



The Bromsgrove Society **NEWSLETTER**

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Photo: Nick Meers

***The Rosedene Restoration Fund
- How The Money Was Used***

The Bromsgrove Society

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Individual Membership	£7
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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

2nd June 2003 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the queen's coronation - it is difficult to believe that she has been our sovereign for so long!

Many changes have taken place in that time. We have seen the arrival of the Common Market, decimal currency, motorways, increased travel and, in Bromsgrove, many more houses. As, in many other towns, we have seen the disappearance of many old shops, the Cattle Market and cinemas but some things never change.

June sees the Bromsgrove Fair which has been held since 1199. The Court Leet, this year, is led by the bailiff, John Weston, a former chairman of the Bromsgrove Society and until recently chairman of its local history group.

Anne Maguire

Letters To The Editor

I read with interest the article by Dorothy and Graham Woodhouse on Dodford in your March edition.

In particular I was amused by the reference to Tommy Rushton of Crowfields Farm. I first met him in 1952 when I was articled to Arthur Chappell of Chappell and Foster who, together with Luce and Silvers, ran Bromsgrove Cattle Market.

Tommy Rushton was a short, rather unkempt old man with a large, droopy and rather wet moustache, who wore a long tweed coat or a cow gown in the summer. He was one of the last of the "cow-keepers" who bought newly-calved cows in the cattle market and kept them for most of their lactation and then sold them on either as cow beef to a butcher or as an in-calver, to be replaced by other freshly-calved cows. There were dealers who specialised in selling "new milch" cows such as Harry Laight from Hampton Lovett, Jim Yeats from Elmbridge, Barney Richards from Chaddesly Corbett and Martin Gibbs from Bentley.

The 'cowkeepers' very often operated from urban areas and the cows were kept in sheds without any access to pastureland and were fed on proprietary nuts, hay and sliced roots - if nothing else, it ensured good fat cows for the butcher when lactation was complete!

If my memory serves me right, Tommy Rushton and his father before him were 'cowkeepers' in Digbeth, Birmingham. They very often kept no more than four or five cows which were milked by hand.

There were many small milkmen in and around Bromsgrove and in particular I remember Fred Clarke from Clattercut Lane, Rushock who had a round to the south of the town in the Worcester Street area. He ladled milk from a bucket into his clients jugs but I am not certain that this applied to Teddy Hammond of Crown Close. Teddy was a jolly little man who always had a quip or a joke. His father had been the knockabout clown at the Bromsgrove Music Hall, later the Plaza cinema opposite the Cattle Market and now an office block.

It seems a very short time since Bromsgrove ceased to be a rural idyll!

Philip Amphlett

Dear Editor

I wonder if anyone can tell me where to start looking for information about the Blackwell Sanatorium, Nr. Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

I have come across an old postcard sent from there, during the First World War, from my grandfather to my grandmother, and would like to find out more about it and its location.

I hope you can point me in the right direction as so far I haven't been able to find any information at all.

The writing on the cards is as follows:



*From Pte J Moon 32937, 12th
East Surrey Reg, Blackwell
Sanatorium, Hs Bromsgrove.
Worcestershire*

My dear Doll

*I have been moved to this place
so I don't think that you had
better go to work not till I have
been home as I don't know how
long. I shall be here as there is
so many coming home from the
line. They had not got the
places to put them or I should*

*not have been moved yet but I shall get on better here than in the Hospital. I received
your stamp and fags will write a letter later.*

From your affectionate Hubby Jim

Write me a line and then I shall know that you have the address alright.

Along the left side of the card is written (top to bottom)

Yourselves

Baby

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

The Address side of the card

Mrs J Moon, 2 Dale cottage, Frant Forest, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

The Post mark has Bromsgrove and a date of 9 Aug (But what year?)

This is what I know:

His Full name is James William Moon, He Was Born 13 Oct 1886 in London. He enlisted in Mill Hill (London), Not sure what year. He died 21st March 1918 on the Somme (France) aged 32 The baby mentioned in the Postcard was my father who was born 3rd Jan 1917 (so I assume the date of 9th Aug must be 1917)

Unfortunately his Army record was destroyed during an Air raid in WW2, so details are sketchy to say the least. I do not know why he happened to be in Bromsgrove sanatorium, the Postcard suggests he was recovering after a spell in Hospital.

