



The Bromsgrove Society **NEWSLETTER**

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75p



Stained Glass Artist Peter Lemmon (1920-2004)

The Bromsgrove Society

Reg. Charity No. 510542

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

Membership Secretary:

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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
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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

By the time you read this the A.G.M. will seem just a distant memory to those who attended it at the Guesten Hall but for some of you readers it will tell you where the Society is and what it aims to do.

If you travel along the Kidderminster Road into Bromsgrove you will have, no doubt, seen and admired the second Town sign.

How observant are you? Roy Albutt, whose article appears in this issue, is trying to trace the stained glass window which appears on the front cover. If you like looking at Churches while you are sightseeing, try to keep it in mind and contact Roy if you see it.

Bromsgrove Museum is featured in this issue with the appointment of a permanent curator, Karen Spry, efforts are afoot to reorganise the place. Have you ever paid a visit? Perhaps you could help with the project 'Bromsgrove In The War'.

Finally, should you feel at a loose end after your holiday take a look at talks arranged by the History Group and by St. John's Landmark Appeal. There should be something of interest for you.

Anne Maguire

Front Cover Photo Caption: *A E Lemmon, St George and the Dragon, cartoon for stained glass window, location unknown.*

Letter to the Editor

84, Colebourne Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham. B13 0EY Tel: 0121 778 4916

Dear Editor

I was very interested to read 'The Bromsgrove Rousler' and the latest Newsletter.

I am at present trying to trace my family and its history,. Is it possible to ask if anyone knows of a small house along Linthurst, Blackwell (which has been demolished). It was on the next plot and joined onto the garage on No. 73, Charlton House, Linthurst, Newtown.

It may be clutching at straws but I would be grateful.

Thanking you, Yours sincerely, R.S. Gardner.

From The Chairman

The annual general meeting of the Society held this year on 8th July included an exhibition of work by Mary Long who died at the end of 2003. June Longmuir who is Mary's executor, kindly gave permission for artwork to be copied and displayed. She also brought quiltwork which Mary produced. Fran Rogers prepared and gave an extremely interesting talk on Mary's life and work. We are hoping that the display can be housed in Bromsgrove library for a short period and it is also intended to visit local schools to share the extent and quality of the work of this artist who made her home in Bromsgrove.

Also at the annual general meeting the Society chose to honour two members who, over many years have been and still are great supporters of Bromsgrove and the Society by awarding the title of Vice Presidents for Life to Ray Meredith and Roger Brazier. We hope that they will enjoy holding this honour.

At the end of the meeting the President spoke briefly about some of the aims for the Society's 25th anniversary next year, which have emerged from our Think Tank sessions, particularly the promotion of Bromsgrove as a pleasant place in which to live. He felt that

Society members would wish to assist and we hope to launch a “*Bromsgrove Pride*” campaign next year for people to help the Society promote the town and all that it has to offer.

The second town sign was unveiled in July by Terry Bradford and Sussie Arvesen who performed the “Roll out the Barrel” concert, which raised the money to purchase the sign. The sign is situated beside the Kidderminster Road close to the junction with Willow Road.

The Chairman and Leader of Bromsgrove District Council were present, also several of the local councillors. As you are aware the Society would like to have similar signs on the main entrance roads to Bromsgrove and we will need sponsorship/fund raising ideas to achieve our aim. Should anyone like to help us please be in touch.

St.John’s Church Steps - members of the Society have at last been able to arrange a meeting with representatives of the Worcestershire County Council, Bromsgrove District Council and St.John’s Church. These bodies would seem to be the ones that have an interest in the steps. The steps are considered by the Society to be an important and integral part of Bromsgrove and we are trying to act as a catalyst to get important restoration and conservation work carried out to ensure that the steps remain in use. It is obvious that there is a long road ahead of us and it may be longer than anyone can envisage. The Society originally sent correspondence to the District Council in 1998 and this is the first time that a meeting has been held with the interested parties.

The acting director of Avoncroft Museum has approached the Society with proposals for signage and fencing to their cider orchard. It has been several years since we funded a leaflet to publicise the planting and it has been the Society’s intention to provide funding for signage but we have had to wait for the trees to become more mature. The executive committee will shortly be making their decision on this request.

