

Ludlow Heritage News

No.10 September 1988

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We hope members have visited and approve the new amenity area which has been created on the south side of the Parish Church. This has been a major contribution towards the improvement of the Conservation Area as at present designated in Ludlow, and we were delighted to have received invitations to the dedication of this area which was held during the Ludlow Festival fortnight.

Another item of 'home conservation' has been the mounting block in Brand Lane. Many older members can remember this being in regular use when the Atherden family was resident at 27 Broad Street. This was the family responsible for the installation of electric lighting in the Parish Church, and even from the great distance of Broad Street, attended church by carriage. The mounting block was restored at the instigation of members of the Society.



The mounting block now protected from further damage by a tub of flowers.

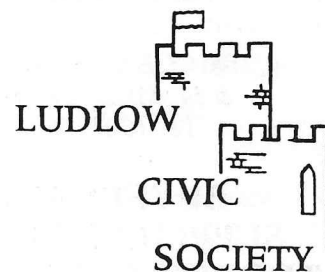
Some members of the Society were delighted to hear that the two red telephone boxes in Castle Square have been 'listed' grade II. While it is pleasant to hear that these examples are to be protected, it would be even better to hear that they were to be cleaned regularly.

Membership of the Society is generally concerned about the amount of litter and dirt on our street and footpaths, and the Committee has even volunteered (cost permitting) to provide an extra litter bin to help cut down this problem. However, the Committee has first asked for reassurance on the regularity of servicing the bins – overflowing bins only add to the problem.

With regard to the fouling of footpaths by dogs, Jeanne Rhodes was on holiday in East Anglia during the summer and returned with the following photograph. She tells us that there was an obvious difference between North Norfolk and South Shropshire, both rural communities, but North Norfolk being much cleaner.



Notice under sign reads – Please do not allow your dog to foul the footways – Penalty £50 fine



Readers should, by now, have noticed the new plaque which has been placed in Broad Street to mark the birth place of James Vashon 1742 – 1828. This plaque has been generously donated by the new owners of 29 Broad Street.

James Vashon was the youngest son of the Preacher of Ludlow who was the Rector of Eye; he served under Captain Cornwall of The Revenge – Captain Cornwall was Lord of the Manor of Berrington (and Eye). Remaining a midshipman until the age of 33, when he was made a Lieutenant, James Vashon received further promotion – to Commander – in 1776 when he captured a warship during the American War. At the Battle of the Saints – All Saints Day 1780 – he was again promoted this time to Flag Captain and as such was able to receive a share of the prize money. With this money he returned to Ludlow and bought 39 Broad Street – the house opposite his former home.

In 1792 the Flag Captain returned to sea, but unfortunately for promotion prospects had the rather dull job of blockading the French Coast during the Napoleonic wars; for 11 years he was almost continually at sea. However, in 1804 he received promotion to Rear Admiral of the White, and then made steady progression – 1805 – Rear Admiral of the Red, 1808 Vice Admiral of the Blue, 1810 Vice Admiral of the Red, 1814 Admiral of the Blue, and 1826 – just two years before his death, Admiral of the White.

He had retired to Ludlow in 1810 to live in yet another Broad Street House, No 54 – the present offices of the Ludlow Conservative Association. Admiral Vashon was on the 'active' list in the Royal Navy for a total of 54 years and was a friend of Lord Nelson.

We are privileged in this issue of Heritage News to have contributions from two of our loyal members. Dr Martin Speight, former Chairman of the Society has kindly contributed an article explaining the history of Whitcliffe, and James Moxon, OBE, has permitted members of the Civic Society to be the first to read of his researches into the forgotten Battle of Standard Oak.