The unanswered questions: Why was he in Bromsgrove?, Why so far from his Home?, How long was he there? Any light that could be shed on these details I would be grateful for.

Stuart Moon

If you can help Stuart please contact him directly, on 0208-890-0946 or by e-mail on: stuart.moon@btopenworld.com

From the Chairmen

During the month of March our Chairman, Tim Harris, decided that he was unable to continue in office for health reasons and has therefore stepped down. I am sure that the whole membership wishes him well, with the problem satisfactorily resolved. At the

same time we thank Tim for all his efforts on the Society's behalf.

On a different note, the executive, who are the trustees of the Society debated the question of a donation to the restoration fund for St. John's Church. It has been decided that a sum of £5,000 will be donated to this fund during the financial year 2003/2004.

The annual society lecture was held in the hall of Bromsgrove Lower School when Walter Wilde presented "The Genius of Capability Brown". Our soundings from the audience indicate that the lecture was well received and confirms my feeling that this event will continue to be an important element of the Society's calendar.

The local history group's season of meetings was concluded with the subject "Bromsgrove and Sir Edward Elgar". The group has continued to be a considerable success under the chairmanship of Neville Billington.

A grant of £2,000 has been received from Worcestershire County Council towards the cost of our "Jubilee Project".

Finally our president, Graham Reddie, has been extremely active on your behalf and his efforts include making representations regarding the gravestones in St. John's Churchyard and parking at Bromsgrove Railway Station.

Also Graham, along with long serving members of the executive, has dealt with the continuity of leadership of the Society by asking me to be acting chairman until the forthcoming annual general meeting.

Des Clarke - Acting Chairman.

From the Membership Secretary

It is time for a reminder that subscriptions for 2003 are due on June 1st. The new rates you will find on the inside cover of the newsletter and prompt payment will be much appreciated.

Thank you to members who have already paid, and also to those who have completed a 'Gift Aid Form'.

If you pay Income Tax and would consider "Gift Aid" I can let you have a form.

The Society would like to thank it's corporate members for their continued support. They are the following:-

All Saints Garage Ltd.

Baylis and Co (Bromsgrove) Ltd.

Bromsgrove Golf Centre

Central Office Services

Clarks Motor Services

Designed Systems Interiors

Thomas Horton & Sons

The Ladybird Inn

Lloyds T.S.B.

Mr. B. Manning

Morton Fisher, Solicitors

Polymer Latex

R. & S. Antiques

Rotary Club of Bromsgrove

Scotts Solicitors

Weaver. PLC

X. L. Displays

We welcome several new members who have joined in the last three months, they are:-

Mr. & Mrs. A. Bradman & family, Mrs. C. Brindley, Mr. E. Brookfield, Mr. & Mrs. J. Cupitt, Mr. J. English, Mr. S. Henderson, Mr. B. Hunt, Mr. R. Rose, Mrs. H. Tabberer and Miss J. Wall.

Jill Palmer.

Buildings & Environment Report

The Building & Environment Committee have held only one meeting since I last reported to you, the next one being scheduled for 9th May 2003. Three other meetings have been attended however, by various members of the Committee;

*jointly with the District Council's Conservation Officer and The Victorian Society, to discuss the creation of a Local List for Bromsgrove District Council,

*with County Council Representatives regarding Waste Planning Management,

*and a District Council Meeting regarding The Arts Centre.

At our last meeting on 26th January we were pleased to welcome Mrs. Audrey Chapman onto our Committee.

The viability of creating a design competition for the possible redevelopment of the bus station and backs of the adjoining High Street premises had been discussed at previous meetings but it has now been agreed that this would best be dealt with by the Landscape Committee, with input from this committee when required.

A 'Building Report-Part High Street, Bromsgrove' was carried out during a perambulation of part of the High Street, based on an external inspection of frontages. It detailed listed buildings, voids, general state of repair and items in urgent need of attention. A copy of this was sent to the Conservation Officer to help him with his management of the Town Centre Conservation Area.

Ten objections/comments to planning applications were lodged on The Society's behalf, of which two were of particular concern;

(1) 6 Finstall Road Bromsgrove. A revised proposal to demolish the single storey 18th /19th Century ex-stable block and redevelop, and

(2) Proposal to erect 3 dwellings and construct a storm drainage culvert on land adjacent to 51 Marlbrook Lane.