Next year the Bromsgrove Society reaches the 25th Anniversary of its founding and there will be a range of activities to raise its profile.

Des Clarke.

From The Membership Secretary

We welcome as new members Mr. R. Gardner, Mr. M. Heath, Mr. B. Troth, Mr. & Mrs. D. Wheeler and Mr. Keith Houghton in Australia, who has Bromsgrove connections.

Mr. Stephen Priddey has been given Honorary Life Membership in appreciation of the work he has done as Auditor over many years.

Apologies to Mrs. J. Hathaway who was omitted from the welcome list in the June Newsletter.

Jill Palmer, Membership Secretary

From the Chairman of the Local History Group

The June issue of the Newsletter had gone to press when the sad death was announced of Dr. Simon Penn, Director of the Avoncroft Museum

Simon’s contribution to the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings is very well known locally Society members who attended the Bromsgrove Lecture a few years ago on the town in medieval times will remember Simon’s important contribution towards the understanding of the subject as will legions of visitors to Avoncroft be aware of his specialist knowledge of ancient buildings. But his reputation as a scholar and historian is known and admired very much further afield and on a personal level, I shall remember Simon as someone who not

only had a special grasp of the medieval world but who would always find time to help. He was, indeed, an unforgettably nice person to speak to.

There are approaching 2000 photographs in the Worcestershire Photographic Survey (looked after by Worcestershire County Council's Cultural Services) that are indexed under 'Bromsgrove' Last winter, Society member Mike Morris generously volunteered to put the index for these on computer disc. In so doing, the index (which was hand-written in reference number order) can now be viewed in printed form alphabetically by subject. Copies of the fruits of Mike's efforts are now held by the Local History Group, Bromsgrove Library and Bromsgrove Museum's Enquiry Desk. A rule-of-thumb guide to how one can obtain access to photographs in this remarkable collection is appended to the index.

The LHG is indebted to Mr Morris for the great amount of time he has devoted to make this project possible.

A most significant discovery on the local history front to occur during the past year has been achieved by Warwick Sheffield, one of our Society members who lives in Australia. Warwick discovered that the noted early Victorian writer on architecture, John Davy, in his book Architectural Precedents published in 1841, included a comprehensive illustrated chapter on "Bromsgrove Depot and Engine Factory 1839".

This particular Davy work seems very obscure and was unknown locally. Warwick bought a copy that came onto the market 'down-under'. The book was too fragile to be photocopied but digital photography came to the rescue and at the time of writing we are eagerly preparing to evaluate this remarkable find via a DVD copy.

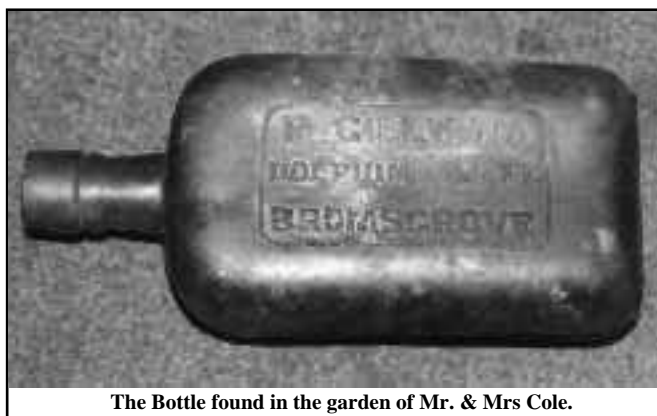
Another interesting find - though much nearer to home - occurred some months ago when Mr. and Mrs Cole, who live in Wychbold, were gardening! They dug up a bottle that had R Gillman Dolphin Hotel Bromsgrove moulded into the glass. An evaluation of the find was carried out by Mr. Ron Dent who has made a study of bottles with Bromsgrove connections. However, we wish to appeal for help! Can any Newsletter reader help us with information on when and where the Dolphin Hotel was situated?

Now a piece of very good news. Pat Tansell - who has had a long association with the LHG - is to take over the post of Chair on the 1st September.

Pat's knowledge and enthusiasm for recording the town's history are very well known and many readers, I am sure, will have been impressed with her talk on the artist Elijah Walton at the Methodist Centre last December. I have every confidence the LHG will enjoy an excellent run of form in terms of interesting research with Pat at the helm and her arrival with the Society's important 25th Anniversary rapidly approaching is both timely and very welcome.