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**Whitcliffe – the Struggle to Preserve Ludlow's
'Green Lung'**

In recent years, a great deal of attention has been paid, quite rightly, to Ludlow's historic buildings, and it is probably fair to say that they are now appreciated to a greater extent and by a greater number of people than at any previous time. It is, therefore, perhaps, worth considering another element in Ludlow's townscape, the impressive natural backcloth to the town which is provided by Whitcliffe Common. Ludlow is supremely fortunate in possessing such a striking landscape feature, and yet it is not merely good fortune that has presented Ludlovians and visitors with this superb amenity. It has been preserved as the result of strenuous efforts over the past two centuries on the part of Ludlovians who have determined to resist the efforts of landowners and developers to deprive the town of its Common. It is their efforts which will be discussed in the following paragraphs.

The original grant of common rights on Whitcliffe was made to the Lord, Burgesses and men of Ludlow by Jordan de Ludford some time between 1228 and 1241. The people of Ludlow were given common rights over a large tract of land extending from the Teme to the dingle a half mile or so to the west. In return, Jordan and his successors, and their households, were allowed to sell goods in Ludlow free of toll. At the same time the Abbot of Gloucester made a similar grant of that part of Whitcliffe which lay in the Parish of Bromfield. During the fourteenth century the manor of Ludford passed by stages into the hands of the Hospital of St John in Ludlow, so that by 1360 both sections of Whitcliffe over which common rights had been confirmed were in the ownership of ecclesiastical landlords. There is no evidence that either of these bodies ever attempted to interfere with the Common. Nor, surprisingly, is there any suggestion that the rapacious Foxes, who between them collared all the church lands in Ludford and Bromfield at the Reformation, tried to reduce the extent of the Common.

It was the equally rapacious Charltons, who purchased Ludford in 1638 who began the process of encroachment. After the Civil War, Sir Job Charlton, who had been appointed Chief Justice of Chester in 1662, began systematically extending his estates by buying up lands in Overton which had been owned by John Aston, Ludlow's leading Puritan. It is likely that this large-scale acquisition was preparatory for the creation of the Deer Park which became an admired and controversial feature of the estate in the eighteenth century.

A document in the Ludford Park collection in the County Record Office dated 1730 describes the Deer Park as being 300 acres in extent, and containing 300 head of deer. The stone wall surrounding the park, remains of which can still be seen in a number of places, would seem to date from this period. It was certainly a bone of contention between the

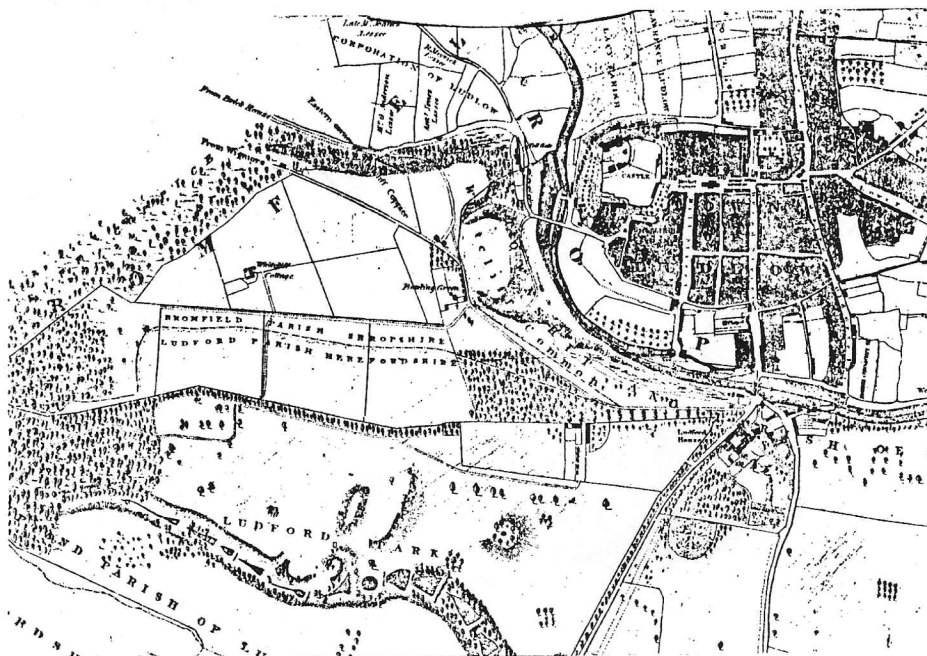
Charltons and the townspeople, who felt that a large section of the Common had been taken from them. In consequence, the 1730s saw a number of attempts to destroy the offending walls, which were, however, invariably rebuilt. Eventually the situation seems to have been grudgingly accepted.