Finally, we have at last received The Bromsgrove District Local Plan incorporating further modifications and have replied to them on behalf of The Society.

Jim Griffith.

The Bromsgrove Lecture 2003

The mild winter weather followed by the more recent dry, sunny, high air temperatures of March and April, together with the promising lecture title, "The Genius of Capability Brown", enticed an expectant audience to the new lecture venue of Bromsgrove Lower School, in Conway Road. Few were to be disappointed, if anyone, by the knowledgeable and enthusiastic presentation given by Walter Wilde, M.A.(Cantab). M.Lit., international lecturer, gardener and garden writer. Walter Wilde was educated at Magnus Grammar School in Nottinghamshire and Queen's College, Cambridge. His research Degree in 'Designed Landscapes' has led to him giving lecture tours across the Atlantic and in New Zealand as well as European countries.

His obvious passion for his subject and the achievements of Lancelot "Capability" Brown (1716-1783) were supported and illustrated by a superb collection of slides of estate and garden landscapes that Brown's Genius has given to posterity. Many of his creations, laid out on the great country estates of yesteryear, are still in place to be

viewed today. A large proportion of the presenter's Postgraduate research was carried out at the Stratford Record Office and the William Salt Library and Lord Harrowby of Standon Hall also allowed him to spend a month of weekdays in his miniment rooms, viewing manuscripts, archive records and drawings.

Brown, born in Northumberland, left his scholastic life at the age of sixteen, today's equivalent of having obtained a university degree and then trained in gardening with Lord and Lady Lorrain for seven years before becoming head gardener at stowe with Lord Cobham, for the next ten years of his life.

His influence and visionary work can be seen at Shugborough, Ingestre, Trentham, Fisherwick, Tixall, Keele, Beaudesert, Standon, Blitherfield, Swynnerton and Teddersley. In respect of landscape parks and gardens, whilst at Althorp, Blenheim and Harewood House, the lakes he created are the feature. George III gave Brown a commission to improve Hampton Court and his recommendation to the King was that "a status quo" should prevail. Advising only that replanting of the Tudor gardens should be carried out to give all the year round colour and that a vine to produce black grapes, that still flourishes today, should be planted. Locally, he carried out the design and overseeing work to provide additional rooms at Warwick Castle and landscaping work on land which is currently Edgbaston Golf Course.

In addition to his preferences for asymmetrical garden and vista designs, he developed an expertise for the creation of lakes, together with the formation of hills and valleys,. At Papworth he created a hill which necessitated the removal of soil to form a new horizon, recorded as having taken 500,000 barrow loads to construct it! At Croome, at the request of Lord Coventry, Brown was asked to investigate and report on the matter of the flooding of the church on the estate. He recommended that it be dismantled and rebuilt on a hillside some distance away. His advice was accepted and it stands on it's repositioned site today. By the early nineteenth century, Brown had been instrumental in the alteration or creation of some two hundred parks and gardens in England.

"Capability" brown married Bridget Wayet in 1744 and they had five children. He is buried at Fenstanton in Huntingdonshire.

Report by John Sketchley, 16th April 2003

Regional Government Changes How Will These Affect Us ?

Graharn Reddie writes with a background of having worked for a District Council, and Surrey and London County Councils, and collaborated with Redditch Borough, Warwickshire and Worcestershire County Councils.

To remind ourselves of the present position, Regional Assemblies are in place in each of the ten Regions. The Regional Assembly for the West Midlands has 80 appointed members with responsibility for three kinds of functions:

- a) preparing regional strategies,;
- b) executive functions e.g. economic development, planning, housing and other functions to do with culture and sport; and
- c) influencing functions relating to issues which have a regional dimension but need

local input e.g. business support, employment and skills, planning of major projects, transport, cultural strategies and public health.¹

Below the Assembly are the Borough, District and Unitary authorities, which in turn consult Parish Councils.

At the 1994 local government reorganisation Hereford was separated from Worcestershire and became a Unitary. Other Unitary bodies in the West Midlands are Telford/Wrekin, Stoke-on-Trent and the authorities within the old Metropolitan County covering the three major cities of Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton, and the Black Country.

