

Ludlow Heritage News

No. 8 September 1987

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LOUDOW CIVIC SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Members of the Society generally, and the Committee in particular, are concerned with their environment. For the last two years both members and members of the general public have been invited to make their preferences known during 'Environment Week'.

Last year we received an excellent response to our questionnaire and discovered that high on the list of dislikes was the old Clifton Cinema – that has now been demolished – see photograph. We await the completion of the new sheltered accommodation with interest.

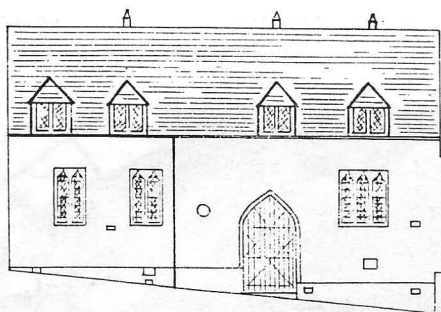


This year we invited specifically the younger generations to take part in especially-designed 'Know your Town' quizzes. Unfortunately, the 'Week' is nationally timed and it clashes with the arrival of our May Fair – this may account for the disappointing return by 'older' students. However the two infants schools and the County Junior School both produced some keen young entrants.

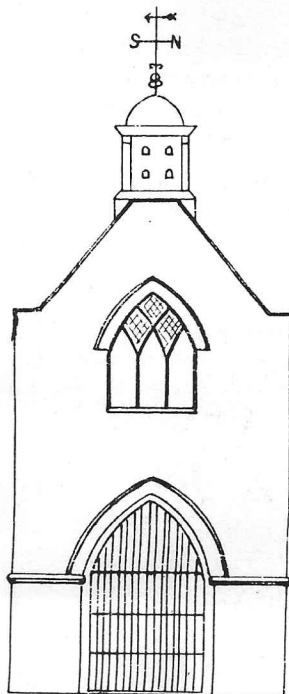
Drawings were provided by Henry Hand, who we are delighted has been elected to the Committee. His detailed knowledge of vernacular architecture is a bonus indeed. Can you find the 'deliberate mistakes' in the drawings of buildings illustrated? (answers on page 7)

It was a joy to read the comments which appeared on the many sheets with regard to these 'mistakes'.

Some youngsters, and their parents, had very carefully worked their way through the questions, and studied each building illustrated on site.



Katie Bryan spotted the deliberate mistakes in the drawing of the Schoolroom at Ludlow College, she also learned the word mullion – and she is only six years old.

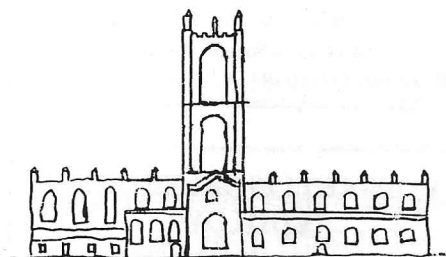
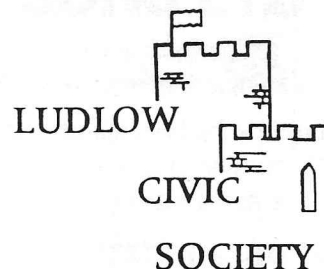


Christopher James not only pointed out the 'correct' mistakes, but also pointed out the large hook missing from the drawing of St Thomas's Chapel, plus the fact that if you stand immediately in front of the building, it is impossible to see the weather vane.

Matthew Warren pointed out that the SSDC notice giving a very brief history of the Chapel of St Thomas was missing from the drawing, he also spotted the 'correct' mistakes.

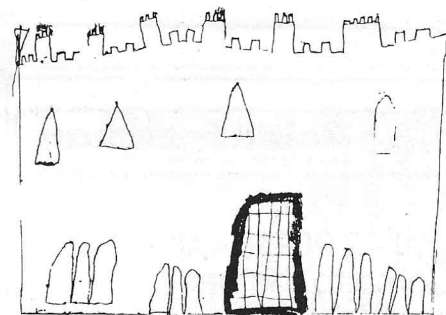
Some youngsters may have been a little bewildered by the question 'When Ludlow was a walled town, how many gates did it have?' We expected them to go to the Broadgate, where there is a plaque stating there were seven gates in the town wall. However, some very keen youngsters checked on this by referring to books on the town's history. They discovered that not only were there seven gates in the town wall, but there was an eighth gate in Corve Street – the Bar of Corve – which would have been found just below the present Carmelite Friary site. Those young people had bonus marks.

Top of the poll of 'favourite buildings' listed by those who entered the competition was the Parish Church – drawn here by Katie Bryan – Katie 'liked the patterns and the style'.



