

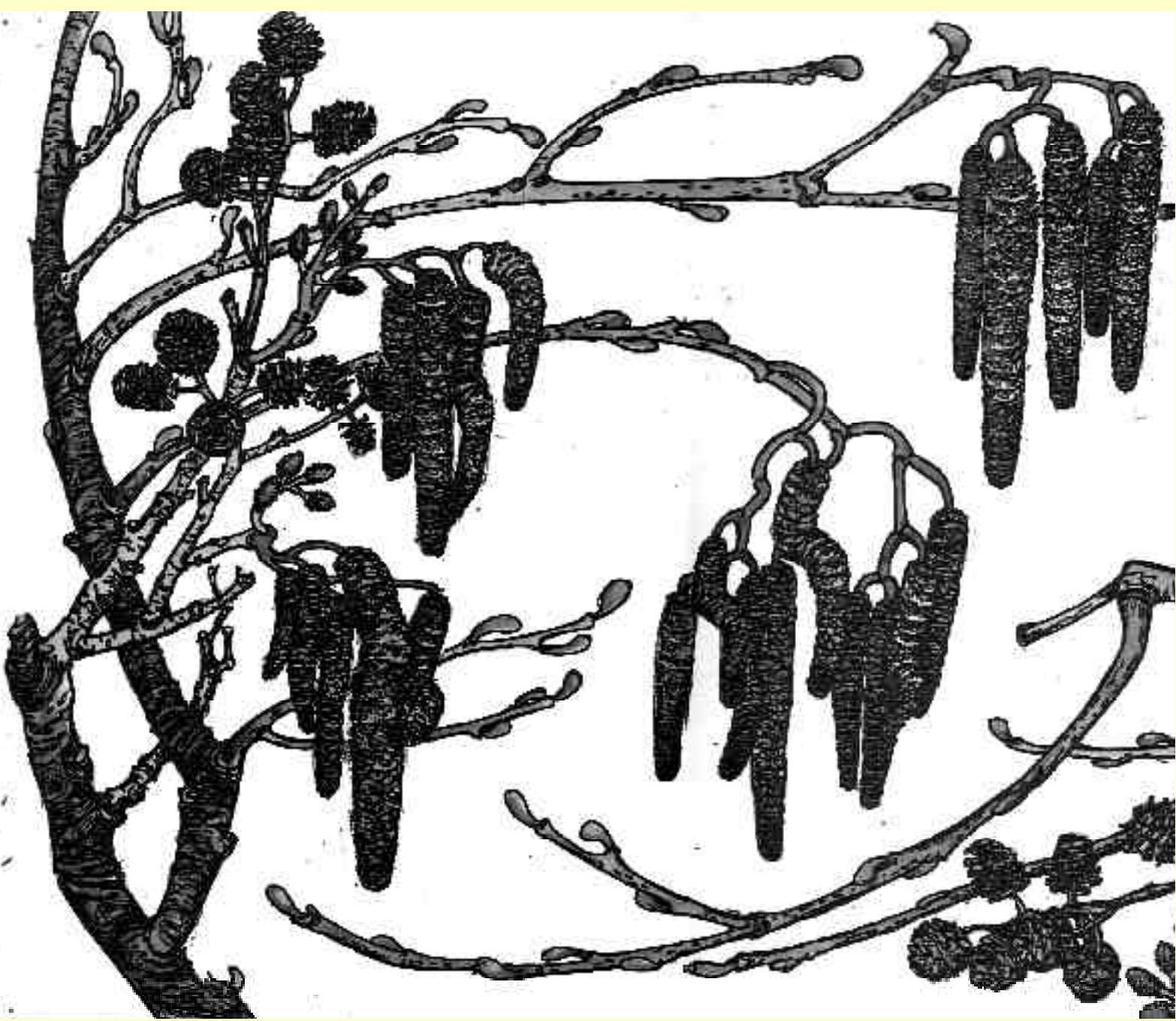


The Bromsgrove Society
NEWSLETTER

Volume 24 No. 1

March 2004

75p



Mary Long O.B.E.
Farewell to a Bromsgrove Artist

The Bromsgrove Society

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

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

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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

The cover of the Newsletter is a very cheering sight - just what we need, to be reminded that Spring is on its way.