The end of the eighteenth century saw the beginning of a concentrated onslaught on the remaining common land. In 1793 a Private Act of Parliament was obtained to set up a body of Commissioners to pave, light, and generally improve the town of Ludlow. This was a perfectly normal means of meeting a public demand for higher standards of local services than were provided by most unreformed borough corporations of the day. In Ludlow, where rents from former Guild properties had saved the inhabitants from borough rates, the work of the Commissioners was financed by the sale of 78 acres of Whitcliffe, rather than by the more normal expedient of rates. This land was sold to the Charlton and Clive families, heirs to the Ludford and Bromfield estates respectively.

At this time Whitcliffe faced another potential threat, that of speculative development. In 1810 a pamphlet had been published which advocated in effect turning Ludlow into a second Bath, with Assembly Rooms, spa facilities, and the construction of elegant terraces on Whitcliffe. Mercifully this threat came to nothing. Far more potent was that of the Charltons, whose desire to complete the repurchase of the lands which their remote predecessor had injudiciously given away was aided and abetted by the Borough Corporation.

In 1820 it was realised that the Commissioners could not use the capital raised by the sale of the original 78 acres, but only accrued interest. It was then decided to sell the remaining 52 acres of the Common, and another Bill was promoted for this purchase. A public meeting was called by the householders of the Borough to protest, and a petition against the Bill was signed by over 600 inhabitants. Faced with this scale of protest the Bill was abandoned, and, scenting victory, the defenders of the Common began to attempt to win back the lands which had already been lost. With the free legal services of William Adams, a local Radical lawyer, the townspeople approached Clive and Charlton about relinquishing Common land which they had enclosed. Clive consented, but E. L. Charlton was not a man to give in gracefully. He maintained that when the trees he had planted were of sufficient size he would reopen the land to the town, but when it became clear that he had no intention of so doing, legal action was commenced.

The case against Charlton was heard at Hereford Lent assizes in 1824, but the action was declared a non-suit. This verdict was subsequently reversed by the Court of King's



Extract from Evan's map of 1832 showing Enclosures on Whitcliffe

Bench, but the renewal of the case was prevented by the great expense of litigation. The petitioners then attempted to persuade the Corporation to take up the matter, and although that body passed a resolution to seek the opinion of Counsel on the matter, nothing further was done. Charlton had successfully incorporated more of the common into his estates.

An examination of Evans' map of Ludlow in 1832 shows clearly the extent of the inroads which had been made on the Common since 1793. The fields behind the Bowling Green around Whitcliffe Cottage (now North Farm), and the three large rectangular fields to the immediate north of the Park represent the portions acquired by Clive and Charlton respectively. It is interesting to note that the boundaries of these enclosures have survived almost intact to the present day.

It is significant that the opposition to these attempts to eliminate Whitcliffe based at least some of their case upon the recreational value of the Common, which must be a very early example of an amenity group in action. The petition against the 1820 proposals spoke of Whitcliffe as 'a healthful and convenient exercise ground on foot and horseback, and for feeding sheep.'