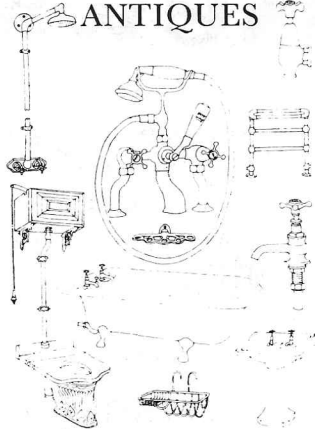
Anthony Davies (5) – 'because it is beautiful'
James Adams (7) – 'because it has bells'
Kate Callender (5) – 'I like it'
Darren Jennings (7) – 'I like to hear the sound of bells'
Thomas Rew (5) – 'because you can hear music from it'

(Although there is now a keen band of people anxious to establish a bell-ringing team in Ludlow, we understand that major work is necessary to both the church clock and the chimes. Although likely to prove costly, it would be wonderful to have the clock, chimes and bells all in perfect working order again. Perhaps investigations could also be carried out into the 'mechanisation' of the curfew.)



The Castle – drawn for us by Richard Hughes.
Richard (6) – likes the castle because he likes 'armour'
Louise Butler (6) – 'because you can walk around it and go inside'
Benjamin Rew (7) – 'because it is very old and a long time ago people lived there'
Kim Wilson (6) – 'because it is lovely to walk round'
Wayne Stewardson (7) – 'because it is old and very interesting'
Simon Bownes (6½) – 'because it guarded Ludlow'

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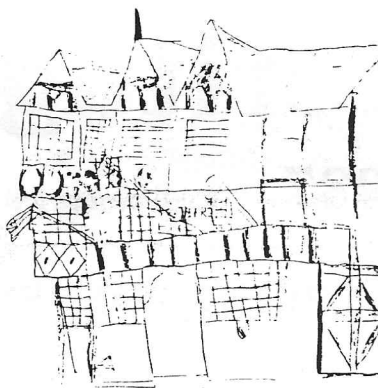


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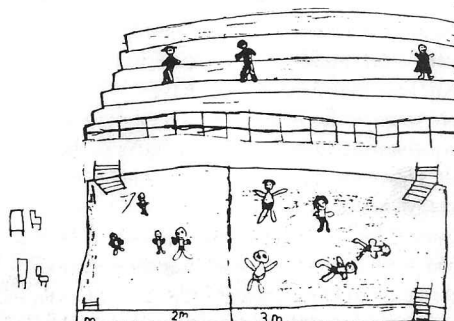
The Feathers, drawn by David Paddock (6), was also voted a favourite building by Wayne Merrick (7) – both gave as their reason liking the 'black and white timber work'.

The Buttercross, drawn by Christopher Edwards, was voted favourite 'because it is in the heart of Ludlow', and by Catherine Farnham, 'because the Museum is there'.

Members of the Committee have expressed their concern as to the future of Ludlow Museum. The Society is pressing for action on the development of this civic amenity as soon as possible.

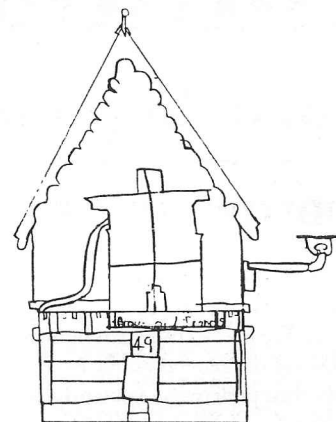


James Kinsey produced the drawing of the swimming pool – rather full – perhaps we should be pressing for improvements here too – it is obviously a much-used amenity.



Kevin Jones (7) voted for St Peter's – because 'it is where I was christened'. Unfortunately Kevin did not keep his drawing and so it cannot be reproduced here.

Christopher James (age 7) drew 49 The Bullring, one of our more distinguished shop fronts.



Among older entrants, David Sale and Charlotte Billinge, both first-year pupils at the Junior School, made a plea for more playing fields. We sympathise, but also refer them to the marvellous natural amenities which abound for young people in the Ludlow area.

However, Helen Schwarz, Jenny Senior and Matthew Shaw were all concerned for the appearance of the town generally, making pleas for more flowers and less litter.

Litter on floor of Ludlow telephone kiosk



We congratulate all business proprietors and householders who have very obviously tried to brighten the town. Tower Street boasts two hanging baskets this year, and King Street not only has hanging baskets, but a window box as well. All Ludlovians have probably come to expect the magnificent displays to be seen each year outside De Greys, Walton's, the Church Inn and the Feathers, however there has been a distinct spread of 'floral goodwill'. This has been very noticeable in Lower Corve Street, where the town has really blossomed out with both window boxes and hanging baskets.



