

The History of Madeley

The name Madeley means 'Mac(d)la's clearing - Madda being an Anglo-Saxon personal name. The first surviving reference dates from A.D. 727 when Madeley was purchased by Mildburga of Wenlock Priory. Two curvilinear streets - Station Road and Church Street - probably relate to this early Saxon settlement.

At the time of the Domesday Survey Madeley was valued at 50 shillings and, in 1269, it achieved town status with the granting of a charter for a weekly market (probably sited at the eastern end of Park Avenue) and an annual fair. The planned town was aligned on an axial street, the Shifnal to Much Wenlock road and other streets have been identified as medieval lanes giving access to the open fields. Madeley remained part of the Borough of Wenlock until 1966 when it was absorbed by Dawley Urban District Council and became part of Telford New Town.

Wenlock Priory was dissolved in 1540 and its properties passed to the Crown. In 1544, Robert Brooke - later speaker of the House of Commons - bought the Manor of Madeley for £946. 3s. 8d. He built a new house, Madeley Court, on the site of an existing Priory Grange and the Brooke family owned the Manor until 1727.

During the Civil War Madeley was garrisoned, briefly, by Royalists in February 1645 and in April 1645 the Church was occupied by a troop of Parliamentarian soldiers. In 1650 Madeley provided a hiding place for the future Charles II during his escape after defeat at the battle of Worcester.

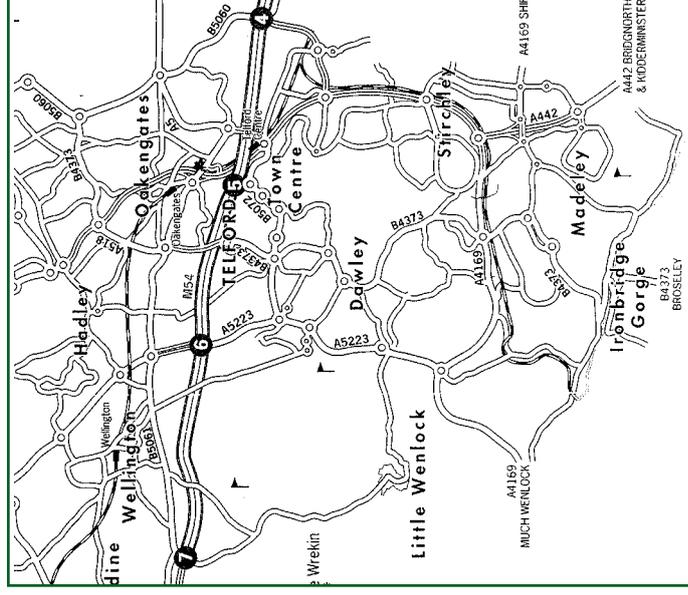
Mining had been taking place locally since at least the middle of the 13th century but between 1570 and 1670 the population apparently increased tenfold because of industrial expansion. In 1620, Sir Basil Brooke (grandson of Robert) built the first cementation steel furnace in England at Upper Forge, Coalbrookdale. In the early 18th century Abraham Darby I leased Madeley Court for a while.

In 1759 John Fletcher, friend of John Wesley and a leading light of the Methodist movement, became vicar of Madeley and the town became an important centre of non-conformism.

The 19th century saw many changes as improved communications and industrial expansion encouraged prosperity. The Madeley China Works opened in 1823 and new leisure facilities arrived - such as the Cricket Club in 1853. There were tragedies too. An 1832 cholera outbreak killed many locals and 1864 saw the town's worst mining disaster when nine miners, the youngest only 12 years old, fell to their deaths at the Brick Kiln Leasowe Pit.

The 20th century was a time of decline for the old industries and brought a change of status for the town. The last Madeley pit (Kemberton on Halesfield) closed in 1967 and the same decade saw Madeley become part of Dawley (later Telford) New Town. The end of the 1960s saw the rebuilding of the centre and the construction of the new estates of Sutton Hill and Woodside. At the beginning of the 21st century yet another makeover is underway (2009).

How to get to Madeley



Madeley Living History Project would like to thank Maggie Humphry, who did the illustrations, and all the people who contributed information for the trail.