Finally, please don't forget to make a note in your diary regarding the coming winter's talks at the Methodist Centre! We have again tried to arrange an interesting mix of subjects. All are on Tuesdays starting at 7.45pm.

On 21st September Cora Weaver invites us to take a dip into The Healing Waters of Droitwich Spa whilst on the 19th October



The Bottle found in the garden of Mr. & Mrs Cole.

Brian Jones will tell us all about The History of the Birmingham Pen Trade. And on the 17th November David Morgan invites us to look through the eye of a needle at Mysteries of a Famous Redditch Industry. This is followed on the 7th December with a talk by Andrew Harris on that fascinating family, The Vernons of Hanbury while on the 15th February we

shall be able to relive our shopping days of yesteryear when we look at 'history with dividends' as our speaker Ned Williams puts it, when he delivers his Illustrated History of the Co-op!

I am sure you will almost hear the 'honk' of old motor horns and the howl of early axle gears when I say that the season winds up on 15th March with a talk by Martin Hobson on the early days of bus travel in the district with his presentation entitled The Midland Red (The Birmingham Motor Omnibus Co Ltd) - The Early Development of a Public Transport Company.

By the time our winter programme is underway, I shall have handed the Chair to Pat having completed two years in the post. May I take the opportunity to thank my colleagues in the group for the support and effort they have all put in during this period.

Neville Billington

Bromsgrove Museum

If you have a spare half hour why not pop into the Museum.

Opening Hours are 10.00a.m. - 12.30p.m. and 1.00p.m. - 4.30p.m. Monday to Saturday. Admission is free.

The following special days may interest you:-

11th September - Civil War Day.

Members of The Sealed Knot, dressed in the authentic clothes of the day, complete with armour and weapons for people to try out, will talk about the war in a national and local context with links to Bromsgrove Families and businesses of the time. Plus other activities.

Bromsgrove's Ongoing War Project

This involves documenting and recording people's memories of the war years. There are memory sheets available which people are asked to fill in to share their stories.

The particular interest is in the domestic front of the war (e.g. rationing, housewifery, the A.R.P, working in the factories, bombing etc.

One-to-one meetings can also be arranged.

Please contact the curator on 01527 577983

The stories will provide the basis for a temporary exhibition next Summer (2005).

The upstairs will be undergoing some reassessment over the following few months to add a new lease of life to the displays. Come in and add your thoughts to the comments board - the Curator appreciates feedback from visitors.

19th Century Allotments in Worcestershire: Project Volunteer Required.

A nation-wide project to study 19th century allotments has just been launched by the Family & Community Research Society (FACHRS). The project adviser is Dr Jeremy Burchardt who wrote the recent book on the subject, 'The Allotment Movement in England 1793-1873', the first full-length study of allotment history ever published. The project has already attracted about 40 researchers to survey the archives in their counties, but has not so far found anyone for Worcestershire. In his own researches, based purely on central and printed sources, Dr Burchardt found about 60 places in Worcestershire that had pre-1873 allotments, but he feels sure that the records can be expanded by looking into primary

resources in record offices. Among particular questions, the researchers will be checking the numbers and distribution of allotment schemes, the instigators and date or origin of the earliest in each county. The project will run for a year until spring 2005, after which the resulting database will be put on the society's website www.fachrs.com and written up by Dr Burchardt for publication.

If any volunteer researcher is available to help by looking up references to early allotments in estate papers, vestry minutes, maps, newspapers and other sources at the Record Office, please contact the project co-ordinator, Mrs. Jacqueline Cooper, 24 Pelham Road, Clavering, Essex CBI 1 4PQ. email: jacqueline.cooper@virgin.net.

A E Lemmon Stained Glass Cartoon of St George and the Dragon

Have you seen the stained glass window made from this cartoon by the Bromsgrove stained glass artist and craftsman Albert Edward Lemmon?

The cartoon is part of an archive of his design sketches and cartoons which I have recently been identifying and recording. A cartoon for stained glass is a full size pattern from which the pieces of coloured glass are cut. The cut glass is then painted, fired and leaded. Finally the window is fitted into the opening in the wall of the church, chapel or other building.