In 1879 the vexed questions of enclosure erupted again with a vengeance, when the so-called Whitcliffe Common Riot took place. The original cause of the disturbance in June 1879 had been the acquittal by Ludlow magistrates of one Kames Jones who had been charged with breaking a gate opposite Ludford House. His acquittal was followed by a gathering of townsfolk on Whitcliffe when gates and fences which had been erected by Mr Lechmere Parkinson were ceremoniously burnt to the accompaniment of bands and a

general air of carnival. A number of ringleaders were subsequently committed for trial at Hereford on a charge of riot. An interesting sidelight on the case emerges from confidential memorandum, now in the County Record Office, containing notes on a number of people who had been nominated as magistrates. It is clear that the rioters had the support of a number of influential figures in the town, particularly John Valentine the grocer and John Crosse, proprietor of the Advertiser, both of whom were prominent Liberals. Valentine not only raised money for the defence of the rioters, but also is said to have supported the families of the accused men financially.

The riot of 1879 was the last major engagement in the fight against enclosure, although there have been minor skirmishes until quite recently, which some readers may well recall!! The most major threat to Whitcliffe during the last twenty years was, of course, the extraordinary proposal to take the Ludlow by-pass in a cutting behind the Bowling Green. The leadership of the Civic Society was sharply divided over this issue so that the amenity viewpoint was largely put forward by the CPRE. After the Public Inquiry in the Town Hall in November 1973 the issue was finally settled when the Inspector ruled in favour of the eastern route. Whitcliffe was saved again, though readers of this article who have come to Ludlow in the last ten years may be amazed to think that the idea of a road through Whitcliffe was ever seriously contemplated!

Whitcliffe is an unusual place. For two centuries it has stimulated Ludlovians to fight for its preservation, often at considerable cost to themselves. Long may it serve as Ludlow's own 'green lung'.

Martin Speight

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THE FORGOTTEN BATTLE



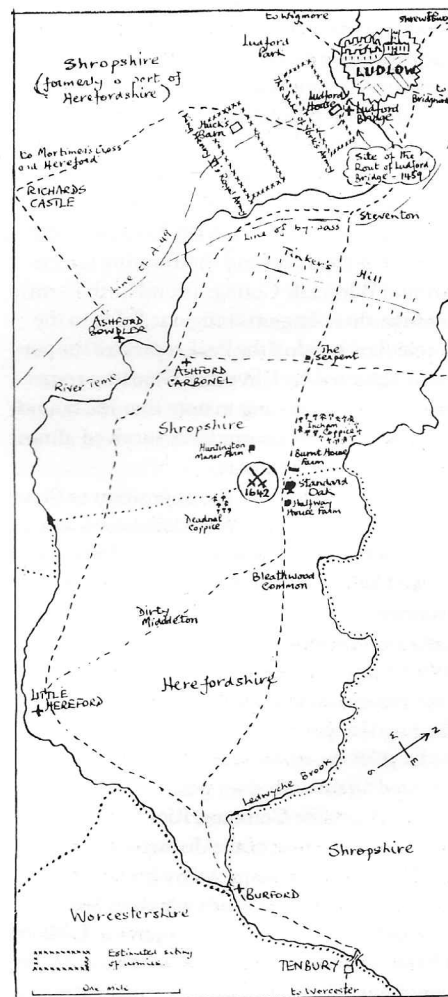
Section of Wall Map

I became aware of the forgotten Civil War Battle of Standard Oak on the borders of Shropshire and Herefordshire in an interesting fashion. During a visit to Lord Croft of Croft Castle I noticed Isaac Taylor's 1754 wall map of Herefordshire. Glancing at the northernmost point of the map to where I live, a few hundred yards over the Shropshire border, I was surprised to see on the Herefordshire side the crossed swords which denote a battlefield, and nearby on the lane from Ludlow to Tenbury, a single tree. The two symbols seemed jointly captioned 'Standard Oak'.

I had come to learn that old maps are often unreliable in points of detail when I discovered that John Speede in his Herefordshire map of 1610 confused the Battle of Mortimer's Cross with the non-battle of Ludford. Speede described the Mortimer's Cross battle, but placed it between Ludlow and Little Hereford.

Consequently, Isaac Taylor's battlefield was checked with seven other late eighteenth century maps. All the maps showed Standard Oak, and three of them, two by Bowen of 1762 and 1767, and Cary's map of 1789 showed Standard Oak with the battlefield symbol beside it; indeed the tree continued to be marked until 1831 when one supposes it perished. Being one of the few oak trees marked in Herefordshire it must have been a recognised landmark of considerable antiquity.