The Government's proposals for modernising local government, and a pre-condition for the creation of a regional assembly, include the creation of a single tier of local government below the Assembly in order to simplify the system, speed-up response to demand, and bring government closer to the people. How will this affect civic societies?

Before a referendum can take place, the deputy PM will have to consider whether there is sufficient level of interest in a region to justify holding a referendum on establishing a regional assembly.²

Once the Government consider there is sufficient interest to justify holding a referendum in a region, the Boundary Commission will be instructed to conduct a review in order to implement all-purpose Unitary authorities. The expected result will be the abolition of the County Councils in any region that elects to have a Regional Assembly, Districts will become Unitary but may be grouped into larger units: like counties?

Fewer councillors within a region will have to represent much larger areas than at present. The urban system of local government will effectively be imposed upon the rural areas. It is said that far from the stated aim in the White Paper of "bringing government closer to the people", this will in fact do the opposite. Considerable cost savings and time savings could be achieved with fewer authorities, but whether this will achieve better local government and better local environments must be carefully considered.

Worcestershire has already been divided by police and health authorities with Kidderminster, Bromsgrove & Redditch forming a northern part. If the County is abolished, the southern part, without the economic punch of the north part may be linked with Gloucestershire, part of the South West Region which stretches all the way to the Scilly Isles!

West Midlands

In the West Midlands what would be the effect on local representation of a Referendum result in favour of a Regional Assembly and the consequential abolition of the County Councils? At present five shire Counties have a total of 224 councillors, shown in the Table below³

(Telford and Stoke have a combined population of 399,000. Herefordshire is a unitary authority but is ranked as a shire county)

Authority	Population	No of members
Shropshire (less Telford & Wrekin)	283,000	44
Staffordshire (less Stoke-on-Trent)	806,740	61
Warwickshire	505,880	62
Worcestershire	542,000	57
Herefordshire (unitary but a shire)	174,800	-
Totals	2,312,420	224

The unitary authorities within the old West Midlands County have a population of 2,556,000, in 39 wards with 117 Members.³

In the proposed regional assembly, restricted to 25 - 35 members as envisaged by the Government, two-thirds will be elected and the remaining one-third will be appointed.

At present, in the West Midlands each shire county councillor represents about 10,300 persons. In the proposed regional assembly each would represent around 150,000 persons. This statement gives a strong indication of the likely problems for councillors and those they represent.

Conclusions

In this Region with a population of nearly 5 million people, Assembly councillors will probably have difficulty finding time for and details of

- a) matter brought to them by their constituents for advice or action;
- b) grasping important and relevant points for many submissions by their officers concerning areas with which they are unfamiliar,
- c) finding the time to visit their constituencies often enough to become known and valued as regional representatives; and
- d) keeping track of matters affecting them, from the welter of data supplied by the Assembly's officers for the whole region.

Voters similarly would find it far harder to be in touch with their assembly representatives; harder to explain the relevance of geography e.g. on matters concerning the potential ruining of a local environment on which objections should be pursued; and far more expense and extra time spent attending the assembly and meeting councillors and officers

Compare the Assembly's members with other elected members: M.P.s traditionally represent constituencies of 70-80,000 persons.

The West Midlands sends 8 regional representatives to the European Parliament. Each represents over 700,000 people. We rarely see them.

County Councils are responsible for a range of services including education, highways and transportation; police; social services; economic development; libraries and recreation; the fire service; and waste management. County Councils support a number of joint bodies such as the public analysts' laboratory and countryside parks, and offer grants to environmental bodies. The education departments offer training to people throughout their lives. Counties assist local communities by providing supporting finance for rail and bus services crossing District boundaries.

District and Unitary authorities are unlikely to be able to match the scale and diversity of education and transport provision, and not just for financial reasons. Most District Councils are currently affected by lack of money hence shortages of staff and adequately trained and experienced officers. Closing the County Councils will not automatically provide a source of staff for Districts. Planners' interests and salaries in the private sector for instance may well prove much more enticing to them.

Historical, geographical, industrial, geological, micro-climatic and other factors together created the counties over the centuries. Enforced unions though neat solutions on paper rarely succeed on the ground e.g. the short-lived counties of Avon, and Hereford & Worcestershire.

Have the counties outlived their usefulness?

Will regional assemblies achieve the Government aim to "bring local government closer to the people"?

Will the formation of new administrative bodies provide 'Best Value'?