Members may remember that the Society offered to contribute towards a floral display at the Buttercross – this did not come to fruition, despite the goodwill shown by the Town Council, because of problems of keeping the boxes/baskets watered. With the spread of flowers into the containers provided by South Shropshire District Council on Castle Square, we may really achieve a brighter image next year.

The Dog Warden armed with a camera may have positive results with regard to fouling of pavements by our canine friends – we certainly hope so. Perhaps the braver citizens among us would similarly arm themselves to 'snap' the persistent litter louts who give our town such a run-down appearance.

The Society has recently appealed to the local authority with regard to the control of fly-posting in the town – no space is safe – telegraph poles, post boxes and any blank wall or empty shop is soon covered with out-of-date tatty posters which are left to peel off in time, rather than removed immediately after the event advertised. We await the result of our appeal – this is a problem which should be controlled especially within the Conservation area of the town.

Another problem which concerns members of the Society is dilapidations. Some Ludlow properties are very obviously becoming run-down to such an extent that they could become irredeemable.



Some properties in Lower Broad Street have been empty for years and are crying out for restoration – similar properties in need of restoration are to be found in both Old Street and Mill Street. It is to be hoped that sympathetic owners are found for all these properties. They are vital to the Ludlow streetscape.



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Some properties have come into the hands of caring owners –

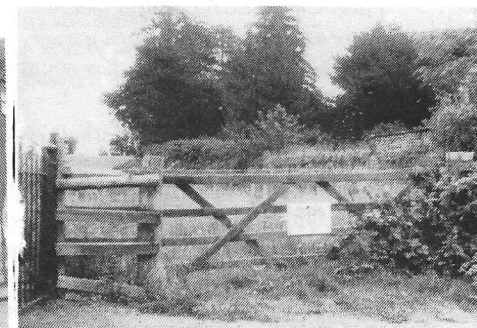
12 King Street 1986



12 King Street 1987



The Committee has also made representation to the County Footpaths Officer with regard to a footpath at Ludford. We await the result of our representation, however, any member of the public who has used the footpath, and wishes to make his or her own representation should do so without delay. The Society still holds one or two official forms which can be used for this purpose. Please contact the Secretary.



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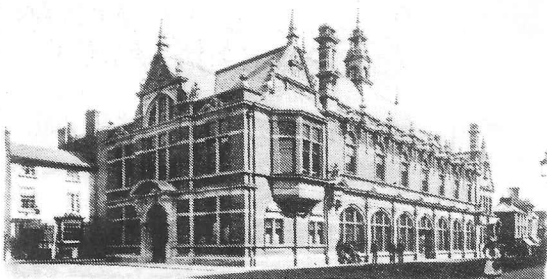
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THE TOWN HALL or THE STATELY PLEASURE DOME by A BEWILDERED BURGESS

(With apologies to the late, great Stanley Holloway)

There was a famous municipal building
Lying within South Shropshire's sphere,
That filled some men with admiration
And caused others to choke in their beer.
Its style were roccocco and florid –
All curly stone and virulent brick –
A marvel of Victorian Renaissance,
That would have made Michelangelo sick.
It stood on a prime site in the centre
Of an ancient and beautiful borough,
Thereby effectively blocking a fine view,
In a manner successful and thorough.
Rectangular was its erection,
Two storeys up in the sky,
Totally out of keeping,
Like a monstrous veal and ham pie.



Town Hall shortly after completion

It were built for the Jubilee of Victoria,
Whose taste has been often abused,
Though fair play, when she learnt of this tribute,
She said that she were not amused.
Still as a building it had its uses –
Kind of body and soul equations,
The bottom half being a market,
The upper for social occasions.
At far end lay a stately chamber,
Wi' pictures of Mayors on't wall,
From where, like t' Doges of Venice,
The Town Council kept Town in thrall.
Far-reaching were their deliberations,
Their decisions filled many wi' dread,
But in looking after t' citizens' welfare,
They forgot to keep a roof o'er their head.

For in this sombre, palatial edifice
The construction left much to be desired,
So it were perhaps just as well for t' architect
That long ago he'd expired.

As the townsfolk began to notice –
Being, most of them, far-seeing chaps –
That bits of stone were falling from t' copings,
Which passing pensioners caught in their caps.
The walls began to show quite an affinity
For those on each side of the square,
By beginning to bulge out towards 'em
In a manner disturbing and queer.