The wonderful detail of the catkins was captured by the late Mary Long in one of her many paintings of the natural world around her. Not only was she an artist but also a campaigner for Bromsgrove so she would be in total agreement with those who seem to make the town a better place to live.

The reports included in this Newsletter give an idea of the Society's thinking on the town and its environment.

Two mysteries - one solved - read about the Egyptian fireplace and then ponder the Tardebigge mystery!?

Finally a thank you to Bill Kings for all he has done for the Society.

If you have any items of interest for the Newsletter please let me know.

Anne Maguire

Letters to the Editor

Dear Anne Maguire

My name is Patricia Eleanor Cassin and I live in New South Wales. Your Newsletter is always very interesting but this one (September 2003) more so as I have a relative mentioned.

The story of Bob Richardson's discovery of "A Crock of Gold" took my eye and there was my Great-grandfather's name, Daniel Giles. the coachbuilder. I have been to the Bromsgrove Museum and saw my Great-grandfather's book on display.

Hopefully I will be over to England later on and would love to see the negatives. I loved the time I spent in Bromsgrove and am so looking forward to returning in the near future.

Pat Cassin

Dear Miss Maguire

The letter from Mr. Brodrick in your last edition (Volume 23 No. 3 September 2003) brought back memories.

When I was articled to Arthur Chappell, the Agricultural Auctioneer, in 1952 there were many butchers in the High Street and Worcester Road, some of whom were still slaughtering at the rear of their shops - Partridge, Wright, Burford, Willis, Weaver to name a few. I suspect that Cecil Keight's father was by then dead but the business was run by Freddy Keight, presumably brother of Cecil, from a small shop at the bottom of Station Street, which, if my memory is correct, formed the ground floor of the Bromsgrove Merchant's House. now removed to Avoncroft Museum of Buildings.

Freddy Keight was a most amusing character. I suspect that he was a bachelor and lived with his mother at Finstall. He had been wounded in the First World War and had a frightening bullet scar above his ear which stretched along the whole of his skull - you could not get closer to your maker than that at an early age! He used to make a few bob by scissor-marking the cattle in the market as they were graded to be

sold to the Ministry of Food - The auctions had not then revived after the war.

Freddie was a 'Card' who I suspect spent more time in 'The Sampson' and 'The Shoulder of Mutton' with his rival Vernon Burford than was good for his business. He had a selection of corny quips, one of which has stuck in my mind. "My mother lived to ninety-six and never used glasses - always drank out of the bottle."

Happy days,

Philip Amphlett.

From The Chairman

The appeal for members to pay their subscriptions under gift aid has so far resulted in an additional 124 members joining the scheme. We shall be pleased for further members to sign the gift aid form.

Recent committee meetings have covered a wide range of matters in which the Society is interested.

The Society has made a contribution to the "Town Centre Review". We understand that the Bromsgrove District Plan has now been published. The Society is grateful to all those who gave up their valuable time to contribute towards the review and plan which are regarded as being important to the district.

The executive committee gave over a considerable part of its meeting to discuss the possible development of the Victoria Ground, the home of Bromsgrove Rovers Football Club, and whilst there is a divergence of views on the future of the ground it has been decided to form a sub-committee which will continue to keep the situation under review.

Des Clarke

From the Membership Secretary

Since our Autumn Newsletter several people have joined the Society, so we welcome them as new members. They are:- Mrs. B. Alcock, Mr. & Mrs. R. Danes, Mr. & Mrs. G. Gregg, Mrs. J. Hewitt, Mr. L. Hill, Mrs. P. Hinks and Mrs. B. Pegg.