I have been unable to discover the window made from this particular cartoon and would be pleased to learn of its location.

Albert Edward Lemmon was born in Birmingham in 1889. He attended the Birmingham Municipal School of Art where he trained as an artist and stained glass craftsman. The School of Art in Birmingham was influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement which is reflected in the work of Albert Lemmon.

After his training at Birmingham Lemmon worked in Scotland and then joined A J Davies as an assistant in his stained glass studio at the Bromsgrove Guild. During the First World War Albert Lemmon was on active service in France with the Cameron Highlanders. After the war he returned to Bromsgrove and the Davies studio at the Guild. In 1927 Albert Lemmon set up his own studio in The Strand, Bromsgrove, and later also became a teacher at the Bromsgrove School of Art.

Albert Lemmon had a number of assistants including his son Peter.¹

Many of the windows are signed AEL and PEL; sometimes their initials are within small shields near the base of the windows.

The studio produced some sixty stained glass windows which are to be found in churches in Bromsgrove and other Worcestershire towns, Birmingham and the Black Country. Windows were also made for a group of churches in Lincolnshire. A vicar from a Birmingham church with a Lemmon window moved to Lincolnshire and employed Lemmon to produce a



A E Lemmon, detail of cartoon for S.S. Mary, Cecilia, George and David Window (Brighton window), All Saints Church, Bromsgrove, 1927. Peter Lemmon, age 7, was the model for the smallest child.

window for his new church, which led to further commissions in the area.

The Lemmon studio also produced pieces in oils, as well as gessoed and painted wooden altar crosses and candlesticks, enamels and designs for church banners.²

There are stained glass windows by Albert and Peter Lemmon in local churches. All Saints' and St Peter's Churches have windows and painted altar pieces, St Godwold's Church has windows and a banner and St John's Church a stained glass window.³

I corresponded with Peter Lemmon, from May 2001 until his death, while researching stained glass from the Lemmon studio, and met him some two months before his death. Peter was a pupil of Bromsgrove High School. During the Second World War Peter served in Italy with the Royal Air Force. He taught wood carving at Bromsgrove School of Art where he was acquainted with my father, L J Albutt, who was woodwork teacher there around 1950.

The stained glass cartoon depicting St George and the Dragon is part of a Lemmon archive of design sketches and cartoons at the premises of the stained glass company of John Hardman & Co, of Smethwick. Many windows by this company are also to be found in local churches.⁴

The window Lemmon crafted from this cartoon was probably made to fit an existing window with metal bars, represented by the thick horizontal and vertical lines on the cartoon (the thinner lines being the lead lines).

It is my intention to write a book on the stained glass and other art work from the Lemmon studio and I would like to know the location of the window made from this cartoon. I have been able to locate all of the other windows in the archive, including three made for a church in New Zealand. If you are able to assist or have other information or material relating to the work of this Bromsgrove artist and craftsman I would be pleased to hear from you.

This article is dedicated to the memory of Peter Lemmon (1920-2004).

Death of Stained Glass Artist Peter Lemmon (1920-2004)

Peter Edward Lemmon passed away on Saturday, 27 March.⁵ Peter, who assisted his father Albert Edward Lemmon (1889-1963) in the making of stained glass windows and after his father died was solely responsible for others, spent much of his working life employed by an ornamental glazing company in Wolverhampton. A cremation service was held at Redditch on Monday, 5 April, and Peter's ashes scattered on the grave of his father and mother in the New Cemetery, Bromsgrove.

Notes

1. Other assistants employed by Albert Lemmon include Miss D C Turner and Alan Meredith.

2. I am grateful to Alan Meredith, who was an assistant to Albert Lemmon, for his help.

*3. For information on Lemmon windows in Bromsgrove churches see my book *Stained Glass Windows of Bromsgrove and Redditch Churches*, 2002.*

4. My thanks to Neil Phillips of John Hardman & Co. for allowing me to catalogue and photograph the Lemmon Archive.

5. A report of Peter Lemmon's death appeared in the Bromsgrove Messenger of Wednesday, 31 March 2004.

Roy Albutt. Tel: 01386 552127 or e-mail: roy@albuttl.fsnetco.uk

Minutes Of The Annual General Meeting of The Bromsgrove Society Held At The Guesten Hall, Avoncroft Museum, on 8th July 2004

There was an attendance of approximately 50 members and invited guests at the 24th Annual General Meeting of the Society.

