in Bromsgrove?'



Studio photograph of a window by A.J. Davies St. Thomas's Church Toronto.

Worcester County Museum, Hartlebury.

Mrs Monica Parker (née Pepper) is the daughter of the late Chaytor Pepper of Bromsgrove. Monica's brother Barry went to the USA in 1940 and moved to Canada the next year. He became a Canadian citizen and served in the Canadian Air Force in the Second World War. It is his daughter Anne Pepper whose correspondence with her Aunt Monica concerning the Davies windows at St Thomas's Church that prompted me to write about them.

The article mentions five stained glass windows in memory of men from Toronto who lost their lives while serving in Europe during the First World War. Black and white

photographs of two of the windows (1 and 3) are included in the account.

I recognised the windows as being by Davies as I had seen black and white studio photographs of all five windows in the Bromsgrove Guild Archive at the Worcestershire County Museum, Hartlebury 3. It was the custom at the Bromsgrove Guild to photograph items before they left the studios. It is fortunate that this was the practice since these photographs are an invaluable resource when researching the stained glass and other Guild areas of activity.

The five windows at St Thomas's Church are to be found in the Baptistery and are all of two main lights with four tracery lights above them. In the windows Davies has depicted a wounded

soldier, saintly knights and angels. The figures are typical of the style of Davies some of which are repeated in windows in Britain. Other characteristic features of Davies's designs include the background of painted diamond quarries, tongues of light shining down from the heads of the windows, wild flowers, birds and the distinctive white on black lettering of the inscriptions at the base of the windows. In two of the Hartlebury photographs (windows 2 and 3) it is possible to read the signatures, 'A J Davies' and 'A J Davies fecit Bromsgrove Guild'.

I wish I could see the windows in Toronto in order to appreciate their splendid colour - perhaps one day I will. In the meantime it is possible to see windows with similar designs in Britain and not too far from Bromsgrove.

The Holy Grail (window 1) was a theme which Davies returned to often when designing windows in memory of young men who lost their lives in either of the World Wars. The design is based on the medieval Arthurian legend of the search for the Holy Grail - the cup used by Christ at the Last Supper.

In the legend Sir Galahad, through his purity, attained the Grail, but having done so died. The men who lost their lives defending their country are likened to this chivalrous knight.

The theme was made popular by William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones. Morris & Co produced a series of Holy Grail tapestries to the designs of Burne-Jones. Burne-Jones also painted the same subject.

There is a Holy Grail window by Davies in St James's Church, Churchill, near Hagley. The kneeling soldier-knight is the same in the two designs but he kneels before an altar at Churchill and a Calvary at Toronto. The Churchill window is a memorial to the seven men of the parish who lost their lives also in the 1914-18 war.

Another window on the same theme is to be found in St Peter's Church in Wolverhampton. It is a memorial to Lieutenant Archibald Fisher-Smith 'who fell in battle near Ypres, 1st August 1917', not far from where Lieutenant Thomas Brehaut Saunders, whose memorial (window 2) is in St Thomas's Church, Toronto, was 'killed in action at Sanctuary Wood, Ypres, June 13th 1916, Aged 20' some thirteen months earlier.

It was satisfying to me to learn that the Davies windows I had seen in photographs at Hartlebury are still extant in Toronto and interesting that there is another Bromsgrove connection through Anne Pepper and her Aunt Monica Parker.



**Studio photograph of a window by
A.J. Davies St. Thomas's Church
Toronto.**

Worcester County Museum, Hartlebury.

The inscription in window 4 in Toronto is taken from the poem The Dead by Rupert Brooke and reads 'Blow out your bugles over the rich Dead! These laid the world away; poured out the rich sweet wine of youth'. With lasting memorials such as these stained glass windows by A J Davies 'we will remember them'.