The number of members seems to have dwindled during the last 6 months for various reasons, people moving away, several have died and others not renewing membership.

It would be nice to recruit more members to bring the numbers up to 700+ again, so if you have family or friends who may be interested do encourage them - I have plenty of membership forms!

A very big thank you to those who so willingly deliver the Newsletters by hand four times a year, saving the Society a considerable amount in postage. I am very grateful to you all.

Jill Palmer

Buildings & Environment Report

Since my last report our Committee has met three times. Matters discussed included Asda car park, parking at the station, Marlbrook Landfill site, Bromsgrove Rovers football ground, Local District plan, Hewell Grange Estate, Town Centre redevelopment and Wildmoor Business Park. As well as these four other meetings were attended by members of this Committee :

16th October. "Our Bromsgrove. - Rumoured redevelopment of the Bromsgrove Rovers Football Ground (well documented in The Standard on 24th October)

20th October. "Community Pride at Shire Hall, Worcester. (on behalf of The Executive). This was a meeting of all parties who submitted local projects during 2003 that benefited the local environment, to see photographic displays of all the entries and attend the judging. (The Society submitted their Golden Jubilee Project - The new Town Sign.)

28th October. Meeting with Council Officers. (Part of the Executive)

27th November. Bromsgrove Town Centre Strategy Workshop. (See separate article)

Various Planning objections were submitted and those that were discussed in detail by Committee were :- Multiple applications at Lickey Road, Rednal. Proposed redevelopment of 'The Button Factory', Willow Road. Proposed demolition of Nash Works, Nash Lane, Belbroughton and construction of new offices. Construction of new house at Old Station Road, for the use of the Headmaster of Bromsgrove School and Proposal to Build a Business Park at Wildmoor Landfill Site.

During this period we have also written to the council's Conservation Officer to see if Parkside School could be listed. We are also liaising with The Victorian Society in their attempt to encourage the district Council to make the Hewell Grange Estate Village a Conservation Area.

Jim Griffith. Chairman, Building & Environment Committee.

The Bromsgrove Society Meeting With Bromsgrove District Council.

Present - BDC Cllr D. Norton (Leader of Council), Cllr Mrs M. Norton, Mr. Essex-Crosby (Corporate Director)

Notes on items discussed:-

1. Progress on Church Steps

Mr Skidmore produced a definitive drawing he had made following a meeting with John Stagge. Although a wholesale replacement of the flags had been proposed, he had found that about 90-95% were in good condition and needed rebedding and realigning. This would result in the quotations being substantially less than those already received. A Schedule of Works should be supplied and he felt that the whole of the works should not be done in one go. Mr Skidmore was of the opinion that this should be a priority project in view of the present state of the steps.

Cllr. Norton said that the County Council are responsible for these steps and this matter has been referred to Mr John Fraser. He suggested that an approach be made

to English Heritage for a possible grant towards the cost of this refurbishment. A further point made was that part of the scheme should be to provide better lighting than at present to the Church steps. Mr Reddie would like to see the Society involved in this whole project.

2 Gravestones in the Cemetery

Graham Reddie had written to the Council but had not been very happy with the response. Cllr. Mrs Taylor said the gravestones were the responsibility of the Church, but Mr Crosby said that the Council were involved, in the event of any accident in the churchyard. They would like to identify gravestones of individuals of historic interest in the town so that they could be preserved. Mr Clarke said that the action taken in the cemetery appeared to the public as not being very sympathetic and had caused considerable concern. Mr Reddie said he had visited the cemetery in preparation for this meeting, and nothing appeared to have been done to rectify the situation.

3. Electricity Failures

Mr Clarke voiced the concern of residents about the recent failures, and it would appear that the electrical infrastructure is severely stretched. Mr Crosby said meetings have been arranged between Aquila and the Council members. Most of Bromsgrove's supply is overground and the cost of converting to underground is prohibitive.