Will the changes be worth the heavy cost and considerable upheaval ?

Will “modernised” local government help to create better environments, education and health services and, dare I say, better neighbours ?

In the Welsh Referendum only 20% of the eligible voters bothered to vote. In Scotland the Referendum turn-out was little better at 34%.

It is vital when referendums are held that each voter casts a vote, lest wrong decisions are made due to ignorance or apathy, or both. This concerns us all.

To conclude on a lighter note: W. H. Auden said “ We are here on earth to do good to others. What the others are here for, I do not know”.

Sources:

1 House of Commons Research paper 02162 of 21.11.03

2 LGA Guide to the Regional Assemblies (Preparations) Bill.

3. Data obtained direct from each County Council

Graham Reddie.

Where Did That Money Go?

In 1999 the Bromsgrove Society donated £1,000 to the Rosedene restoration fund. Many may well ask what is Rosedene? Why did it need so much money?

Rosedene is a Chartist cottage in Dodford that was purchased in 1997 by The National Trust to ensure that this important piece of national history was preserved for posterity. It was the best example of an unchanged cottage in Dodford although as will be seen there were many internal changes - and these needed to be reversed to bring it back as nearly as possible to its original state. It should also be appreciated that of all the basically similar cottages in the other four Chartist settlements, this is the one having most original features still present.

Originally there were about forty cottages built in 1848/9 and occupied in July 1849 to establish a self financing community living off the four acre plots on which their homes had been built. By the early 1990's time had taken its toll and many cottages had been altered or destroyed and replaced with more modern buildings - not surprising when it is remembered that they had no running water - no bathroom - no toilet other than an earth closet!

Archaeological surveys and examination of contemporary copies of the Northern Star and other Chartist literature helped to determine its exact form. But, above all there was immense help and advice given by Mrs Florence Crane who lives in Bromsgrove and who was born in Rosedene before 1920!

Rosedene stands in its original four acre plot and although surrounded by strawberries at the turn of the century was originally largely given over to orchard, vegetables, pig keeping and chickens. The sketches below show a rough representation of ‘before and after’ layout of the floor plan -although the ‘before’ is really ‘after’ and vice versa! The ‘before’ detail is as bought by the Trust whilst the ‘after’ is as originally built.

Early in the twentieth century, alterations were made to improve living conditions. At the east end, a kitchen was built with a ridge roof cut into the original roof. The floor of the sitting room was raised to the level of the back hall - a door cut to give access to the kitchen and a large window placed in the east wall. A new chimney was built for a fireplace installed close to the new kitchen door.

In order to make this into a sizable living room, the wall between the sitting room and the back hall was moved to a new position between the window and the door.

At around the same time, a new bedroom was constructed together with a larder. A door was cut in the wall by the water pump to give access to the store room. The door from that room onto the yard was bricked up and two new windows were inserted. One was between the newly bricked up door and the rear door to give light to the pantry which was built with a tiled shelf just inside the new doorway. The other was in the west wall to light the new bedroom. At the end of this pantry a new doorway was built and beyond that, a bedroom was created by excavating the earth and inserting a suspended wooden floor. At the time of purchase, this had collapsed!

Externally the significant change was to the yard. Initially this was closed in by a brick wall with a central gate, as archaeological survey confirmed, - but this had been removed.

Extensive structural damage had been caused to the corners at the front of the building by the roots of large conifers that had been allowed to grow very close. So restoration started with the removal of these trees and the removal of the new kitchen. The rest of the work done will be obvious from the comments already made on the changes introduced. One of the most significant, though, is the reinstatement of the 'dairy'.

This is where the new living room had been created - the wall had to be returned to its earlier position and the floor excavated with a surround of quarry tile shelves in

accordance with Florence Crane's description - a description that was confirmed by archaeological survey. This has created a new totally dark room with two steps down from the back hall and with the temperature normally around 4,C cooler than the rest of the building.