1. The Chairman, Mr. D Clarke, welcomed members and asked the Secretary to report the apologies. Mrs. P Fellows, Mrs. W Bird, Mrs. G Jones, Mr. R Guest, Mr. R Shaw, Mr. T Harris, Dr & Mrs. Ward, Mr. & Mrs. D Turner, Mr. R Skidmore.

2. Minutes of the AGM Held on 10th July 2003

The Chairman moved that the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting be adopted, and this was unanimously agreed.

3. Chairman's Review Of The Year 2003/2004

corresponding with the financial year

The Society has continued to carry out its activities with the terms of the Constitution.

In April 2003 The Bromsgrove Lecture was on the subject of "The Genius of Capability Brown" given by Walter Wilde of Areley Kings near Stourport on Severn. This year the lecture was "The Reconstruction of The Bullring in Birmingham" given by Tim Walley from the developers Birmingham Alliance.

The Local History Group held a series of very interesting meetings with the emphasis on local issues of the past. Along the way involvement with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and marking of James McConnell's life at Bromsgrove railway station and The Ladybird proved to be an international event in which the Society was proud to be involved.

The Landscape Committee has pursued a range of issues including the continuing issue of the steps to St.John's Church and the second town sign.

The Building and Environment Committee has been involved with normal business such as planning matters/applications but extended to cover the Bromsgrove District Plan, Town Centre Review, Bromsgrove Rovers Football Ground and tackling tourism changes.

Our President has been extremely active on many fronts and his initiative to hold a series of "Think Tank" meetings has produced several ideas which have already or can be brought into action over a number of years. It has been useful for the Society to pause and consider whether our direction is where it should be and help us to adjust to changing circumstances.

November 2003 saw an innovation with the Society presenting a concert at the Spadesbourne Suite to a near capacity audience. The event was given to us by the Bromsgrove based Famous Music Co. in the guise of Terry Bradford and Sussie Arvesen who performed their rendition of "Roll out the Barrel". This event was highly successful and raised sufficient funds for our second town sign which was the sole object.

In October selected members of the Executive Committee met with the leader, deputy leader and temporary Chief Executive of Bromsgrove District Council. The range of issues discussed included church steps, gravestones, electricity failures, town centre "review", Sanders Park and Spadesbourne Brook and the verges to approach roads.

A Society dinner was held in November at The Ladybird for committee and society members.

Many thanks are extended to all members and others who have spent their valuable time in our committees and in preparation for meetings and also to the Newsletter and Rousler editors, and the Membership Secretary. A special mention and thanks go to our Treasurer in what for health reasons, has proved a most difficult year.

4. Committee Reviews

(a) Buildings & Environment Report

I reported to you at the last AGM that we had received The Bromsgrove District Local Plan Proposed modifications and our reply to the proposed modifications had been sent to the council. We had also received (and replied to) a Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance-Managing Housing Supply suggesting a Moratorium on new Housing until 2006 owing to an oversupply of available brownfield sites. I was also able to say that our report on the condition and occupancy of the Historic and other buildings in the High Street had now been forwarded to the Conservation Architect for his attention.

During the current year this Committee has met on five occasions for the year 2003/4 and once for the year 2004/5.

Nine other meetings have been attended on The Society's behalf , with other members of The Society in most cases.

28th July 2003. In conjunction with RTPI. "Planning in Texas" Talk from the City Planner for the City of Nacogdoches (The Oldest Town in Texas).

25th August 2003. Bromsgrove Rovers Supporters Society Ltd. (At their request).

20th August 2003. Community Pride Evening at County Hall.(At the invitation of the County Council). To attend the Judging of the various projects entered by District or Parish organisations throughout the County.

16th October 2003. "Our Bromsgrove". (At their invitation) Public meeting to object to possible redevelopment of the Bromsgrove Rovers Football Ground.

27th November 2003. Bromsgrove Town Centre Strategy Event. (Town Review).