Details of the Stained Glass Windows by A J Davies at St Thomas's Church, Toronto
Five windows in the Baptistry all of two main and four tracery lights

1. Holy Grail (Knight kneeling before a Calvary)

Flight Lieutenant Ford Stuart Strathy, 17 August 1917

'To the Glory of God and in loving memory of/ Ford Stuart Strathy flight lieutenant

R.N.A.S// Killed in combat near Ghistelles/ Belgium 17 August 1917 RIPW

Donor Stuart Strathy, Toronto

2. Knight Standing before an Angel holding a Chalice

Lieutenant Thomas Brehaut Saunders, 13th 1st Battalion RHC

'To the Glory of God & in loving memory/ of THOMAS BREHAUT SAUNDERS
Lieut.

13th Batt RHC// Killed in Action at Sanctuary Wood/Ypres, June 13th 1916, Aged 20V/

Mrs Dyce Saunders, Toronto

Signed A J Davies

3. Wounded Soldier with Angels

Major Hugh McCarthy Ince, 4 November 1916

'To the Glory of God and in/ ever loving memory of Major/ Hugh McCarthy Ince
RFA//

killed in action at/ the Somme November/4th 1916. Aged 23.V

A J Davies fecit Bromsgrove Guild

4. Two Angel Knights Seven regimental badges and seven sets of initials in shield shapes 'Blow out your bugles over the/ rich Dead! These laid the world/ away; poured out the rich sweet/ wine of youth.'// (From The Dead by Rupert Brooke) Contact name G R Larkin c/o ?Salada ?Teals, Toronto

5. Knight Saints -World War 1 Memorial

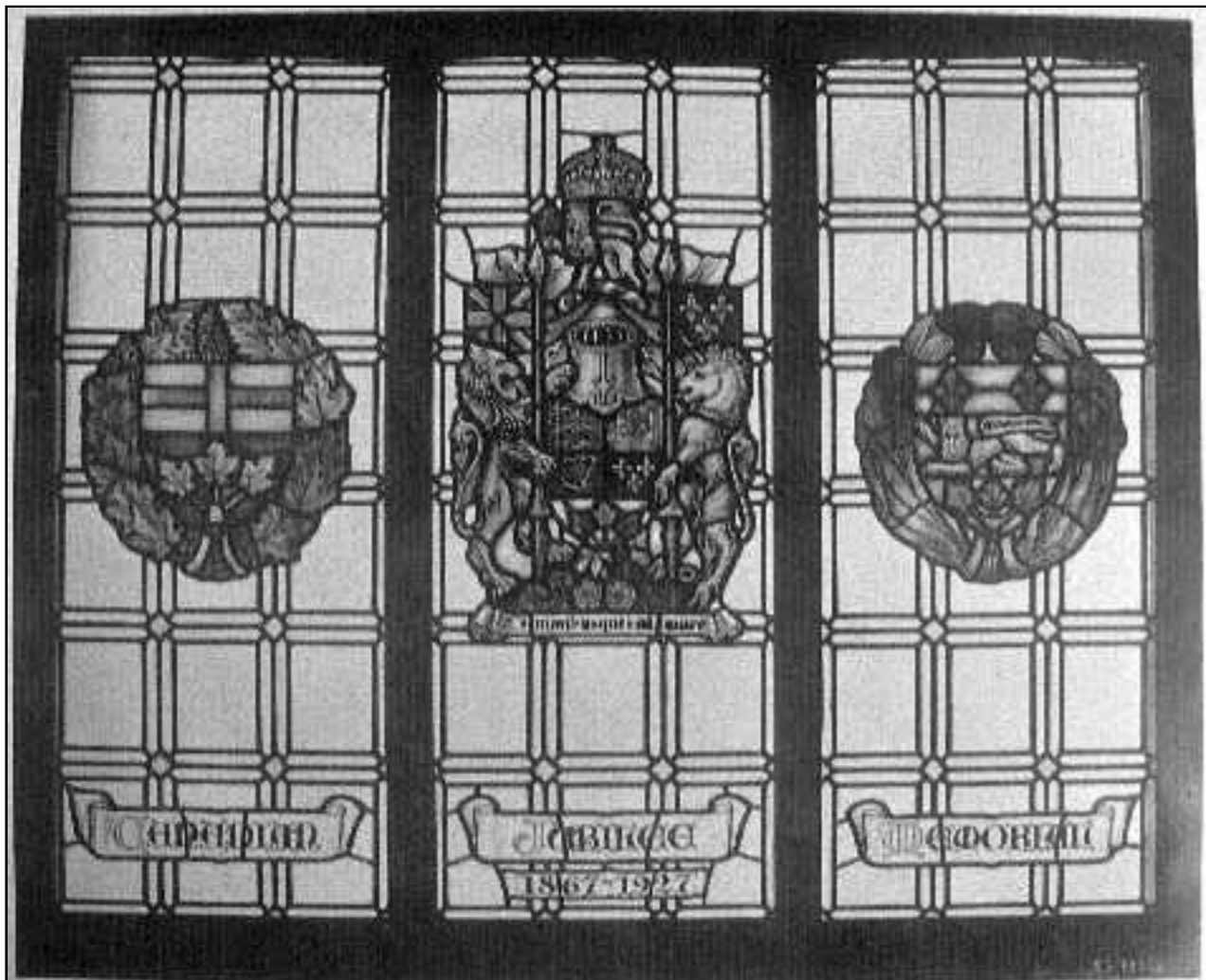
'He took them up/ in his arms put/ his hands upon them/ & blessed them'// (Mark 10. 16)