Aquila have moved a team into Bromsgrove who do "live maintenance" and are able to do repairs without interruption to the supply. They are also trying to improve their response times. They have already attended two meetings and will come again in twelve months time. Mr Crosby thought that Aquila would be willing to meet with the Bromsgrove Society and agreed to liaise.

4 Town Centre Review

Mr. Skidmore mentioned the state of the paviers in the High Street and the patching done with tarmac. Cllr. Norton said this is the responsibility of the County Highways Dept. Unfortunately the paviers are not bedded on sand but are on a solid base, making replacement difficult, hence the use of tarmac.

The Chief Executive reported that they were liaising with Town Centre Consultants who are doing a review. This process involves quite a lot of public consultation and the Society would be placed on the list of those involved. A team of consultants would go out with an invited group to discuss issues. Mr Skidmore had the idea of student involvement involving development of the backs of buildings with a possible prize for the best. Cllr. Mrs Taylor said workshops would be held over three days (24th to 27th November) culminating in a presentation and 'walkabout'. The representative of the Society could raise all these points then.

5 Paths in Sanders Park

Mr Reddie said how good the park is looking at present, but he would like to see continuation of present paths so that they could be linked up making easier walking in wet weather. The Chairman suggested sending a sketch to Mr. Hazlehurst who is responsible for this. There is a programme for CCTV and lighting under the auspices of Mrs Griffiths, Portfolio Holder.

6 Spadesbourne Brook

Mr Clarke would like to see some attention paid to this area, which is looking very

“tired”. Mr Crosby spoke of plans for a Tourist Information Centre and refurbished toilets in the area of the bus station. Mr Reddie had some years ago asked Malcolm Griffiths to produce a report and the Chairman suggested taking this along to the meeting with the Town Centre Consultants.

7 Weed Control on verges

Mr Crosby said Highways are now only cutting verges about twice a year. Mr Reddie thought the verges in Redditch and Droitwich compared very favourably with those of Bromsgrove.

Mr Baker said that the new cemetery at Catshill had been laid out very nicely with small shrubs etc., but since then no weeding had been done and it was beginning to look very unkempt.

8 Town Sign

Mr Clarke informed the meeting that it is hoped eventually to put town signs, similar to the one on the Stratford Road, at all the entrances to the town.

Mr Clarke advised that a concert was being held on 8th November to raise funds for a second town sign.

9 Tree Circle

Mr Guest said that the Tree Circle around St John’s was an important part of Bromsgrove history and was in need of maintenance. The Tree Officer had made a survey of the condition of the trees last year and had reported that it will be necessary in the near future to replace all the ring.

Bromsgrove Town Centre Strategy

A consultation exercise was arranged at the Spadesbourne Suite on 27th of November 2003 by CBRE CBRichard Ellis and Urban Practitioners, in partnership with Bromsgrove District Council to discuss the above. About 200 people took part. The area concerned runs from The Bromsgrove Rovers football ground at the Northern end of the Town to Jewsons premises in Worcester Road at the Southern End .

The Aims and the Objectives of the consultation were to :-

- a) Look at the retail health of the town
- b) To decide if there is a need for additional retail space and if so suggest potential locations for it
- c) Prepare a strategy for Environmental Enhancement
- d) To understand the perception of stakeholders
- e) Bring it altogether and assist council with its Policy Formulation.

After the initial introductions by Councillor Margaret Taylor(Deputy Executive Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy) and Steve Walker (Director Urban Practitioners) we split up into three groups and carried out a walking audit of different parts of the Town Centre. On our return we split up into smaller groups for a Solutions Workshop.