The particular interest in Standard Oak is in its being linked with a remembered battlefield. As eighteenth century map makers sometimes borrowed details from their predecessors it may be argued that only Taylor's is significant.



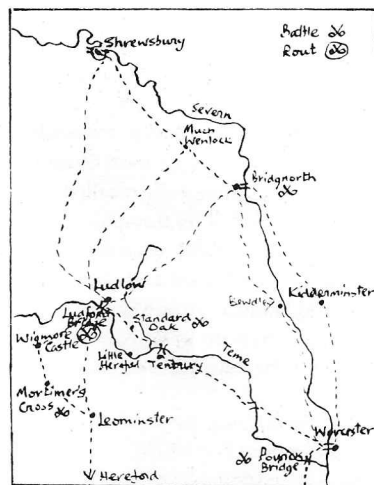
Detailed map showing position of Standard Oak in relation to Ludlow

E OF STANDARD OAK

Then began the search for a battle which could have been fought when the tree was in its prime. The Wars of the Roses would have been far too early, but the Civil War took place only one hundred years before Taylor published his map, and local tradition would be fresh in people's minds.

I then decided to see if I could find any trace of Standard Oak itself. The county boundary which follows the highest point of the terrain between Ledwyche Brook and the River Teme is marked by a hedge. The Ludlow to Tenbury lane crosses the county boundary between Burnt House Farm in Shropshire and Halfway House Farm in Herefordshire. Halfway between the Serpent and Bleathwood I found a small woodland containing some mature oaks. Though there were no remains of a giant tree, I had little doubt I had found the site of Standard Oak.

I have been unable to discover how Standard Oak came by its name. A connection with the forestry standard of twelve oaks per acre seems unlikely, it seems much more likely, in view of the map-makers' crossed swords, that a battle standard was raised at this spot.



17th Century Routes - Worcester to Shrewsbury

While covering the transfer of valuable silver from Oxford to the new royal mint at Shrewsbury, Prince Rupert had seen brilliant and successful action at Powick Bridge. We know that after the battle, Rupert lodged his wounded prisoners at Worcester, and set off with approximately fifty Roundhead prisoners, up the Teme Valley to Tenbury. He spent the night of 23rd September at Burford House, then on to Ludlow Castle, the most convenient stronghold for their detention. We have details of a complaint by one Captain Wingate MP of 'unseemly indignities' inflicted on him in Ludlow when a prisoner of Rupert in the castle. Apparently Captain Wingate was forced to ride naked through the streets of Ludlow on

horseback. This report was hotly denied by the Royalists, but in a staunchly Royalist town such as Ludlow, humiliating sport of this kind with a political prisoner would have appealed hugely to the baser instincts of seventeenth century Ludlovians.



Prince Rupert

Whilst Ludlow was being so entertained, the silver plate and its escort took the more direct route for Shrewsbury up the Severn Valley. With it, but moving faster, were the Powick Bridge war despatches for King Charles himself at Shrewsbury, and selected prisoners for interrogation. Thus it is a recorded fact that two days after Powick Bridge Prince Rupert was at Ludlow, whilst the slower moving bullion wagons were in the vicinity of Bridgnorth.

During the night of the 24th which he spent at Ludlow, Prince Rupert's diarist mysteriously records 'a false alarm'. The following night he was camping on Haughmond Hill outside Shrewsbury, awaiting the return of the King from Chester. Then follows a gap of fourteen days when he could well have returned to the Ludlow area.

One authentic Parliamentary report states that, in order to make good what he had lost at Worcester, the Earl of Essex, with his army of 20,000 horse and foot pursued Rupert up the Teme Valley hell for leather. This report conflicts somewhat with what we know of the Earl of Essex. The Lord General of the Parliamentary forces (Old Robin to his ranks) a stubborn and uninspiring figure, was the antithesis of his hot-blooded Elizabethan father; he had arrived at Worcester complete with coffin and shroud which he regarded as essential items in the baggage of a professional soldier.