'In loving memory of/ the children who died/ in the war. From the/ children of the
Catechism'//

Contact name G R Larkin

University of British Columbia, Vancouver

Last year I visited Western Canada including Vancouver. I took with me a copy of a studio photograph from the Guild Archive at Hartlebury of a window labelled 'University of British Columbia, Vancouver. 1 - 3 light Heraldic Stained Glass Window'. This large University is located on a superb coastal site some eight



**Studio photograph of a window by A.J. Davies Library, University of British Columbia,
Vancouver.**

Worcester County Museum, Hartlebury.

miles west of the city and has a magnificent modern Museum of Anthropology with an impressive collection of totem poles and other beautiful artefacts associated with the First Nation peoples of British Columbia.

On arrival at the University I went to the Library Building where, at the Library Office, I explained who I was and showed my copy of the photograph of the stained glass window from Hartlebury. The Librarian glanced at the photograph and said 'Oh yes it's upstairs I'll show you'. I was taken up to a large concourse area on the first floor where students were busy working at tables. There overlooking the impressive double staircase was the Davies window of the photograph - in full colour!

The Hartlebury photograph shows three lights with central heraldic cartouches set in plain rectangular quarries. An inscription across the base of the three lights reads 'Canadian Jubilee Memorial 1867-1927'. The lights are rectangular in the studio photograph but the heads of the window lights in Vancouver are pointed so some modifications had to be undertaken before the windows were erected. Although the Hartlebury photograph shows three lights there are in fact a total of nine, five in the main window and two more on each side above the stair wells.

The window has the heraldic arms of Canada together with a shield of the heraldic arms of each Province of Canada enclosed within a 'wreath' of the Provinces' emblematic flower or trees.

The studio photograph has the arms of Canada with the arms of Ontario (within maple leaves) and Quebec (irises) at the sides. The other Provinces represented are Alberta (rose), Saskatchewan (wheat), Manitoba (conifer), New Brunswick (conifer), Prince Edward Island (foxglove) and Nova Scotia (fruit tree blossom - apple?). Why, I wonder, is British Columbia not represented?

The Commission for the window was placed with the Bromsgrove Guild of Canada based in Montreal which did not have a stained glass studio so, as with other Canadian orders, it was sent to Worcestershire for the window to be crafted in the Davies studio.

The initial plans for the window design were prepared by the University architects. The window was unveiled on November 28th 1928 to commemorate Canada's first sixty years as a nation. I left a copy of the Hartlebury studio photograph for the University archives.

Acknowledgments and Notes

1 My thanks to Mrs Parker (née Pepper), a former resident of Bromsgrove, for passing Anne Pepper's letter to Mrs Jill Palmer, our Membership Secretary, who passed it on to me.

2 Benn, Carl, 'Bromsgrove Guild Produced St Thomas's Baptistery Windows', in The Parish Newsletter, (Michaelmas 2003), pp. 7-8.