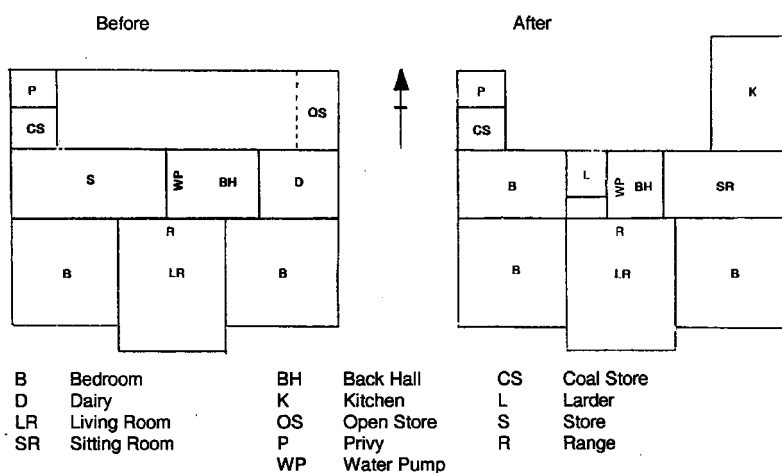
Needless to say, the roof had to be totally removed and considerable areas of the walls rebuilt. Local bricks were used as far as possible and lime mortar was used throughout.

From this it will be appreciated that the restoration was a very expensive undertaking and great credit is due to the contractor - John Ward of Stroud - for the skilled work he carried out.

The use to which the restored cottage will be put is primarily educational. Chartism is on the National Curriculum and small groups of children from schools will visit Rosedene and become Victorian children for the day doing cooking, cleaning, clothes washing and gardening. This activity is being administered by Avoncroft who will also organise visits for adult groups.

From this you will appreciate that the Bromsgrove Society helped to complete the restoration of this building, which is unique in the world and, as such, is an invaluable historical asset.

Gordon Long



Note: The Chartist Conference is being held in Dodford this year on June 14th in the Village Hall. Bookings can be made through Professor Howell Ashton, Department of History, Staffordshire University, College Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2XW. Costs are £5 per head or £8 to include a simple lunch. Please make cheques payable to Howell Ashton.

Alan Hodgetts 1917-2002

A personal reminiscence on the news of the death of Alan Hodgetts, who trained as a pattern maker at the Bromsgrove Guild.

I first met Alan in 1997. I was living in Cheshire at the time and having taken early retirement was engaged upon a research degree into the stained glass of A. J. Davies of the Bromsgrove Guild. On the advice of Bill Kings I wrote to Alan and was invited to visit 43, Bewell Head, where I was made most welcome by Alan and Florence. Alan's father, Henry Terry Hodgetts, had moved from Birmingham to Bromsgrove to become cutter, leader and fixer for A. J. Davies (1877-1953) in the stained glass studio at the Bromsgrove Guild. Alan said that his father had previously worked for the stained glass firms of John Hardman and for Pearce and Cutler¹.

It was soon evident that Alan was proud of his father's long association with the Bromsgrove Guild. He also recalled the places his father had travelled to when erecting the windows he had helped to make. This information assisted me in locating additional Davies windows to record and photograph as part of my research. The information provided by Alan proved to be most reliable. For example he remembered as a child - he was one of nine - being taken to Blackpool and playing on the beach with other family members, while his father fitted windows in a church 'not far back from the front'. The church in question proved to be St. Pauls, North Shore, Blackpool. By the time I visited Blackpool the church had been largely demolished and modern shops built in its place, although a church guide² and a local newspaper³ provided some information concerning the Guild windows.

Alan attended Stourbridge Road Primary and Watt Close Secondary Schools. My parents, Leslie Albutt and Phyllis Kimberley, as children both lived in Orchard Road, not far from Bewell Head, and I asked Alan whether he remembered them. He said that he certainly did, he remembered playing with them as youngsters. Another connection between our families was that Harry Hodgetts and my grandfather Thomas Albutt⁴ had been drinking companions at Bewell Head Club (which was always referred to as Bewillead Club). My grandfather, a plasterer by trade, worked for Braziers before setting up his own business, T. H. Albutt & Son. Plastering was heavy work in those days, hence the need for ale at 'The Club'!



When he left school aged 14 his father apprenticed him, without his prior knowledge or agreement, as a pattern maker at the Bromsgrove Guild. As an apprentice pattern maker Alan recalled making the patterns for the inscription for two bronze figures the Guild made in 1933 for Stretford Town Hall near Manchester. I set out to locate these figures. They are still to be found in Stretford, now Trafford Town Hall. The two large kneeling figures representing Niord and Electra 'were designed and executed by the Bromsgrove Guild Ltd., of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire'. I was delighted to be able to send Alan a booklet and photographs of the figures he had worked on some sixty years before⁵. On completion of his apprenticeship Alan moved from the Guild. He worked for companies such as Fords, and Ormrods of Bromsgrove before establishing his own pattern making company in Perry Lane, Bromsgrove.