The Earl of Leicester

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Having heard that the Prince had left an outpost of five or six troops of horse en route, some 5 miles from Ludlow, the Earl decided to engage them, whereupon Captain Hide, who had it on their own admission that they were 'for King and Cavaliers' (which enraged his soldiers), led a great charge against them which resulted in considerable slaughter. The document gives the date of this 'battle' as 1st October 1642, and also states that after overcoming this obstacle Essex advanced on Ludlow, took the castle, and followed Rupert to Bridgnorth, where a further engagement was reported to have taken place on the 4th October, with Rupert again being the loser. Though the details of the chase may be incorrect, it seems very likely that Essex could have encountered Rupert's rearguard troops protecting Ludlow Castle in the vicinity of Standard Oak. No other records describe this battle, hence its disappearance from later maps or history books.

Detailed reports from the Parliamentary side tell of Essex advancing on Worcester and a Captain Hide capturing Ludlow Castle for a short time and recapturing their prisoners. There is no local tradition of this, but no reason to doubt that Rupert could have returned from Shrewsbury to raise his standard to protect Ludlow Castle from some form of attack. Parliamentary forces after the failure of an earlier attack (the 'false alarm' of 24th September?) may have mounted a more determined attempt on the castle. If we believe the Parliamentary publicity, Hide got the better of Prince Rupert, and for a while captured Ludlow Castle, and even recaptured their prisoners. The lack of records of the engagement might well be due to the Royalist unwillingness to report a defeat after their success at Powick Bridge and the Parliamentarians considering it not worth a special mention.

The possibility of such a battle having taken place needs checking. Auden, a leading Shropshire historian is convinced that both engagements at Ludlow and Bridgnorth took place, without necessarily supporting the detail.

Bellett, the Bridgnorth historian, accepts the report of that particular engagement to be substantially true. The Royalist success at Worcester gave a much needed boost to their morale, and this would have been tarnished by a report of a defeat so soon after raising their standard at Nottingham. However, as the events are unconfirmed by Royalist writers, other historians doubt if any such activity took place between Powick Bridge on 23 September and the departure of the Royalist troops from Shrewsbury Edgehill on 12th October.

The Parliamentarians had the advantage, being based in London, of vastly superior public relations machinery. Their pamphleteers poured out a stream of reports routed in from the 'war correspondents' at the front. Though no doubt a mixture of fact and fantasy, their statements cannot be dismissed as pure propaganda, and their reports emanating from Worcester, Ludlow and Bridgnorth, opening

'True Intelligence and Joyful News' give accounts, even though exaggerated of what in all probability happened.

The Royalists on the other hand, being constantly on the move, were by no means so well organised at this stage of the war; and though a printing press was ordered in Shrewsbury a year later, it was fairly soon criticised as it was 'idle and did the King no service'. A silence from their side is not surprising.

The fact that the battle was not completely forgotten must be due to local tradition. The sight of armies in battle must have been an exciting and novel one for the inhabitants of Ludlow and Tenbury, many of whom must have seen something of what happened and handed down the tradition of a battle on this spot. The existence of a large oak tree would have helped this. Oak trees were always popular in England, and especially so after the escape of Charles II in the Royal Oak at Boscobel.

Although there are 56 separate entries in the Ludlow parish register of military burials during the Civil War (nine officers and forty seven soldiers) there are none of this period. However, Parliamentary reports of a 'great slaughter among the Cavaliers' could be exaggerated, and the fact that the spot is still known as Dead-nal Coppice could point to a mass burial on the battlefield.

For almost 200 years after the Civil War, Standard Oak and its adjacent battlefield was a prominent landmark on the county boundary, and there are still people living in the neighbourhood to whom the name 'Standard Oak' is remembered as a bygone local feature. Its exact location can no longer be recalled, and no trace has been found of its stump or remains, but the 120 year old oak trees that stand today in the small woodland between Burnt House and Halfway House farms could well be descended from the great oak which disappeared from the map 160 years ago.