So they called for a report from t' experts,
Whose qualifications were many and various,
On t' safety of this voluminous structure,
Which hung over the folk, quite precarious.
The experts came and examined,
Then gave their solemn opinion that –
They could see no possible reason
Why at any moment it shouldn't fall flat.
The Councillors stood aghast and all anguished –
For the ratepayers they could see nothing but trouble
From t' claims of t' widows and orphans,
And those they dug out of t' rubble.
So being apt men at decisions,
They resolved expeditious and slick,
To get in demolition contractors
And knock the blighter down – quick!

They had hoped to save t' old market
From being turned out int' cold,
And those stark Victorian urinals –
All wet brick, chipped tile and green mould,
But safety of burgesses must be paramount,
And bottom half were no better than t' top –
So word were sent to demolishers
To give the whole works, the big chop.
So twice fifty yards of fertile ground
On which this Town Hall reposed,
Had a high fence whipped around it
And to one and all it were closed.
The contractors came with their lorries,
They came in their dumpers and tippers,
They came with a vast yellow crane
Which attracted the townfolk and trippers.

Within a week they'd levelled the top floor
And damaged the prize statue of Jones,
Another week it were down to ground level,
All safely done with no breakage of bones.
The site were very soon cleared completely
Then tarmaced wi' neatness and care,
And somewhat to the inhabitants' astonishment
They found themselves with a grand, open square.
There were now a fine approach to t' castle,
Adding dignity to that stately, old ruin –
And apart from a feeling of freedom,
Prices could see what Kwiksave were doin'.
Meanwhile poor market traders,
Purveyors of carrot or crumpet,
Were sent to an old Council garage,
Which if they didn't like, they could lump it.

It were draughty, it were dark, it were far off –
Their complaints were crescendoes, not squeaks,
They urged it were entirely unsuitable
For selling sausages, saucepans or leeks.
But soon came an end to their discomfort,
They were whisked back to the old Town Hall site
And found themselves richly accomodated
Under stalls that were crimson and white.



Many took to this coloured
For most markets are in t' d
But whether they'll think sa
Is some 'ut to which I'd no
When market is not peddling
The square is all spacious a
They've put several seats n
But not yet a stand for t' ba
For the Council very wisely
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In deciding what bird shou
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They let it be known to the
For a year they would be h
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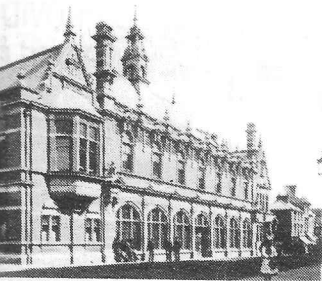
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Wi' a market on top, then a
Like a great, big, messy, jar

There were those of a sporti
Who fancied a games' audit
Whilst others, with an eye t
Were for a Harrod's or Deb
Amongst t' voters were som
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A few were for a lake ornam
With some ducks and, mayb
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For t' Town Council to sail
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Meanwhile poor market traders,
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Were sent to an old Council garage,
Which if they didn't like, they could lump it.

It were draughty, it were dark, it were far off –
Their complaints were crescendoes, not squeaks,
They urged it were entirely unsuitable
For selling sausages, saucepans or leaks.
But soon came an end to their discomfort,
They were whisked back to the old Town Hall site
And found themselves richly accommodated
Under stalls that were crimson and white.



Many took to this coloured creation –
For most markets are in t' open air,
But whether they'll think same in midwinter,
Is some 'ut to which I'd not swear.
When market is not peddling and trading
The square is all spacious and grand,
They've put several seats now upon it
But not yet a stand for t' band.
For the Council very wisely decided
That a go-slow would be the best game
In deciding what bird should rise from t' ashes,
'Fore they attracted more blame to their name.
They let it be known to the punters
For a year they would be holding their hand,
Would meanwhile consult the stout burgesses
And the thin ones, what should be planned.

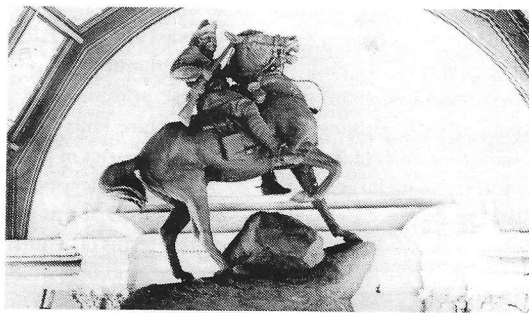
This caused the best brains to ponder
As to what best might be done wi' the space,
What would be the most satisfactory make-up
To preserve that charming old face.
The ideas came in fast and furious,
There were propositions in reams,
They varied from the practical to nohow
And some were received like bad dreams,
Such as a sixteen floor flat erection –
All crude concrete and ghastly, green glass –
Which if planning law should allow it,
Then as Bumble says: 'T' law is an ass'.
There were that for an underground cinema
For musicals, westerns or smutty,
Wi' a market on top, then an hotel,
Like a great, big, messy, jam butty.