I visited Alan and Florence on a number of occasions to talk about the Guild and the stained glass made there. In 1981 Alan wrote a series of seven interesting articles on the Bromsgrove Guild which were published in the Bromsgrove Messenger⁶.

Alan had such varied interests that it was sometimes difficult to keep him focused on a specific topic. He had been active in the Scout movement for many years, and will be remembered by many as Scout Master of the Evergreen Troop. He enjoyed travel and organised many scout visits, including trips to France, Germany, the Channel Islands and Sweden.

Alan was involved in an amateur football team with Bill Kings. Later he became a Freemason, was a member of Bromsgrove Round Table and, for thirty years, a member of the Bromsgrove Rotary Club.

Florence was Alan's constant companion. They first met when they were teenagers and were married for 62 years. Alan was devoted to his family - especially his two daughters, Maxine and Nicole, four grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

On a recent visit to Bewell Head I asked Alan if he had heard of Alfred Pike, a stained glass maker at Hewell Grange, Redditch, in the 1920s. At this Alan became quite excited, as he often did when talking about stained glass making. 'Alfred Pike' he said, 'he emigrated to Canada owing my father money'. Evidently Alfred Pike had been a family joke because of his apparent sudden disappearance while owing Harry Hodgetts money for stained glass work he had done in Pike's studio at Hewell. When Pike had a lot of work on he would employ Harry to help him at weekends and evenings. My reason for asking about Alfred Pike was that I had been researching his stained glass windows in the Bromsgrove-Redditch area. I had written to a number of authorities on stained glass seeking further information on this maker without success. I wrote an article on Pike and included the possibility of him emigrating to Canada, which I sent to the editor of the British Society of Master Glass Painters. The editor of the journal, a Canadian, made enquires in Canada on my behalf. Once again Alan was correct. Pike had emigrated to Canada and had set up his own successful stained glass company in Toronto, which I intend to research further.

My article was published recently⁷ and I intended to take a copy for Alan because in it I had acknowledged his help. Alas I was unable to do this as his daughter telephoned me to say that he had died of a heart attack.

Alan was keenly interested in our town and especially the Bromsgrove Guild. I wish to record my appreciation for his friendship and the invaluable help he gave to me, and to many others, who shared his interest in local history.

Alan Hodgetts passed away on 3 December, 2002.

References

1. In an interview with Bill Kings published in Watt, Quintin (Editor), *The Bromsgrove Guild An Illustrated History*, 1999, pp. 71-73.

Note: William Pearce and Ephraim Cutler were separate firms until 1920, so perhaps Henry Hodgetts worked for one or both before moving to Bromsgrove.

2. Davies Rev. D. and Davies J. *St. Paul's North Shore, Blackpool, 1899-1974*, 'three memorial windows of the First World War; a magnificent tribute to the craft and skill of the artist (A) J. Davies of the Bromsgrove Guild'.

3. Undated newspaper cutting with a report and photographs of the unveiling of two of the windows by A. J. Davies.

4. Richards, Alan, *Braziers, Builders of Bromsgrove 1850-1990*, 1996, 'the firm's (Braziers) best plasterer between the wars was Tom Allbutt (sic) who taught many other plasterers' p. 185, 'The best plasterers like Tom Allbutt were artists in the way they moulded decorative ceilings, cornices and friezes' p. 186.

5. Borough of Stretford, *Presentation and Unveiling of Bronze Groups*, Friday, 9th November, 1934. Trafford Metropolitan Borough, *Welcome to Trafford Town Hall*, 1990. 'Nlrod in Norse mythology is ruler of the winds and the sea', *Electra* represents one of the seven stars mentioned in Greek mythology

6. Hodgetts, Alan, in *Bromsgrove Messenger*, 1981, 21 and 28 August, 4, 11, 18, 25 September, and 2 October.

7. Albutt, Roy, 'Alfred Leonard Pike (1890-1976), *Stained Glass Maker and Designer*, *The Studio*, Hewell, Redditch, Worcestershire' in *The Journal of Stained Glass*, Vol. XXV, 2002. pp. 53-59.

