

## BROSELEY CEMETERY CHAPEL



*Broseley Cemetery Chapel - an early photograph*

Broseley Cemetery was constructed by the firm of Millingtons and was opened in 1884, with the first burial taking place on 10 July 1885.

The Chapel itself is built entirely of local bricks and tiles and has a decorative bell tower. It is a wonderful example of local industry during the nineteenth century.

It has an unusually highly decorative floor for such a small chapel with the tiles being of exceptional quality. These tiles were made between 1868 and 1879 at the Craven Dunnill factory in Jackfield. The company manufactured the same tiles for one of its earliest and most prestigious contracts, the Palace Chambers in Westminster, London. These were part of the Foreign Office but have now been demolished.

It is probable that these tiles were surplus to requirements at the Palace Chambers and were a gift from the factory to the local community as it is unlikely that such an elaborately patterned floor would have been in the financial reach of the community. ►

After many years of disuse Broseley Town Council has now restored the building and opened it to the public.

Broseley Local History Society has provided two cabinets in which to display a number of local artefacts from the collection which the Society has in its possession.

These artefacts reflect Broseley's industrial past and include items made from iron ore and clay, both of which were extensively mined in the area.

The furniture in the chapel includes a rotating coffin rest as well as a bier which was used to take the coffin to the cemetery for burial.

All the other original fittings have been retained, while the Victorian light fittings were previously in use in St Giles' Church, Barrow.

On the wall is a framed tribute to George Pritchard, a local resident who was born in September 1793 and died on 24 December 1861. He was much respected in the community and, following his death, a gothic styled drinking fountain was erected in the centre of Broseley. This has since been demolished.

St Mary's Church, Jackfield, was also built in his memory.

*Broseley Cemetery Chapel today*