I have received nothing but kindness in my research of this ancient battlefield, from Lord Croft whose map sparked off my curiosity, to the Forestry Commission, who like me, searched in vain for the stump of Standard Oak. And in between I had great help and encouragement from Ludlow historians David Lloyd and Peter Klein, the Wars of the Roses historian, Geoffrey Hodges of Aymestry, the great Civil War historian Brigadier Peter Young of Sealed Knot fame (who told me about Prince Rupert's personal diary) and from Dame Veronica Wedgwood OM, all of whom have been understandably intrigued with a newly unearthed Civil War engagement. I do most sincerely thank them all.

James Moxon OBE
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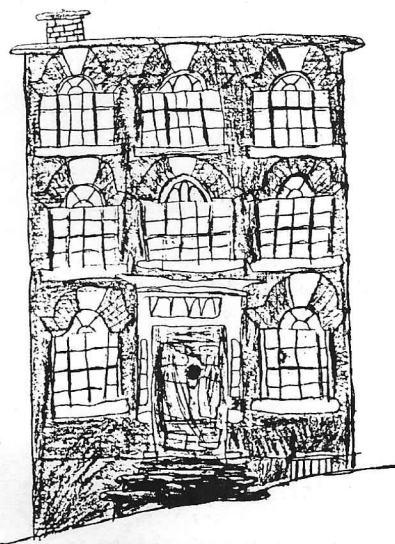
Environment Week 1988

Once again Environment Week at the end of April was organised on behalf of the Committee by Margaret Shaw. We were all very encouraged to discover that the young inhabitants of Ludlow were even more keen to show their knowledge. In both the infants schools, and the junior school, the entries were well up on last year.

Margaret asked the pupils to look at the various hanging signs above shops and public houses in Ludlow – the painted wooden ones came out way on top. Although there was one vote for the '3D' sign at The Feathers, no one appears to have noticed the fine iron work decorating that of The Angel.

This year, the pupils discovered the meaning of the word 'jetty' when applied to a timber framed building, and most of the entrants found very good examples to illustrate their knowledge. They also discovered the characteristics of typical Georgian houses, and submitted some beautifully drawn illustrations.

The pupils from St Laurence's Infants School in particular excelled and we are pleased to reproduce three of their drawings. We hope the obvious talent of these young people will be encouraged.



39 Broad Street, drawn by Anthony Davies, aged 6.



27 Broad Street, drawn by Naomi Rogers, aged 7.



38 Broad Street, drawn by Ian Fletcher, aged 7.

As members will see, Margaret Shaw has now resigned from the Committee because of her involvement with the Tadpole Club – she will be greatly missed; especially in her invaluable contribution encouraging the younger members of the local population to take an interest in their environment.

We regret lack of space prevents us including a letter of support for Jeremy Sandford, however we are pleased to report that there is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel with regard to the future of the plaster cast by Adrian Jones. A letter to the National Army Museum, has brought encouraging results, the Director, Ian Robertson was most interested to hear that such work had survived, and has recently accepted a similar work from Dublin, he has told the Society that he would be pleased to accept it on behalf of the Nation. Details of this offer have been given to Mr George Kellet, (Chief Executive of South Shropshire District Council at the time of writing) and he has in turn, written to the Museum inviting them to make a formal application. We hope to be able to give full details in the April 1989 issue of the Heritage News.

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

The Feathers at Ludlow

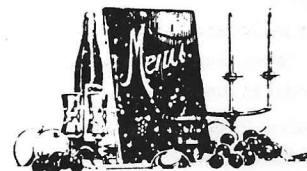


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Dr R. K. Morris

Masons and Mouldings in and around Ludlow in the 14th Century

Dr Morris is a Senior Lecturer in the History of Art Department of the University of Warwick, and specialises in the study of mediaeval architecture. He has published widely in British Archeological Journals, including that of the Woolhope Society. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (Piccadilly), a member of English Heritage Churches Committee and of the Lichfield Cathedral fabric committee.