27th February 2004. Tackling Tourism Changes.(Invitation from Council).

1st April 2004. 2nd workshop - Town Centre Strategy. (Walking Audit)

5th May 2004. 3rd workshop - Feed back from consultants with implemented suggestions from previous meeting.

Since the Bromsgrove District Council issued their" Supplementary Planning Guidance Note 8 (Draft) on Managing Housing Supply in the District of Bromsgrove the number of applications submitted rose considerably before the deadline date for the above.As a result of this 86 objections have been submitted during the last 12 months, which is considerably more than usual.(1407 applications have been registered so far since last AGM).

Other issues dealt with on the planning side were the implementation of the Bromsgrove District Plan on 13th January 2004, a detailed reply to a 15 page "Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Note 11 Outdoor Play Space in the District of Bromsgrove"and "Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Hereford & Worcester Public Consultation". We have also submitted our response to the Proposed Town Centre Strategy and consulted with Council officers over the possible listing of Parkside School buildings and in conjunction with the Victorian Society the conversion of Hewell Estate Village into a Conservation Area.

Finally I would like to express my sincerest thanks to Graham Reddie (our President and Fellow committee Member) and John Sketchley (Executive Committee) for all their help on Planning matters and all the Committee for their hard work and support during the last year .

(b) Landscape Committee Report

(In the absence of Mr. R Skidmore, this was presented by Mrs. I Jarrett)

Firstly let me convey my apologies for not being here to report to you in person, unfortunately, this year's AGM clashes with the graduation of my elder son at Newcastle University.

1. New Town Sign

Following the unveiling of the first Town sign by Julie Kirkbride in 2002, the Society raised funds for a second Town Sign courtesy of the Famous Music Co. (see Chairman's Review). The new sign on the Kidderminster Road was unveiled last month. It is now hoped that a third sign can be funded and a location on the Stourbridge Road has already been identified. Ultimately, it is anticipated that a Town Sign can be located on all major approaches to the town centre.

2. Church Steps

It was reported at the last AGM that initial discussions had commenced on the repair to the steps at St. Johns Church. I can now report that the situation is gathering momentum and further discussions and meetings have taken place with officers of Worcestershire County Council who have a responsibility for the upkeep of the steps. Later this month a meeting has been convened where it is hoped that all interested parties will attend and a programme for moving the matter forward can be established. One of the most important issues will be the identification of funding sources. A survey of the steps has already been carried out and the drawing is on display. The Bromsgrove Society hopes that it can act as a determined catalyst in achieving a successful outcome to the repair and restoration of this important part of the town's heritage.

3. Hewell Grange

The Society has been represented on the Hewell Grange Conservation Group and it was hoped that lottery funding would be available to finance the project, unfortunately, the lottery bid was unsuccessful.

4. Sanders Park Plaque

The location and wording of a plaque at Sanders Park has been agreed to acknowledge the bequest of Lucy & Mary Sanders, who gave land to Bromsgrove UDC for the creation of the park

5. Other Projects.

The landscape committee has met several times over the last year and discussions have ranged far and wide on possible schemes and projects that would benefit Bromsgrove; one such scheme that is close to both mine and the presidents heart is the possible creation of Home Zones; this report is too brief to tell you exactly what a Home Zone is, but due to the wonders of modern technology, there is a video playing during the evening which explains precisely what they are and I hope that you can find time to watch it. This town has several roads which would be ideal for such a project and with your support, the Society can start to exert some pressure on the Council and County Council to take the idea seriously.

One aspect of Bromsgrove that has given rise to concern is the seemingly sharp increase in mindless graffiti that conveys a notion of declining civic pride; over the next year, it is hoped to start a dialogue with the council on how to stem the trend or, more probably, how to channel the efforts of the perpetrators to something more creative. Any suggestions are welcome.

(c) History Group - Mr. N Billington

The group's talks programme for 2003/4, headed up by Roy Albutt, enjoyed somewhat fluctuating audience levels but Mr. Gascoign's talk on "Bromsgrove's Secret Hills" was particularly popular with ticket sales approaching £200. The programme centred strongly on very local subjects and I believe was well received. Roy Albutt and Pat Tansell, aided by Edward Brookfield, did particularly well introducing colour into our publicity leaflets for the first time, the two subjects that received this development (stained glass and the civil war) having very pleasing artistic value.