The Society’s subsequent written submission set out the following wish list:-

- Incorporate the suggestions contained in our survey of High Street buildings dated August 1999 and updated February 2003.
- Identify , number and name the old Courts situated along Birmingham Road, The Strand , Worcester Street, Worcester Road, Mill Street and Church Street, (as far as possible). The Society is well advanced with this survey and hopefully will forward the report within the next few weeks.
- Evolve a strategy whereby the High Street can be expanded towards Market Street utilising these Courts and the various other passages in a similar manner to Satchwells Court.
- Rid the High Street of its visual anarchy by implementing more strongly the Council's Shopfronts & Advertisements Design Guide, (*Policy Guidance Note 2*).
- Repair/replace/harmonise the Paviour to High Street and cleanse off the chewing gum.
- Develop the area to the rear of High Street and unify the backs of all the properties that back onto Market Street, with a view to achieving uniformity and a more attractive prospect from Market Street.
- Area to the west of Spadesbourne to be landscaped and paved to create a new square incorporating new or refurbished Public toilets and new Bus Station.
- Spadesbourne to be cleaned and upgraded to become a prominent feature within the square. (The Landscape Committee of The Society have already worked hard on this and it is now, once again a haven for voles and other water creatures.)
- Improved traffic management at the Stourbridge Road /Birmingham Road junction, particularly the right turn from Birmingham Road into Stourbridge Road.
- Improvement to traffic flow on Worcester Road. Careless parking creates problems.
- Preserve the green open area adjacent to Asda Store at the Recreation ground, and improve landscaping when the present building works at the Asda store is completed.

The Society would also like to see some progress on a western through route avoiding the Town Centre, which should reduce traffic at some of the present trouble spots. This should hopefully help with any possible future development of the football ground and area bounded by Birmingham Road/ Stourbridge Road/ Victoria Road.

The Society's representatives were Graham Reddie (President) who presented the consultants with one of the two remaining copies of The Society's mid-80's report on the Spadesbourne, prepared by the eminent Landscape Architect, Roy Winter of Hanbury, John Sketchley, Ron Skidmore and Jim Griffith.

Jim Griffith.



Mrs. Mary Long.

Mrs. Mary Long whose painting of catkins forms our cover picture, died shortly before Christmas in her 89th year. She became a Bromsgrovian by adoption when about 60 years ago she joined the staff of Bromsgrove County High School as Head of Art.

There she met her future husband Lewis, a musician and teacher of Classics and Modern Languages. Later, Mary was invited to start an Art Department at Shenstone College when it was first set-up as an Emergency Teacher Training College after the war, and when the College moved to Bromsgrove so did Lewis and Mary.

Taking up the challenge when her husband suddenly died within a month of retirement, Mary became Chairman of the National Council for Museum Education, building a national reputation in the 1970s for which she was awarded an OBE.

She started her third career from her home in Blackmore Lane, off Birmingham Road, where she ran workshops for disadvantaged young people and mothers with small children, under a Youth Opportunities Scheme.

At this time, she gathered a working party of town worthies to examine and document the Spadesbourne Brook both as an environmental asset for preservation and as a feature to embellish and emphasise the individuality of the town centre. She



DEAD LOSS **THE SPADESBOURNE IN PRISON** *Confined in culverts, shut with multiple bridges.* *Defiled with rubbish, beer cans, waste paper, plastics and the ubiquitous shopping trolleys*

A sample of the work Mary Long was best known for



ASSET **CLEAR WATER UNPOLLUTED**
The river runs clearer now than it has been for decades and unlike many a Midland stream, suffers no factory effluent. Gone are the days when cottagers threw unspeakable things into the waters. In spite the stream runs not with keuper sands and flash floods bring the seeds of rare aquatic plants from the natural reserve higher up. These plants bloom briefly for a couple of weeks each year but require no care for a couple of years. Right here, centre-town, sticklebacks inhabit the shallows and minnows flicker on the banks. An interesting and precious stream is the Spadesbourne, but much neglected.

was a considerable supporter of the Bromsgrove Society's report prepared for the Society by Roy Winter, the noted landscape architect living in Hanbury, which illustrates ways in which the Brook could be improved and integrated into the town centre as an attractive feature rather than a repository for rubbish and shopping trolleys. Mary Long created drawings of flowers and birds to be seen along the Brook to heighten public awareness of the delights the public largely ignore. Many other drawings which she made during this time she gave, suitably framed, to the District Council and those adorn their offices to remind the Members and staff of their inheritance.