MADELEY Living History Project



June 2009

Madeley Heritage Trail



Madeley Court. On site of Saxo-Norman Priory Grange. Present building dates from 16th - 17th century with later additions and alterations. Particularly fine gate house and interesting walled garden containing unusual 'astronomical toy' of probable 17th century date. (Number 32 on the trail)

- 1 Anstice Memorial Institute
- 2 Little Haye
- 3 Rest Room
- 4 Infant School
- 5 The Green (Crosshill)
- 6 Six Bells
- 7 National School
- 8 Old Vicarage
- 9 St. Michael's Church
- 10 Upper House & 'King Charles Barn'

- 11 Madeley Hall
- 12 Congregational Chapel
- 13 Old Cinema
- 14 War Memorial

- 15 Fletcher Memorial Centre
- 16 Polly Pritchard's shop
- 17 Jubilee House
- 18 Baptist Chapel
- 19 Madeley Stores
- 20 St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church
- 21 CHEC Centre
- 22 61-65 High Street
- 23 Lumley Hall
- 24 The People's Centre
- 25 The Royal Oak
- 26 Madeley High Street
- 27 Madeley Market Station
- 28 Stretch of Shropshire Canal
- 29 Lee Dingle Bridge
- 30 Baguley's Wind
- 31 All Nations Inn
- 32 Madeley Court



Madeley



1. Anstice Memorial Institute. 1868 to an Italianate design by John Johnston of London in memory of John Anstice of the Madeley Wood Company. Cost £3000 but burnt down four years later and rebuilt at cost of a further £2000.

Interesting interior including decorative turned woodwork.

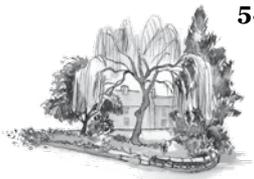
2. Little Haye. Probable medieval timber-framed 2 bay hall with 17th and 18th century additions.



3. Rest Room. Local philanthropist Robert Moore's gift to Madeley. Moore's original Rest Room, opposite Anstice Memorial Institute, demolished to make way for shopping centre in 1966.



4. Infant School. Built 1833 as first Methodist Chapel in Madeley. Used as Wesleyan schoolroom for poor children from 1841. Became C of E infants school in 1853. Closed in 1950s and now a private residence.



5. The Green (Crosshill) Site of a barn used by John Fletcher's widow Mary as a preaching venue. There is a memorial stone at the corner nearest the church. Site occupied by six cottages until 1930s.

6. Six Bells Named after the then peal of bells in St. Michael's. The right-hand end was once a shop owned by the Newbrook family.



7. National School. 1841. Sexes were separated with girls upstairs and boys downstairs. Later used for juniors until 1980s.

8. Old Vicarage. High status red brick building of c. 1700. Windows possibly painted to avoid window tax. John Fletcher lived here. The present vicarage was the curate's house.



9. St. Michael's Church. Original church built 12th century and may have replaced earlier Saxon structure. Rebuilt 1796 to a design by Thomas Telford. Recently-restored Brooke memorials are sited on the outside of the building. Graveyard contains many fascinating monuments and probably the best

collection of cast-iron memorials in the country including Fletcher's grave and that of the '9 Men of Madeley'. Recently restored interior.



10. Upper House & 'King Charles Barn'. Early 17th century timber-framed. Probably built 1621 for Wolfe family who sheltered Charles II in the house barn after the battle of Worcester. Later inhabited by the Legge family followed by W.G. Dyas one of Madeley's sporting heroes. The barn was used as a local market in 18th century and is now private flats.



11. Madeley Hall. High status red brick building of 17th century date. The Rotunda (formerly known as 'the Cockpit') was probably a horse mill. Home of the Yate family in 19th century. Major 'Cal' Yate (son of a former vicar of Madeley) won the VC in 1914 at Le Cateau. Sir Charles Yate founded the first Madeley Scouts in 1926 (Sir Charles Yate's Own). Now sheltered housing.



12. Congregational Chapel. Built 1874. Later the United Reform Chapel. The War Memorial used to stand outside on a spot originally occupied by a tree planted 1888 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Silver Jubilee.

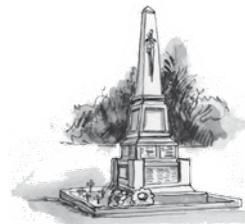


Chestnut trees mark the original road back to Church St.

13. Old Cinema. Built 1859 as a New Connexion Chapel. Closed early 1900s and became a cinema (the Parkhurst, later the West End, later the Regent). Now a private house. Upper end of Park St. and Park Lane contain a number of fine houses once inhabited by men who operated local pits under 'charter' from the landowners. Part of the area was once known as 'Chartermasters' Row'. Part of lower end of Park St. known was known locally as Malt House Bank after the malting house which stood up the hill on the left.



14. War Memorial. Relocated to present position during 1960s redevelopment at the request of the British Legion.



15. Fletcher Memorial Centre. Wesleyan Chapel built 1841. Named after Revd. John Fletcher, Vicar of Madeley and one of the founding fathers of Methodism.