I trust I shall be excused for blowing the LHG's trumpet when I say that Rousler magazine kept to its usual high standard, thanks again to its editor Jenny Townshend and the efforts of Society members Marlene Goodwin and Alan Richards in particular. All copies printed for sale were 'snapped up'.

There are approaching 2000 photographs in the Worcestershire Photographic Survey that are indexed under 'Bromsgrove' and in the autumn, Society member Mike Morris generously volunteered to put the index for these on computer disc. In so doing, the index (which was hand-written in reference number order) can now be viewed alphabetically by subject. At the time of writing, the LHG is scheduled to discuss making copies available to the County and to Bromsgrove Library and Bromsgrove Museum.

Without doubt the most remarkable discovery on the local history front to occur during the year has been achieved by Warwick Sheffield, one of our Society members. Warwick, who lives in Australia, discovered that the noted early Victorian writer on architecture, John Davy, in his book *Architectural Precedents* published in 1841, included a comprehensive chapter on "Bromsgrove Depot and Engine Factory 1839".

This particular Davy work seems very obscure and was unknown locally. Warwick bought a copy that came onto the market 'down-under' and at the time of writing we are eagerly preparing to view this remarkable find via a DVD copy.

Finally, I shall reluctantly be asking our Chairman to ask for nominations or a volunteer to take over the post of chair of the LHG. I have a number of quite major projects I wish to spend time on and following two years in the post I do wish to hand over the baton (though continuing with membership of the LHG).

I wish to thank regular patrons of our talks programmes for the support year-on-year and do hope all members will promote the 2004-5 programme to their friends by word-of-mouth publicity.

Mr. Billington would be resigning as Chairman but was pleased to say that Pat Tansell would be taking over from 1st September.

The death during the year of Mr. Simon Penn of Avoncroft Museum had saddened everyone who knew him and he would be sorely missed.

The Chairman thanked all three committee chairmen for their report and for their hard work during the past year.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Financial Statement had already been circulated. The year had finished with a surplus of £1,361 and reserves of £46,221, and the Society is financially strong and secure. Subscriptions had been increased during the year and now covered the needs of the Society. Mr. Rowlands urged members to consider taking advantage of Gift Aid, In conclusion, the Treasurer thanked the Hon. Auditor, Mr. Priddey for all his invaluable help over 20 years and proposed that the Financial Statement be adopted. Mrs. Lancaster seconded, and the meeting unanimously agreed.

As Mr. Priddey would be standing down from his post, he was presented by the Chairman with a gift in appreciation of his services to the Society, and elected as an Honorary Life Member.

6. Election of Officers and Committee.

Mr. D Clarke was elected as Chairman, Mr. J Griffith as Vice-Chairman, Mr. J Rowlands as Treasurer, Mrs. M Lancaster as Secretary and Mrs. J Palmer as Membership Secretary.

The following were approved as Executive Committee Members: Mr. C Baker, Mr. R Brazier, Mrs. A Chapman, Mr. R Guest, Mrs. I Jarrett, Mr. R Meredith, Miss A Maguire, Mrs. F Rogers, Mr. J. Sketchley, Mr. R Skidmore, Mr. D Slater, Miss P Tansell, Mr. T Turpin, Mr. J Weston.

7. Any Other Business

There was none.

Mr. D Clarke said that the AGM is the one opportunity during the year when we have the opportunity to do honour to members who have served the Society for many years. Mr. R Meredith and Mr. R Brazier were both such members, and he was pleased to appoint them as Life Vice-Presidents.

Mr. G Reddie, thanked the members of the Society for all their support during the year. He went on to pay tribute to the late Mary Long, an exhibition of whose paintings and embroideries were displayed at the meeting. He introduced Mrs. Fran Rogers who gave the meeting a most interesting account of Mary Long's life and her association with Bromsgrove.



*The Chairman has pleasure in inviting
members and friends to a seasonal supper*

Friday, 26th November, 2004, 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.

