



Historical Association

The voice for history

HA REGIONAL RESOURCES

SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS: SHROPSHIRE



The individuals listed here have been collated by members and affiliates of the Historical Association Primary Committee for use as a starting point to think about framing a local study around an individual and/or an important site. The list represents the collated research of the author and is by no means an exhaustive list. In their research, every effort has been made for representation and balance, but as is the nature of significance, different people will know of different people locally who they feel are significant to them. If you think there is someone that should be included on the list for your local area – let us know!

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Alun has lived and worked in Shropshire for 34 years as a teacher and adviser for history. He has been involved in developing resources for the national curricula with a particular interest in developing the local dimension as a way in to national and international history, and believes that Shropshire is a very rich resource for this approach. Some individuals listed here might form a full block of study, whereas others can be used as the basis of a short sequence.



SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS: SHROPSHIRE



SIGNIFICANT PERSON

LOCATION

BIO SUMMARY & SUGGESTED ENQUIRY QUESTIONS

HISTORICAL PERIOD

USEFUL LINKS

EGLANTYNE JEBB
Social Reformer

Ellesmere

She initially worked as a teacher and then due to ill health travelled in Europe where she witnessed the suffering of children in war. As a result, she formed Save the Children.

Late Victorian/
20th Century

[History Hit](#)
[Save the Children](#)



A world-famous woman who is relatively unknown in her home county, so a valid question to explore could be “Why should we remember her?”. Would also fit in to a broader topic of people who help us, or topicality when Save the Children feature in the news.

ADMIRAL BENBOW
Naval Officer

Newport

An officer of the Royal Navy who achieved fame during the War of the Spanish Succession. Instigated the trial and imprisonment of a number of captains who refused to support him while commanding a squadron of ships.

17th Century

[Wikipedia](#)
[History Today](#)



Does he deserve the monument to commemorate him in Shrewsbury? What did he do that makes him famous? Did he do anything bad? How should we remember controversial individuals? For older children this could be linked to Clive of India.

BILLY WRIGHT
Footballer

Ironbridge

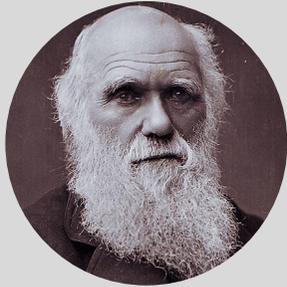
The first player in the world to reach 100 international caps for his country. His marriage to Joy Beverley of the Beverley Sisters is the equivalent of the Posh and Becks of recent years.

20th Century

[Wikipedia](#)
[Independent Obituary](#)



He only played for one club and a comparison of his career compared to football today should provide an interest array of similarities and differences.

| SIGNIFICANT PERSON | LOCATION | BIO SUMMARY & SUGGESTED ENQUIRY QUESTIONS | HISTORICAL PERIOD | USEFUL LINKS |
|--|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| <p>CHARLES DARWIN Naturalist and Biologist</p>  | <p>Shrewsbury</p> | <p>Born in Shrewsbury in 1809, he was fascinated with the natural world around him. Much of his time was spent examining mini beasts and creatures which led on to his famous book 'On the Origin of Species'.</p> <p>Links to Year 2 science are obvious and comparisons to a modern naturalist such as David Attenborough could challenge older children.</p> | <p>Victorian</p> | <p>Charles Darwin & Evolution 1809-2009</p> <p>Soft Schools Charles Darwin Timeline</p> <p>Charles Darwin Facts for Kids</p> |
| <p>CLIVE OF INDIA First British Governor of the Bengal Presidency</p>  | <p>Market Drayton</p> | <p>A controversial person on both a personal and wider historical stage. He did much to carry out the British conquest of India and establish the links between Britain and India that last to the present.</p> <p>With older children a question could focus around how we should remember him, or could be linked to a comparison with Admiral Benbow.</p> | <p>Victorian</p> | <p>BBC Shropshire</p> |
| <p>MARY WEBB Novelist</p>  | <p>Leighton</p> | <p>A local author who was inspired to write poetry and novels by the Shropshire countryside.</p> <p>How can we use our local countryside to inspire poetry? Developing creative writing may be interesting using Webb as a stimulus example to develop literacy links.</p> | <p>18th/19th Century</p> | <p>The Mary Webb Society</p> <p>Shropshire Tourism</p> |

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USEFUL LINKS

ABRAHAM DARBY III Ironmaster



Coalbrookdale

The world's first iron bridge (The Iron Bridge) is a remarkable construction and a World Heritage Site.