Wednesday 5 October 1988

G. I. McCabe MA FMA County Museums and Arts Officer

Work of The Shropshire Museum Service.

Mr McCabe came to Shropshire in 1973 to prepare for Local Government re-organisation as the first County Museums Officer. He had previously worked in four other authorities in different parts of the country, and gained some limited experience of museum services in Holland, Sweden, and Poland.

Sunday 9 October 1988

Visit to Shrewsbury Abbey. Details to be announced at meeting.

Wednesday 2 November 1988

The Fred Reeves Memorial Lecture

A Jenkins Esq.

Titterstone Clee Hills, History (Industrial) and Dialect

Alf Jenkins was born in the Clee Hills and attended Ludlow Grammar School 1947 – 54, and was, as is our custom on this occasion, a former student of Fred Reeves. Having completed his army service in the Royal Artillery he trained as a teacher at Worcester College of Education, Loughborough, and Aberystwyth University. Mr Jenkins is currently head of Tenbury Primary School and lists his hobbies as all types of craft work, gardening, singing, and, of course, local history. Some members will already be familiar with the book on the Clee Hills, their Industrial History and Dialect, written by Mr Jenkins.

Wednesday 7 December 1988

J. B. Caird, B. Arch, RIBA, MRTPI

Planning and Development Officer, South Shropshire District Council

Palladio, Friend or Foe

Mr Caird was born and brought up in Canada. He did the latter part of his secondary schooling in Oxford, and read Architecture at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne where he took a particular interest in Architectural History. His particular concerns for South Shropshire are maintaining its architectural and landscape heritage while at the same time maintaining the working and living standards and opportunities for people who live here.

Wednesday 11 January 1989

R. J. Rogers Esq, District Forester, Private Woodlands Section of the Forestry Commission

Conservation and Management of Trees in the Countryside

Mr Rogers is the District Forester responsible for Private Woodlands and Plant Health matters in the Marches Forest District, that is Shropshire and North West Herefordshire. He took up his present post in September 1987, having spent the previous 10 years in the Forest of Dean, running training courses, latterly in broad leaved silviculture. Prior to that, Mr Rogers was in mainstream forest management at Hafren Forest in Wales on the headwaters of the River Severn.

Wednesday 8 February 1989

Geoffrey N. Wright Esq, Author and Photo Journalist
Places for People – the Work of the National Trust

Mr Wright comes well recommended by those local people fortunate enough to have heard him. A former schoolmaster, he took voluntary retirement in 1976 to permit him develop his real love of travelling throughout Britain, photographing, and writing about it. He has lived for 25 years in the industrial north east, 26 years in a Wiltshire village near Bath, and 10 years in the Yorkshire Dales: he has had some marvellous bases from which to travel, not least his present home in South Shropshire to which he moved in 1986.

Wednesday 15 March 1989

C. C. Hopkinson Esq

The Herefordshire Militia

Mr Hopkinson is a farmer near Bromyard, and has been interested for many years in Local and County History – particularly military history. He is Chairman of the Friends of Hereford Record Office, and author of Herefordshire under Arms, a Military History of the County.

Wednesday 26 April 1989

Dr Margaret Gelling

Place Names of the Ludlow Area

Dr Gelling is Reader in English Place Name Studies at the University of Birmingham. President of the English Place Name Society, she is in charge of that Society's survey of Shropshire, the first volume of which is nearing completion. Dr Gelling has already published two books intended for the general reader – Sign Posts to the Past: Place Names and the History of England – now available in 2nd edition; and Place Names in the Landscape – published in 1984 and unfortunately at present out of print.

April 1989 – Date to be confirmed

Visit to Thrumpton Hall, Nottingham and other places of interest in the area. Details available from the Secretary January 1989.

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