There were those of a sporting persuasion,
Who fancied a games' auditorium,
Whilst others, with an eye to the fast buck,
Were for a Harrod's or Debenhams' emporium.
Amongst t' voters were some more high minded,
Fearful that some plan might demean us,
So they put forward a project
Of great fountains and statues of Venus.
A few were for a lake ornamental,
With some ducks and, maybe, a swan –
And, perhaps, South Staffs. might sport a state barge
For t' Town Council to sail thereon.
Now those with a bent horticultural,
Swearers by compost and peat,
Were for fuschias and massed floribunda,
Wi' lawns that were soft to the feet.



Market traders, course, wanted a market –
 Red lacquered and gleaming, white tile –
 To attract the patrons with something exotic,
 In the Chinese Restaurant style.
 But the more progressive were of the opinion
 That before t' Council reached a decision,
 They should ask the architects of the nation
 To enter a prize competition,
 To produce the best building or solution
 For this plot, that were worth pots o' money,
 To submit their entries, all serious,
 With ne'er a one that was funny.

'That's all very well,' said t' Council –
 Their voices fair fanged wi' frost –
 'For people to make such proposals,
 But we'd have to find prizes and cost!'
 At this there arose in t' Council –
 A dispute, democratic and hearty,
 As to what should be given for t' main prize,
 And all this regardless of party.
 The question were pursued to its limits,
 Right down to the bottom-most dregs,
 When they all resolved to give the Statue
 Of the Man on the Horse wi' cracked legs.



The 'horse' which now has 'cracked legs'

So still the whole question bubbles
 And boils like a great brewer's vat –
 For never will they please all t' voters,
 You, at least, can be certain of that.
 But really I've great respect for t' Councils,
 So this is written with malice towards nun,
 And I'm sure those on such bodies realise
 Their good efforts may be mocked at in fun.

Now I'm just a nasty newcomer,
 So you may say it nun of my 'biz',
 But I pray, and I pray most devoutly,
 That they'll leave this fine square as it is.

Derrick Banks

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THE TOWN FOREST

With the adoption of our French 'twin', Ludlovians should not only remember the origins of our Norman planned town, but the fact that we have, since very early times, a town forest in the continental tradition.

An introduction to the Forest is given here – we congratulate the staff of the Forestry Commission in their recent award of the Certificate of Merit in the Duke of Cornwall's Award for 1987 for the Ludlow block of Mortimer Forest.

This Certificate details the uses of the forest – wood production, nature conservation and amenity areas for the public, and goes on to say –

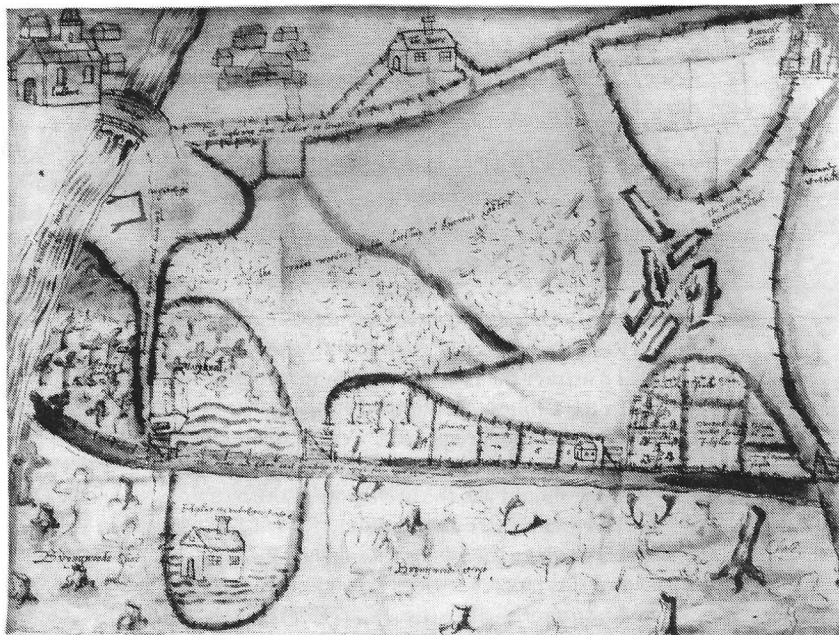
'Much care has been taken by the Forestry Commission to provide for these requirements, in addition to maintaining the important wood production functions of the forest. The recreational facilities are carefully planned, the wildlife values have been improved by judicious clearing and planting of broad-leaves, widening of rides, the creation of ponds and deer lawns, and the impact of the forest on the landscape is also carefully preserved. All this being achieved by the careful and economic use of relatively small resources.'