16. Polly Pritchard's shop. Sweetshop whose owner was notorious for cutting sweets in half to get the right weight.

17. Jubilee House. Originally Market Hall built 1870. Later a nut and bolt factory (*Arcade Press Works* later *Jubilee Nut & Press Works*). Parish Council Offices since 1997. Barclays Bank and Lloyds Bank were both private houses while the Florists used to be Bryans – a high class tailor & outfitter.



18. Baptist Chapel Foundation stone laid 1819.



19. Madeley Stores. Childhood home of Matthew Webb pioneering Channel swimmer.

20. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. Built 1853 and one of the earliest Catholic Churches to be built in Shropshire. Preceded by a 'Mass House' now forming part of the presbytery.



21. CHEC Centre. Originally the Coopers Arms. The upper part was used as a police station by the end of WWI and the lower part was occupied by a boot and shoe manufacturer later Clissoles shoe shop.

22. 61 – 65 High Street. Earliest part reputed to have been built around 1570 and has a timber-framed core. Much restoration and later additions. At one time divided into five cottages converted into a single residence in 1980s.



23. Lumley Hall. Built 1858 as Madeley Court House. Main role was debt recovery. Service transferred to Wellington in 1950. Used as temporary meeting place for local Baptists in 1858. In 1950s used by St. Michael's as a church hall (popularly known as 'St. Mick's'). Also used as base for St. John Ambulance Brigade. In late 1960s it was nearly demolished but bought by TDC to provide facilities for young people. A youth club flourished for a time and the Careers Service had a brief presence there. In late 70s the Telford Amateur Boxing Club transferred its HQ there and the centre's music focus began to develop. Fascinating interior but in poor state of repair.

24. The People's Centre. Built 1862 as a Primitive Methodist Chapel famous for its magnificent organ. Fell into disuse in 1977 then opened as drop-in centre for unemployed in 1981. Since 1987 under local authority and community facility expanded. There is a well over 10m deep in the basement but it is not true that the basement (currently housing a print shop) was used for the storage of bodies – it was the Sunday School!



25. The Royal Oak. Licensed in 1831 its large function room provided space for various groups and activities. From 1847 until Lumley Hall opened in 1858 court sessions were held there. Madeley Cycling Club was formed there in 1896 and the Royal Oak Lodge of the Odd Fellows was founded by 1900. Ceased to function as a pub in 2009.



26. Madeley High Street.

Part of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site. Lower end of High Street originally known as Bridge St. probably from the old bridge which took the road across the Shropshire Canal. Later an iron girder bridge carried the Wellington to Coalport branch line (route of the 'Coalport Dodger'). The present bridge forms part of the route of the Silkin Way. Bridge St., Prince St. and Queen St., used to be known as 'Neck End' – apparently from the butchery term for cheaper, poorer quality meat implying this was the rougher, less desirable, end of town.



27. Madeley Market Station. One of two Madeley stations and opened 1860 built by Christopher Baguley landlord of the All Nations Inn. The line was run by the Coalport Branch Railway and later by LNWR. It ran from Wellington

through the eastern side of the parish to Coalport East. In 1929 became part of LMS. On this line the famous 'Coalport Dodger' carried many locals down to picnic on banks of the Severn. Closed to passengers in 1952 and goods yard in 1960. Line is now part of the Silkin Way. At canal end of Mill Lane was Mill House next to the Wash Brook Corn Mill. Lane used to be known as Barker's Lane after Dr. Barker the 18th century inventor of that type of mill. Mill ceased working in the early 20th century and all trace is now gone. Barker's Court preserves the inventor's name.

28. Stretch of Shropshire Canal.

Built c.1790. Fell into disuse early 20th century. This is the only surviving stretch of the canal in the parish outside Blists Hill Museum.



29. Lee Dingle Bridge. Built c.1859 to replace an earlier timber viaduct and used to carry coal, clay & ironstone from the Meadow Pit Colliery and others. No longer used for original

function by c. 1920 but used by pedestrians until the mid-20th century

30. Baguley's Wind. Inclined plane associated with Meadow Pit Colliery and others. Mid-19th century date but replaced an earlier tramroad dating from 1830s or earlier.



31. All Nations Inn. Licensed 1832 and tenanted for a time by the Baguley family who were also builders and responsible for construction of some of the nearby industrial remains. The All Nations still brews its own ale despite one gap in the practice. They had a famous quoits team which included Mike Evans the All England quoits champion in the early 20th century.