3 My thanks to Anita Blythe, Collections Officer, at Worcestershire County Museum, Hartlebury, for her help and for permission to include copies of studio photographs.

4 A photograph of a detail from the Holy Grail window at St James's Church is to be found in Albutt R., The Stained Glass Windows of A J Davies of the Bromsgrove Guild, (2005)p.43.

I am grateful to Chris Hives, Archivist at the Library of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, for his help in identifying the images in the window.

Roy Albutt

**The Chairman has pleasure in inviting
Members and Friends to a Supper on Friday,
2nd December 2005
7.30 p.m. for 8.00p.m. The Executive Suite,
Bromsgrove School, Old Station Road. Further
details in September Newsletter.**

Rea/Watterson/Strides Newsagents Stourbridge St. Bromsgrove 1899-1976

When asked by the Bromsgrove Society to write an article on one of the shops in Bromsgrove I decided it might be more interesting to reproduce the notes I have made for my grandson Jack which accompany the 1/12th scale model I have made of



The Newsagents in 1910

the Newsagents which is now Shipways Estate Agents. I am at the moment doing research to find out when the shop was sold to the estate agents, ending at least a 70 year span of being a Newspaper shop. My Great Grandad Walter Rea bought the shop circa 1908 and amongst my father's possessions I found half of an old photograph - reproduced below-taken before they had the new window installed in 1910 - I have the original water-colour plans for that improvement. I have had the two photographs

merged and this has made a wonderful photograph as you can see. More research is needed to find the exact date he bought it. If any member of the society would like to visit me at Sutton Coldfield and see the model they will be most welcome.

After more research I have now found that my Great Grandad had the Newspaper shop in 1899 and was appointed sole agent in Bromsgrove for the Birmingham Daily Mail and that he will be glad to deliver the same to any address on receipt of a card. Five o'clock and 7.30 editions!!

This is for my eldest Grandson Jack Brown

Taken from the logbook accompanying the shop. This was owned by your 5th great grandparents Walter and Ann Rea nee Corbett.

'Dear Jack, When grandma was in Australia in 1987 before you were even born I was shown a photograph of a lady standing in a shop doorway, by our distant cousin Fred Osborne. Fred was born in Sheffield around 1900 but the family moved back to Bromsgrove and then moved to Australia in 1819. His Aunt Emily was 1st cousin to Lucy - your 3 x Great grandma - the lady in the photograph. Grandma recognised Lucy - my granny- immediately and Fred kindly gave me the photograph and this set me off on making this model for you. I was able to date the photo from the little sign under the window by reading it with a magnifying glass and then going into Bromsgrove Library and doing some research. The photo was taken in December 1909. If you read the story written by your 4th Great Aunt Ruth - already produced in an earlier "Bromsgrove Newsletter" you will learn of the life they led whilst living there. My Grandmother told me about the sleeping arrangements. Her parents slept in the downstairs bedroom with Walter - one of the children- who was deaf (he was actually killed in W.W. I by a lorry because he didn't hear it coming) and the other 7 boys and the three girls in

the attic bedrooms. Girls in one side and boys in the other. There were no proper doors up there and they would crawl through from one room to the other and they had to go to bed up a ladder. I do not know what Health and safety would have to say now as they also had to carry candles up to bed. They did not have beds but slept on mattresses on the floor which were piled up during the day with their bedding rolls. I have made the bedding rolls for you and put the children's names on each one. The three girls did have a big bed and all slept together.

Recently I have been in touch with the grandson - Alan Stride - of Mr. Watterson who bought the shop when Walter and Ann Rea died and he told me much more detail about the shop and as a result of this I have made the downstairs room into the Mitre Inn - it encroached on to the property and the top living room I have partitioned part of it off and made the barbers shop which was owned by another of your ancestors Uncle Jack Giles and also encroached



½ Scale model of the Newsagents in 1910

into the building. This dividing wall was daub and wattle and I have made an exposed panel out of twigs in my garden. Also there were lots of old beams and I have been a round peoples garden finding suitable twigs to use as beams. If you visit the shop in Bromsgrove you can still see the beams.