What is a Forest?

The definition of town is perhaps an easy concept, although the divide between village and town can be a vague area. Forests are a rather different problem however. The basic difficulty being that in Britain we have little real sense of forest. The word itself conjures up an image of a rather vast tract of trees, probably coniferous, with overtones of Scandinavia or the Schwarzwald (Black Forest) of southern Germany. Our lack of indigenous forest cover within living memory, or even two or three generations ago, is to blame for our lack of familiar-

ity and perhaps our relative unease about living in a forest.

We have come to love the 'edge' effect, with the larger vistas out from the forest to hills and valleys beyond and the Wordsworthian scorn of 'alien' larch trees in the Lake District typifies the English love of open country. Our English indigenous forests are mainly broadleaved in character, viz. the New Forest, Forest of Dean, Wyre Forest, Charnwood Forest, Epping Forest, Forest of Bere and so on, and because of their often fragmented nature, with much open grazing and glades, we regard these as large *woodlands*; the difference from forest is not just in the semantics! The particularly English landscapes of parks and chases, often associated with deer (e.g. Haye Park and Bringewood Chase) are other woodland types and names we are familiar with, although Thetford Chase on the brecklands of Norfolk and Suffolk is a true forest, being largely pine trees planted from 1920 onwards.



Map (1577) of 'parte of the Chase of Bringewood and of certayne groundes adjoining'

Our Scottish friends have had 'real' forests for hundreds of years, stemming mainly from the great Caledonian pine forests such as in the Great Glen, although we are all familiar with the map notation 'forest' where no trees exist, such as Clun Forest; the implication being a much earlier cover of trees, probably native hardwoods such as oak, cherry, hazel, holly, birch and ash.

Forest Policy

Thus in whatsoever guise you determine them, we now have forests, from our local Mortimer Forest, an aggregation of very varied woodlands in South Shropshire/North Herefordshire to the vast tracts of Kielder Forest in Northumberland and perhaps back to our own Wyre Forest, administered with Mortimer and Shropshire Hills Forests to form the Marches Forest District of the Forestry Commission.

Since the inception of the Forestry Commission in 1919, forest policy has varied a great deal in terms of acquisition policy, species preference, and objectives of management, of which the principal one has always been timber production, our renewable natural resource. Latterly, nature conservation has taken on a much greater importance in management prescriptions, with the advent of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and the need to be good stewards of our land, its flora and fauna.

Earlier than this, however, on the coattails of the 1949 Countryside Act, forests started to be used as a recreational resource. It quickly became clear that the continental lessons of forests absorbing high numbers of people could be learnt here too, and in the early seventies, the Forestry Commission issued a formal recreation policy. The basic tenets of this were the provision of car parks and forest walks to afford the greatest number of people the greatest amount of opportunity for exercise and fresh air. As taxpayers, they could consider that they were already paying for it!



Other specialist recreation has continued to grow in the forest, but the ideal uses are those which do not conflict with the basic virtue of the forest. Horse-riding, archery, wayfaring, orienteering (where it avoids sensitive ecological sites), fishing, all fall into this category. The more esoteric and which make specific provision demands are motor-sports, shooting and sponsored walks and even war-games. You will think of many other recreational uses of the forest, but the function is clear. Even the Basis III planting grant to private woodlands owners in the late seventies had a mandatory clause which imposed on an owner the need to discuss public access possibilities with the local authority.

The subtle change of the last year or two has been to target recreation closer to where the populace actually live. The great mobility of the post-war years is here to stay, but the realisation that not everyone has access to a car, the more enlightened policies of rail and bus companies, and the high cost of long-distance motoring has enhanced the need to provide facilities closer to home.

The Countryside Commission, the agency of Government devoted to the provision and monitoring of recreation in the countryside, has been at the back of the movement and has done a great deal of work with the local authorities and private organisations in providing such facilities. Good examples of these are the local authority country parks such as Queenswood on Dinmore Hill.

block via Bringewood Chase, High Vinnals, Haye Park, Mary Knoll and Whitcliffe. Of course, you can walk on forest roads and public footpaths throughout the forest too, but the waymarking is designed not to tame a wilderness, but to give walkers confidence to explore what is often difficult terrain in which to navigate.