At Blackmore Lane she also produced and exhibited at Worcester Art Gallery some fine quiltmaking and donated the several thousand pound proceeds to the Primrose Hospice when it moved to St. Godwalds Road.

Old pupils, students, friends and colleagues remember her with great affection. As one friend said "They don't make them like that any more".

The Bromsgrove Society intends to hold a public exhibition of Mary Long's work during this year.

The Society are grateful to County Councillor June Longmuir for permission to quote from obituaries which she wrote.

Bill Kings

Bill Kings, Bromsgrove's noted historian and the Society's only Honorary Life Member, has retired from the Local History Group. Following active membership of the group since the Society's earliest days, Bill's contribution to the understanding of the town's past is unparalleled.

Bill's retirement is itself an important milestone in the Society's own history. Throughout his life Bill has amassed much memorabilia and information about Bromsgrove's past and even now he is busily writing up his vast knowledge and collating illustrations and other priceless mementoes.

Before arthritis made his town walks too difficult, Bill captivated local people and tourists alike with the interesting corners of the town and his authoritative narratives. These, as with his talks, have always been enriched with anecdotes where his sense of humour has featured strongly. His written works include *Glory Gone*, a history of the town's nail making past (which he co-authored with Margaret Cooper) and he made strong contributions towards the Society's successful book on the Bromsgrove Guild. Without doubt, so much is now known about the town's past that never would have been possible without Bill's researches.

On behalf of the Local History Group and everyone in the Bromsgrove Society I thank Bill most sincerely for all that he has done for the town. I would say to him, "Bill, we look forward to seeing you often and to seeing and reading further compilations on our favourite subject that you may find yourself able to put together in the quiet of your home. Very best wishes to you and your wife Betty from all of us'."

Neville Billington, Chairman, Local History Group

A Mystery Solved

A few months ago we had a visit from John Weston who asked us during the conversation if we were interested in joining the Bromsgrove Society. He duly brought round the March copy of the Newsletter.(Vol. 23 No. 1)

While looking through it I came across the picture of the Egyptian Fireplace. Imagine how I felt when I read the article! For here in my garden I had got the very same Fireplace, only it had been made into a garden seat.



I immediately rang the number that had been supplied, and contacted Mr. Parkinson who had written to ask if anyone had any information on the whereabouts of the fireplace.

He was completely overcome with excitement and went on to say that his mother had been commissioned to carve it in the 1930s for Mr. and Mrs. Morcom at the Clock House in Bourneheath.

We arranged a date for him and his wife to come to Bromsgrove to see it and talk.

In September they arrived, and he couldn't wait to see it. He dashed outside and after several minutes he came in and told us the full story.

His Mother had been a sculptress in London having studied at the Slade School of Art. She was a friend of the Morcom's and they asked her

to design and sculpt a suitable fireplace for their Egyptian dining room. This she did.

Mr Parkinson went on to say that his Mother gave up her sculpting and took to painting. However she never gave any of the Family any of her work. All she left were a few photographs. Amongst these was the photo of the fireplace, on the back of which was written Clockhouse Bromsgrove.

As the day went on it became more apparent that Mr Parkinson was besotted with the fireplace, and I decided that it was time it went back to its rightful owner. And so a few days later it was taken to Bristol in a white transit van, last to be seen heading down the M5.

How I Came To Have The Fireplace

My father Walter Bird and brother Bob who were local plumbers were working at the Clock House in Bournheath, when someone who was demolishing the fireplace and revamping the dining room asked them to get rid of it as it wasn't wanted anymore, and so they took it home to dispose of it. Being rather sentimental they decided to put it in Dad's store room where it remained for a number of years.