The back yard was still used as a decorator's yard because the eldest lads were in that trade before they went to live in Canada and I have tried to recreate it from the photographs I have of them. The fire sign is on the front if you look very closely at the old photo your great granddad saved of the shop. If there was a fire at your shop and you did not have a sign up to say you were insured the firemen would not put out the fire!!!!

Some of the sweets have been bought and some Grandma has made and I made all the toys and houses and boxes of crackers. I decided to try and copy the photograph and have the shop ready for Christmas. I have made all the bedding and most of the carpets and curtains.

During my great granddad's ownership, they sold everything from paper patterns, candles to Newspapers, tobacco and sweets but I think in later years they concentrated on Sweets, Newspapers and tobacco - according to Alan Stride. I remember Saturday afternoons in the 1950's waiting - as many other "old" Bromsgrovians did for the arrival of the pink "Argus" newspaper - no teletext then to get the football results and to find out how the "Rovers" had got on if they were playing away from home. Strides sold the shop to Worcestershire County Council in 1976.

Shirley Brittan

The Bromsgrove Society Executive Committee

for 2004-2005 comprises all those officers of the Society shown on the inside of the front cover plus the following members:-

Cyril Baker	551, Birmingham Road, Marlbrook Bromsgrove. B61 0HY	0121 445 3633
Roger Brazier	(Vice President) 36 Harvington Road, Bromsgrove B60 2BA	01527 878889
Mrs Audrey Chapman	58 East Road, Bromsgrove, B60 2NJ	01527 873410
Jim Griffith	(Vice Chairman of The Bromsgrove Society & Chairman - Buildings & Environment Committee) 24 Ragley Crescent, Bromsgrove. B60 2BD	01527 833252
Richard Guest	36 Church Road, Bromsgrove. B61 8QH	01527 831580
Tim Harris	Church Green Cottage, 44 Church Road, Bromsgrove B61 8QH	01527 872451
Mrs Isobel Jarrett	28 Alvechurch Highway, Lydiate Ash, Bromsgrove. B60 1PA	0121 453 2100
Ray Meredith,	(Vice President) "Hillborough", Stoke Pound, Bromsgrove. B60 3AX	01527 831083
Mrs. Frances Rogers	High Barn, Walnut Lane, Finstall, Bromsgrove. B60 2NW	01527 872109
John Sketchley	16, Brueton Avenue, Bromsgrove B60 2AW	01527 876626
Ron Skidmore	(Chairman - Landscape Committee), 12, College Road, Bromsgrove. B60 2NE	01527 880196
David Slater	Pepperwood House, Dordale Road, Bournheath Bromsgrove. B61 9JX	01527 871559
Miss Pat Tansell	(Chairman - Local History Group) 20 Oakhurst Drive, School Drive, Bromsgrove. B60 1AR	01527 575590
Tony Turpin	89 Stourbridge Road, Bromsgrove. B61 0AL	01527 876659
John Weston	Breakback House, 20 Sunningdale Road, Bromsgrove. B61 7NN	01527 873483
Ex-Officio Committee Member:	The Bailiff of the Court Leet	

***The Annual General Meeting of
The Bromsgrove Society will take place
on Thursday 7th July at 7.30 p.m.
in Guesten Hall, Avoncroft Museum***

The Bromsgrove Society Local History Group

Tuesday 20 September 2005

The Hughes Collection

(An update on the project to identify the subjects of glass plate negatives by a Bromsgrove photographer).

Terry O'Brien

Tuesday 18 October 2005

Worcestershire Postal History

Chris Jackson

Tuesday 15 November 2005

The Upper Reaches of the River Severn

Brian Draper

Tuesday 6 December 2005

A History of Whistles

Simon Topman

Tuesday 21 February 2006

Worcestershire Milestones

Terry Keegan

Tuesday 21 March 2006

***Bromsgrove Workhouse in the
Nineteenth Century***

Neville Land

**To be held at the Methodist Centre, Stratford Road, Bromsgrove
commencing at 7.45.p.m.**

Admission: Members £1.50 Non-Members £2. All are welcome to attend