Within the coming months, signboards will be erected at both car parks to complement the waymarking posts now in position and the walks will be officially open. A local publication, 'Mortimer Forest' will also be available this autumn describing the forest and its walking facilities, both adjacent to Ludlow, and also at Colstey Wood near Bishop's Castle and the access through Forestry Commission woodlands at the Croft to the Ambrey. Further north, Haughmond Hill, Shrewsbury's unofficial 'country park', is now having a car park constructed with a picnic place and walks to the viewpoint over the town, from the western escarpment of the hill.

In fact, the Countryside Commission's recent policy document on forestry advocates the creation of a new forest in the central Midlands largely as a recreational resource for the millions within easy travelling distance.

We may not quite reach the provision of fitness circuits in the forest, with parallel bars and rings every two kilometres, like the Swiss enjoy near Zurich, but the very British pastime of 'a good walk' has at least been fostered.

Mark Haworth
Forest District Manager

For those who need encouragement to enter the Forest, we suggest they take the gentler step of the Whitcliffe Trail. An excellent booklet produced by the County Museum Service, and which is available from Ludlow Museum price 45p. Not only does it give a map of the Whitcliffe walks, but it offers details of the natural history of the Whitcliffe area—we recommend it to all our readers.

Deliberate Mistakes from Page 1

St Thomas's Chapel – Weather vane reversed.
There are 6 and not 4 holes in the cupola.

The Schoolroom of Ludlow College – missing dormer window, and the window to the right of the doorway has an extra ‘mullion’.

Photographs in this issue have been provided by members of the committee – principally Howard Cheese, unless otherwise stated.

Photograph of Adrian Jones' 'horse' kindly loaned by Mrs W. Faulkner

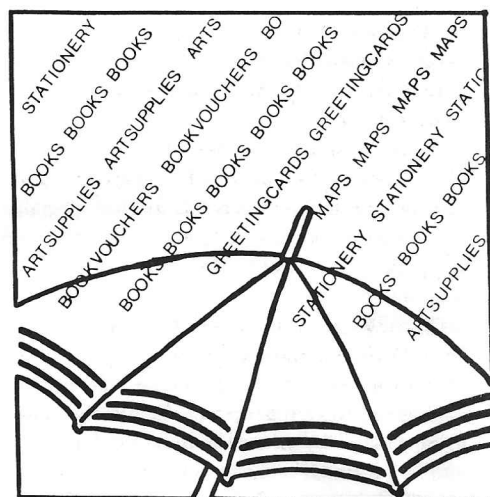
Map of Bringewood Chase kindly loaned for photograph by Peter Bartlett, by Mark Haworth of the Forestry Commission.

We hope you enjoy this enlarged edition of the newsletter – made possible by the generosity of those who have advertised on these pages. We hope you will support them as they have supported us.

The Feathers, The Bull Ring, Ludlow,
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Telex: 35637 FETHER

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We are gratified by the increasing number of people who are enjoying the experience of eating out at the Feathers. The flexibility of choice and price make it a relaxed but interesting occasion. Telephone Ludlow 5261 for reservations.



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LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY – WINTER PROGRAMME 1987/88

*All meetings except the *AGM to be held in the Gym, High Hall, Castle Square, (part of the Ludlow College complex)
All meetings will commence at 7.30 pm. Admission free to members. New members welcome, visitors' admissions £1.*

Wednesday 23 September

Saving Old Buildings – Fiascos and Felicities

Hugh Lander, ACIS

The speaker is a specialist writer and consultant on the treatment of old buildings. Author of *Do's and Don'ts of House and Cottage Conversion*, and *The House Restorer's Guide*, he is an associate of the Chartered Institute of Building. He lives in Cornwall; but travels all over the country advising clients on ways in which to preserve the character of their old houses, both from the historical and technical points of view. His talk will highlight the visual damage being done to old buildings during their repair and restoration by inappropriate choices of methods, materials and architectural detailing.

Wednesday 7 October

South Shropshire: History in the Landscape The Fred Reeves Memorial Lecture

Michael Wise

Michael Wise was educated at Ludlow Grammar School and was, indeed, taught by Fred Reeves. Having qualified as a teacher specialising in history, he taught first in Shropshire and subsequently moved to Bromsgrove. There, he was actively involved in the fieldwork and archaeological excavation on behalf of Redditch New Town Archaeological Committee and the Department of the Environment. He became increasingly aware of the volume of information to be gained by understanding the landscape and this branch of history has been his main interest for a number of years.