18th Century

[BBC Shropshire](#)

[English Heritage](#)

Asking why it is so special is important and links could be made to a number of elements of Key Stage 1 Design & Technology. Although made of iron all of the joints are woodworking joints as this was the technology of the builders. Within two miles of the bridge are three other bridges from different times and construction so could feature as design comparisons and further develop the D&T link.

JOHN WILKINSON Industrialist



Broseley

Branded John 'Iron-Mad' Wilkinson. Wilkinson made cast iron and all sorts of things out of iron including cannon, boats, the first iron bridge in the world. He is buried in an iron coffin - truly iron mad.

18th Century

[BBC Historic Figures](#)

Why would someone be iron mad? Possible link to the materials section in science.

CAPTAIN MATTHEW WEBB Swimmer



Dawley

The first person to swim the English Channel - at the time this was thought to be an impossible task.

Victorian

[Dawley Heritage](#)

[Channel Swimming Association](#)

How has swimming changed since Captain Webb's day? What is swimming the English Channel like today - how has it changed?

SIGNIFICANT PERSON**LOCATION****BIO SUMMARY & SUGGESTED ENQUIRY QUESTIONS****HISTORICAL PERIOD****USEFUL LINKS****PERCY THROWER****Gardener and Broadcaster**

Shrewsbury

Britain's first TV gardener and the Blue Peter garden designer.

20th Century

[BBC Shropshire](#)

Enquiries could look at the work of a garden designer and how that has changed to the modern celebrity gardeners such as Monty Don. Practical developments could include designing gardens for the school grounds. Some primary schools hold gold awards from the RHS – an inspirational target indeed!

THOMAS TELFORD**Civil Engineer**

Shropshire

Although born in Scotland, Telford spent much of his career in Shropshire – giving his name to the largest town in the county. He built roads, canals, bridges, aqueducts, and churches across the county.

18th/19th Century

[Shropshire Tourism](#)

Why is Telford named Telford could be a good investigation, or an investigation into the man who built rivers in the sky might engage young children looking at the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

EDITH MARY PARGETER**(Pen name Ellis Peters)
Author**

Horsehay

Possibly most famous for her creation of Brother Cadfael, the Benedictine detective monk living in Shrewsbury Abbey who solved medieval mysteries through his knowledge of herbs and plants.

20th Century

[Wikipedia](#)

By exploring how plants help us, links could be made to the Year 1 science curriculum.

| SIGNIFICANT PERSON | LOCATION | BIO SUMMARY & SUGGESTED ENQUIRY QUESTIONS | HISTORICAL PERIOD | USEFUL LINKS |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| <p>ROWLAND LORD HILL British Army Officer</p>  | <p>Hawkstone</p> | <p>On top of the tallest Doric column in the world stands the statue of Lord Hill. Many people think he is linked to the postage stamp but his story is of one of Wellington's most loyal and best generals.</p> <p>Posing the question 'Who was Lord Hill?' is a valid investigation. His life is remarkable and the fact that the column was built from public subscription during his lifetime shows how he was loved and admired.</p> | <p>18th/19th Century</p> | <p>Friends of Lord Hill's Column</p> |
| <p>THOMAS DUTTON 'Shropshire Giant'</p> <p>WILLIAM BALL 'Shropshire Giant'</p>  | <p>Stoke on Tern Horsehay</p> | <p>These are two local giants of men. Starting with 'Once There Were Giants' by Martin Waddell an examination can be developed into the idea of giants. In the book the giants are ordinary adults but Thomas (7'3" tall) and William (40 stone +) were real people.</p> <p>Their stories can develop an understanding of real giants and of numeracy.</p> | <p>Victorian</p> | <p>Dawley Heritage</p> |
| <p>WILLIAM PENNY BROOKES Surgeon and Educationalist</p>  | <p>Much Wenlock</p> | <p>A local doctor who reinvented the modern Olympics and inspired Baron de Coubertin. The Wenlock Olympics are still held every year.</p> <p>An enquiry could be around how the modern Olympics have changed in terms of sport and prizes over the years. A comparison of the Wenlock and world Olympics may also be interesting. Articles on Brookes and the Wenlock Olympics featured in Primary History 58.</p> | <p>Victorian</p> | <p>BBC Shropshire</p> <p>Wenlock Olympian Society</p> |