One day my mother took pity on the carved monkeys and put them in her garden amongst the flowers, which often caused amusement. After she died Dad was clearing out his store room when he came across the rest of the fireplace and asked

me if I would like it, together with the monkeys as they were in the way. So they were reinstated in my garden at Lickey End as a garden seat. When I left there it was decided that no one else would like them and so they were brought down to Bromsgrove where my husband Derek rebuilt them into another bench, in a sheltered corner of our garden, not realising the story behind them.

It seems a strange coincidence that my Dad, Walter Bird was born in Bournheath near to the Clock House at the New Inn. He was the youngest of 6 children born to Rosena and Alfred Bird. After his father died his mother struggled to bring up the family, and also manage the New Inn.

Walter left school and became an under gardener at the Clock House, but he was so small he couldn't push the wheelbarrows . So he was demoted to looking after the goats. This didn't last long as they kept butting him. Meanwhile his mother met and married Thomas Young Cresswell. the licensee of the Horn and Trumpet in Kidderminster Road.

After the family moved to the Horn and Trumpet, Walter served an apprenticeship with Braziers and became a Plumber.

He married Nellie Busk and they set up home in Poplar Cottage next to the Horn and Trumpet, where they had their first son John.

Dad started up his own business and the family moved into Rose Cottage Which was on the other side of the Horn and Trumpet.

June, Bob and myself, Edna, were born there.

When we had all left home Walter and Nellie still lived in the house, then Dad had the chance to buy the Horn and Trumpet, which had fallen into a state of disrepair, so Bob and he spent many months restoring it.

Eventually Dad and Mum moved into it, although poor health overcame them, they still managed to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

How Strange For This Story To Unfold. All Over A Lost fireplace

Edna Harrison

Correction

Bromsgrove Rousler - Number 18

'The Tale of a Bromsgrove Butcher'

Robert Nokes's name was inadvertently written as 'Noakes'

Apologies from the Editor

Tardebigge

Tardebigge church stands on a hill and its tall, slender spire is a well-known landmark. The church was built in 1777 by Francis Hiorn and the chancel was modernised a hundred years later.

The cream of society lies here in the churchyard. The tombs of the Earls of Plymouth are collected together by the front doors, the great British ambassador Sir Augustus Berkeley Paget (1823-1896) is nearby and a yard or two beyond the Plymouth memorials is a stately cross on a large plinth to Captain William Emmott. He died on the 14th April 1865 aged 74 years.

Captain Emmott's monument was erected by Baroness Windsor 'in grateful token of the zeal and energy evinced by him in the discharge of his duty as adjutant of the queen's own Worcestershire Yeomanry cavalry under her brother the earl of Plymouth and her husband, the Hon R H Clive.'

He was the oldest serving adjutant ever in the British Army. The adjutant receives and issues orders on behalf of the commanding officer, inspects guards and escorts before they go on duty, directs the drilling and tuition of recruits, superintends the work of the orderly-room and general administration of the unit and keeps the regimental books and records. His period of service would have covered the Battle of Waterloo (1815), the Crimean war, which began in 1854, the Indian mutiny of 1857 leading to the collapse of the East India company, and the first rumblings of unrest with South Africa which led to the Boer war.

The rambling old house once occupied by Captain Emmott is only a short walk from his tomb. The young couple who bought it in the early 1990's fell in love with it at first sight, despite its dilapidated state. The husband, Tom, seems to have a strange affinity for the spirit of Captain Emmott for he has a military background. He had no idea that he had purchased the house of an army gentleman until he began research into its history. However, it was his wife, Sarah, who first sensed the strange presence.

When we were first looking round the house I thought I felt a little something but I didn't mention it because we liked the house so much. We moved in about the beginning of June and the day after we moved in Tom had to go away with his work and I was left on my own for several weeks. It being a new place, I borrowed a friend's dog to keep me company. I was washing up when I clearly heard somebody going up the stairs. The footsteps went all the way up the three flights of stairs fairly quickly and quite purposefully. At first I thought it might be the dog but he was under the table. I took the dog with me while I had a look round and checked that there was nobody else in the house.