Regular readers of this newsletter will remember that Michael Wise, together with Dr Tim Lomas, Head of Humanities, and the pupils of Ludlow School, were recently invited to take part in the making of a local history programme for BBC Schools television.

NB. Available shortly – a book produced jointly by Michael Wise and Tim Lomas outlining the lines of enquiry to be followed when investigating the historical landscape.

Wednesday 4 November

Punting Past and Present

Adrian Barlow MA FRSA

Adrian Barlow was born in Birmingham. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Head of English at Monmouth School. A reviewer for the Times Educational Supplement, and a writer and lecturer on educational and literary topics, especially 20th century poetry.

Adrian Barlow also lectures on architectural history, and members will remember with delight the fascinating lecture we received last year on the work of G. F. Bodley and his circle. He is a contributor to the forthcoming *Guide to English Churches and Chapels*.

His enthusiasm for punting dates from his days as a student at Durham University, and he has published several articles on the subject. He is at present editing a new edition of the earliest book on punting, *Our River* by G. D. Leslie.

Wednesday 9 December

Conservation and Planning in Historic Towns

Dr P. J. Larkham

Peter Larkham has recently been studying problems of urban conservation in the West Midlands region; and has published a most entertaining working paper on Voluntary Amenity Societies and Conservation Planning.

Dr Larkham clearly recognises the need for amicable relationships between the local planning authorities and amenity societies, plus the necessity of well-informed practical comments.

Wednesday 10 February

Railways of the West Midlands

with special reference to those influencing the history of Ludlow

Dr A. F. Williams

Alun Williams is Reader in Economic Geography and Director of Studies at the University of Birmingham. He has both a professional and private interest in Civic Affairs and in urban and rural conservation. Before coming to live in the area 18 months ago, he had been Chairman of the Northfield (Birmingham) Civic Society and he remains editor of its Occasional Papers. In his professional career he has written on transport and rural matters, and has been a consultant to the Countryside Commission.

He is currently writing a new survey of the Railways of the West Midlands for the publishers David and Charles.

For the benefit of our Canadian members, Alun Williams is also interested in all things Canadian. He will shortly become President of the British Association for Canadian Studies.

Wednesday 9 March

Inland waterways of Great Britain

A. F. Radley MBE

Arthur Radley is a past Chairman of the English Inland Waterways Association, a member of the Railway and Canal Historical Society, and the Activities Committee of the Georgian Group.

Members present will have the opportunity to examine the navigable waterways scene – rivers and canals – from Roman times to date, the influence of George, the 4 mph horse with his narrow boat 7 feet wide and 70 feet long (the same as a modern juggernaut) and his influence on the Industrial Revolution, the inevitable decline from the heyday of the 1830s faced with railways and now roads, current restoration projects and the contribution of waterways to our leisure amenity enjoyment.

Wednesday 13 April

The Work of the Civic Trust

Martin Bradshaw

The Civic Trust is an independent charity which encourages the protection and improvement of the environment. Founded 1967 by Lord Duncan-Sandys, it is supported by voluntary contributions from business and industry. It is not an 'official' body founded by government. General policy is under the guidance of a Board of Trustees; day-to-day activities are handled by a staff of about 20 under the Director of the Trust – Martin Bradshaw.

Wednesday 11 May

Annual General Meeting

***to be held in the Prince Charles Suite, Feathers Hotel**

LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY

<i>President</i>	Julian Critchley MP
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	John Godrich Sir Jasper More
<i>Chairman</i>	Joan Nash
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Bill Acklam
<i>Secretary</i>	Jeanne Rhodes
<i>Treasurer</i>	John Driscoll

Members of the public wishing to join the Society should contact the Secretary: Mrs J. Rhodes, 1 Cliff Villas, Ludford, Ludlow. Telephone 2006.

<i>Committee</i>	Derrick Banks	David Lloyd
	Howard Cheese	Ran Ogston
	Stephen Dornan	Ellis Shaw
	Henry Hand	Margaret Shaw
	David Holgate	Dick Stephens

Ludlow Twinning Association was formed to enable the people of Ludlow to enjoy mutual friendships with a town in France. La Ferté Macé in Normandy was the choice – the similarities to Ludlow being considerable in the location and historic background.

Many members of the Civic Society are delighted that the Norman origins of Ludlow are at last officially acknowledged, and the town of Ludlow has been twinned with La Ferté Macé.

The Ludlow Twinning Association will be pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining –

Please contact either	or
Mrs Ann Hunt	Mrs Susan Dash
1 Abbey Gardens	Bubble
Lower Galdeford	11a King Street
Ludlow – tel 5017	Ludlow – tel 3623