| SIGNIFICANT PERSON | LOCATION | BIO SUMMARY & SUGGESTED ENQUIRY QUESTIONS | HISTORICAL PERIOD | USEFUL LINKS |
|--|------------|---|-------------------|---|
| WILFRED OWEN Poet  | Oswestry | Wilfred Owen was one of the most famous WWI poets. He was killed in France exactly one week before the war ended. The local story is that his parents received the letter telling them of his death just as Shrewsbury Abbey bells rang out the armistice at the end of the street. His most famous poem is probably 'Dulce et Decorum Est'. A focus on Owen around Armistice Day could be effective. | 20th Century | British Library The Wilfred Owen Association |
| AGNES HUNT Nurse  | Baschurch | Despite suffering a disability herself, Agnes is thought to be the world's first orthopaedic nurse. She devoted her life to nursing and has left a huge legacy in the treatment of disabled adults and children. Comparison to the achievements of someone like Florence Nightingale would be interesting, or a comparison to the work of modern nurses. | 19th/20th Century | Wikipedia |
| FRANCIS MOORE Physician  | Bridgnorth | Francis Moore was self-taught and rose to become a doctor at the court of Charles II. His Old Moore's Almanack was one of the best-selling publications throughout the 18th and 19th centuries and is still published today. What is an almanac? What information does it contain? | 17th Century | Wikipedia |
| THOMAS PARR (Old Parr)  | Alberbury | Was said to have lived for 152 years. How old is old? Old Tom Parr allegedly lived to be 152 years old. Do you think he lived from 1482/3 to 1635? What is the evidence? | Tudor | Westminster Abbey |

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USEFUL LINKS

JOHN TALBOT, EARL OF SHREWSBURY

Nobleman and Military Commander



Whitchurch

He was one of the greatest warriors of his day in the Hundred Years War and came to symbolise the idea of chivalrous knights. His exploits were renowned and he featured in plays by Shakespeare.

Should we honour such a man?

15th Century

[Wikipedia](#)

THOMAS MINTON

Potter



Caughley

Founded Thomas Minton & Sons which developed into a major ceramic manufacturing company with an international reputation.

What is the story of the Willow Pattern and why was it developed? The work of Minton could be compared to other potters such as Emma Bridgewater, Wedgwood or Clarice Cliff. This could link very well to both Design & Technology and literacy requirements.

18th/19th Century

[The Willow Pattern Story](#)

HENRY ECKFORD

Horticulturalist



Wem

The story of the Sweet Pea. Born in Edinburgh, Eckford was a Scottish horticulturalist who moved to Wem in 1888 where he established Eckford's Nursery. Nearby Boreatton Park gave its name to one of his sweet pea varieties.

What did he do and how did he do it? Links to the plants element in science could be developed. To support the enquiry, the seeds can be grown and the scent enjoyed – all thanks to Henry Eckford.

19th Century

[Shropshire Tourism](#)

[Wikipedia](#)

SIGNIFICANT PERSON**LOCATION****BIO SUMMARY & SUGGESTED ENQUIRY QUESTIONS****HISTORICAL PERIOD****USEFUL LINKS****RICHARD REYNOLDS**
Ironmaster

Coalbrookdale

A Shropshire ironmaster who married into the Darby family and was heavily involved in the Coalbrookdale works. He gave away thousands of pounds to a range of charities throughout his life.

A question around why we support charities might be an interesting enquiry, particularly when linked in to modern charity activities.

18th Century

[Wikipedia](#)**WILLIAM REYNOLDS**
Ironmaster

Ketley

A Shropshire ironmaster, his most famous invention was the inclined plane for use in raising canal boats.

There are possible close links to science investigations involving forces. There are also close links to other local iron masters including the Darbys.

18th/19th Century

[Wikipedia](#)**HESBA STRETTON**
Children's Author

Wellington

Hesba was a Victorian children's author (real name Sarah Smith) who has largely been forgotten due to changes in fashion. Hesba was also responsible for establishing the NSPCC.

A comparison of her books with a popular modern children's author could be interesting. Enquiries could focus on the role of the NSPCC, leading into an investigation of Stretton.

19th Century

[Curiosmith](#)
[Heritage](#)
[Literature](#)[Wikipedia](#)