Roy Albutt

Editor's Note:

Roy Albutt would be pleased to hear from anyone with information, documents or photographs concerning the work of the Bromsgrove stained glass makers, A.J. Davies (1877-1953) of The Bromsgrove Guild, and A.E. Lemmon (1889-1963) who had his own studio in the Strand from 1927 onwards, and was a teacher at the Art School in Bromsgrove.

He can be contacted at:- 11, Great Calcroft, Pershore, Worcs. WR10 1QS. Tel: 01386 552127.

Concert - "Roll Out The Barrel"

8th November 2003

The Famous Music Company Ltd. has agreed to stage a performance of this hugely successful touring show. "Roll Out The Barrel" has attracted rave reviews throughout the U.K. The Society will present this Concert to fund a further town sign. See enclosed leaflet for details.

"Roll Out the Barrel" is a nostalgic musical trip down memory lane. 2 hours of non-stop golden oldies. Roll back the years and bring back the memories.

Tickets at a cost of £10 per head are available through any member of the executive committee or from Terry Bradford, 21 Alvechurch Highway, Lydiate Ash, Bromsgrove B60 1NZ - Tel: 0121 453 3327.

All The Fun Of The Fair

Fair day this year will be held on Saturday 21 June when the Ancient Court Leet and Court Baron of the Manor of Bromsgrove will walk in procession through the town. At the Housman statue at 11 a.m. the Bailiff will proclaim the Charter and Conduct the Assize of Bread, Leather and Ale. At 12.15 p.m. he will open the pleasure fair on the recreation ground.

The High Street will, all day, be the scene of the Elizabethan Street Market where enthusiastic competition for the cup for the best stall is expected.

The Bromsgrove Society

Officers and Members of the Executive Committee 2002-2003

Officers:

President:	Graham Reddie, MBE, 41, East Road, Bromsgrove. B60 2NW	01527 872055
Acting 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:	John Rowlands, 34 Pine Grove, Lickey, Birmingham. B45 8HE	0121 445 3017
Newletter Editor:	Anne Maguire, 6 Broad Street, Bromsgrove B61 8LW	01527 871354
Secretary:	Mrs Marion Lancaster, 5, Carnforth Road Harwood Park, Bromsgrove B60 2HS	01527 871874

Committee:

Cyril Baker	551, Birmingham Road, Marlbrook Bromsgrove. B61 0HY	0121 445 3633
Neville Billington	(Chairman - Local History Group) 46, Arundel Road, Bromsgrove. B60 2HN	01527 870383
Roger Brazier	36 Harvington Road, Bromsgrove B60 2BA	01527 878889
Richard Guest,	(Secretary - Landscape Committee), 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
Miss June Longmuir	Hill Farm, Woodcote, Bromsgrove, B61 9DY	01527 832288
Ray Meredith,	“Hillborough”, Stoke Pound, Bromsgrove. B60 3AX	01527 831083
Mrs Jill Palmer	(Membership Secretary) 37 Fordhouse Road, Bromsgrove. B60 2LU	01527 871340
Robin Shaw	78, Kidderminster Road, Bromsgrove B61 7LD	01527 831426
John Sketchley	16, Brueton Avenue, Bromsgrove B60 2AW	01527 876626
Ron Skidmore	12, College Road, Bromsgrove. B60 2NE	01527 880196
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 2003/2004

2003

Tuesday 16 September

The Worcester-Birmingham Canal

Rev. Alan White

Tuesday 21 October

Discovering the Lift of John Cotton:

Bromsgrove's Victorian Architect, Local Historian, Painter and Poet

Jenny McGregor-Smith

Tuesday 18 November

Light and Colour: Bromsgrove's Stained Glass Windows and their Makers

Roy Albutt

Tuesday 2 December

Elijah Walton Artist: Birmingham to Bromsgrove via the Alps and Egypt

Pat Tansell

2004

Tuesday 17 February

In Bromsgrove's Secret Hills: The History of Chadwich Manor

George Gascoyne

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 Chairman has pleasure in inviting Members & Friends to a
Supper on Friday, 28th November 2003**

7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.

The Ladybird Inn, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove

Cost : £15 per person for a four-course meal

Further details in September Newsletter