Tom says that he had only been away two days when he had a call from Sarah:

She said first that the range had gone out and she couldn't relight it, and secondly, what would my comment be about another person living in the house?

I heard the footsteps when I came home. They would happen all the times of the day, we often heard them. They were quite heavy and you could tell it wasn't a creaking stair.

Occasionally, when a guest comes out of one of the middle front bedrooms, somebody or something - just a dark shape - goes in. Several guests have seen it, including my mother. She's convinced that it's a man but we tell her that it's wishful thinking at her age.

If you go into the toilet you are aware that someone has come behind you. It's not malevolent or anything. We acquired two dogs but they never paid any attention. It went on for a year or so but we were never frightened, until we had one particular lodger.

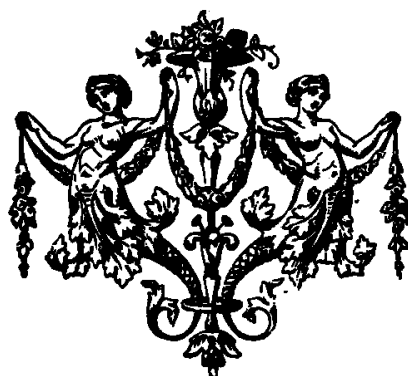
He was supposed to be an artist but he spent all his time lounging about. He didn't get up until one o'clock in the afternoon. He had just divorced his wife and we took him in because he had nowhere to live. He was very uncomfortable here, he was quite spooked by these footsteps. At one time he wouldn't sleep upstairs. He said that he kept seeing something come up the stairs and he told us that a dark shape came into his room and stood over him. Some nights he refused to go to bed and stayed in the lounge all night.

The artist was staying with us in the October when we had a terrible week. The whole atmosphere of the house became very disturbed. The footsteps got faster and were very noisy, like someone running up the stairs. Then whatever-it-was came into our room at the top of the house over and over again and bashed the bed. It would crash into the corner of the bed with such force that it would wake up Sarah and myself. This happened three or four times a night for a whole week. We were nervous wrecks. My mother told me to shout at it, and there I was in the middle of the night, running round yelling 'For God's sake, will you b... off!'. After that it did quieten down. Then, when the artist left, the disturbances faded away.

I did think this might be Captain Emmott protesting to my transfer to the Yeomanry Signal Squadron at Stratford-on-Avon. He had been adjutant to the Worcestershire Yeomanry whose direct descendent is the Yeomanry Squadron in Stourbridge. Indeed, as a Cavalry man, he would have considered that 'the Signals was no place for a gentleman.

From Anne Bradford, Hunt End Books.

She collects ghost stories and would like to hear from anyone who could add any experiences to her list. She can be contacted on 01527 542516, e-mail: anne.bradford@tesco.net



The Bromsgrove Society

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Ex-Officio Committee Member:	The Bailiff of the Court Leet	

The Bromsgrove Society Local History Group

Speakers 2004

Tuesday 16 March

Oppression and Revolt: Worcestershire's Experiences in the Civil War

Malcolm Atkin

**All meetings are held at the Methodist Centre, Stratford Road,
Bromsgrove and commence at 7.45.p.m.**

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

The Bromsgrove Society Lecture

25th March 2004 - 7.30 pm.

The Reconstruction of the Bullring in Birmingham - Tickets Now Available - from any member of the Executive Committee or shops in Bromsgrove - Baylis, Ottakar's Bookshop, Wilson's Pet Centres Ltd.

The speaker will be Mr. Tim Walley who is the General Manager of the Bullring Shopping Centre.

The Bullring is the largest city centre shopping centre. The talk will include the history of the locality and the construction.

Advance Notice

**The Bromsgrove Society A.G.M. will take place
on Thursday 8th July 2004**

at the Guesten Hall

at 7.30 p.m.