The Executive Suite, Bromsgrove School, Old Station Road

£16.00 per head

Menu

oOo

Melon fan with Fruit Coulis & Berries

oOo

Sliced Duck Breast with Plum & Port Sauce

oOo

Buttered New Potatoes & Fresh Chives

oOo

Asparagus Bundle

oOo

Medley of Seasonal Vegetables

oOo

(A Vegetarian Course can be provided on request)

oOo

Cider Apple Charlotte

oOo

Coffee & Petit Fours

Please send cheques payable to The Bromsgrove Society to Mrs.I.M.

Jarrett, 28 Alvechurch Highway, Lydiate Ash, Bromsgrove B60 1PA

(Tel :0121 453-2100) by Friday, 19th November 2004



St John's Landmark Appeal Autumn & Winter Events

Monday Night Presentation Series

Four talks will take place in St John's Church, Bromsgrove and all proceeds will be donated to the St John's Landmark Appeal to restore the fabric of the church building and the organ for the people of Bromsgrove. For each evening the church opens at 7pm for a 7.30 start.

Monday 13th September 2004

The Goliards present "People & Steeple"

A light hearted programme about churches, clerics and congregations, compiled, spoken and sung by Bridget Barlow, Margaret & Christopher Bond, Kate & Roger Wallbank. Admission & Wine £5.00 per person

Monday 18th October 2004

"Local Railways" with Philip K Jarvis

Philip gives an illustrated talk and slide presentation covering the history of the Barnt Green to Ashchurch railway line from 1859. Tickets £2.00 per person

Monday 15th November 2004

"Aspects of the Titanic with Josephine Hearne

Experience a personal link to this famous vessel in this fascinating and enjoyable presentation. Tickets £2.50 per person.

Monday 6 th December 2004

"Echoes & Whispers"

Relive one thousand years of real voices from St John's with local historian Simon Henderson. The past voices of St John's come alive again in this captivating and hugely informative evening. Tickets £2.00 per person.

Heritage Open Day

Saturday 11th September 2004, 10.00am - 5.00pm

Enjoy a day out at St John's Church. Take the opportunity to climb the Tower or play the Organ, learn about history, view exhibitions and artworks. You can enjoy "al fresco" lunch & refreshments and listen to a selection of light music. Children can "meet the ancestors" & "hunt the keys" or take a train ride in the church yard. There's also an opportunity to join in the Sponsored Cycle event.

A great day out for everyone

"Fizz Bang!" Golf Tournament

Wednesday 29th September at Bromsgrove Golf Centre

A 7.30 am Bucks Fizz Breakfast and 8.30 am Shot Gun Start brings you a golf tournament with a difference! Under the cool supervision of Neil Selwyn-Srnith teams of four will battle to avoid being "slated"

****Breakfast, golf & lunch for a team of four just £295****

For more information on any of the above events, or on the St John's Landmark Appeal please contact Jo Slade 01527 835734 or via Parish Office, 14 Kidderminster Road, Bromsgrove B61 7JW

The Bromsgrove Society

Officers and Members of the Executive Committee 2004-2005

Officers:

President:	For details see inside front cover	
Chairman:	Des Clarke, 19 Alvechurch Highway, Lydiate Ash, Bromsgrove B60 1NZ	0121 453 3034
Vice-Chairman:	Jim Griffith, (Chairman - Buildings & Environment) 24 Ragley Crescent, Broom Park, Bromsgrove.B60 2BD	01527 833252
Treasurer:	see inside front cover.	
Newletter Editor:	see inside front cover.	
Secretary:	see inside front cover.	

Committee:

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
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 Jill Palmer	(Membership Secretary) 37 Fordhouse Road, Bromsgrove. B60 2LU	01527 871340
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 Bromsgrove Society Local History Group

Speakers 2004/2005

2004

Tuesday, 21 September

The Healing Baths of Droitwich Spa

Cora Weaver

Tuesday, 19 October

The History of the Birmingham Pen Trade

Brian Jones

Tuesday, 16 November

An Eye on Needlemaking: the mysteries of a Redditch industry

David Morgan

Tuesday, 7 December

The Vernons of Hanbury

Andrew Harris

2005

Tuesday, 15 February

History with Dividends: an illustrated history of the Co-op

Ned Williams

Tuesday, 15 March

The Midland Red (The Birmingham Midland Motor Omnibus Co. Ltd): the early development of a public transport company

Martin Hobson

**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