

# Ludlow Heritage News

No. 14 AUTUMN/WINTER 1990

Published twice a year by Ludlow Civic Society



*The Butter Cross, taken in c.1861. Francis Bedford, a generation older than Francis Frith, was the first photographer of national standing to come to Ludlow. His earliest visit, to take pictures for the stereoscope, was just at the time of the census; and here Bodenham's shop can be seen in its Georgian form with plaster rendering and sash windows.*

## AS YOU WERE

During 1989-1990, a section of the Ludlow Historical Research Group has been engaged in the transcribing and study of the Ludlow 1861 Census – taken almost 130 years ago and just before the numbering of houses in the town. In the course of this work, I have carried out an analysis of the occupations of the households in some of the town Wards, which today is not without its fascination.

Take the most populous and least affluent of the town Wards as an example, that of Old Street, which then comprised the streets of Upper and Lower Gaolford, Tower Street, Old Street, Frog Lane, St John's Lane, Oldgate Fee and Friar's Lane.

In 1861 in this Ward there were 434 houses, of which 21 were uninhabited. The population was 1,897, of whom 932 (49.1%) were male and 965 (50.9%) were female. Of these, 30 were Visitors at the time of enumeration (7 male and 23 female). Of those in the Ward, 5 were of Scottish origin, 21 Irish, 73 Welsh, 1 American (Morris Jones, a Mason, born in New Orleans), 1 Canadian (Mary Wills, a Widow of Frog Lane) and 2 French (Florentine Price, a Housewife, aged 28, of Upper Gaolford and Susannah Clara Watts, aged 3, born in Longmoy, France). The remaining 1,794 were

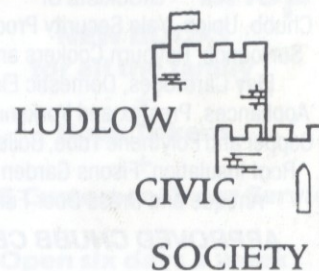
of English birth, the great majority coming from within a twenty mile radius of Ludlow. The oldest man was John Powell, aged 97 and described still as a working Labourer, who was born in Eardisland in 1764; and the oldest woman, Mary Wall, aged 87 and blind, born in 1774.

The Ward had 17 Inns, plus one unoccupied one, 'The Railway Tavern', 7 being in Upper Gaolford, 2 in Lower Gaolford, 3 in Tower Street, 1 in Oldgate Fee and 4 in Old Street. Two of them still remain, 'The Queen's Head' in Lower Gaolford and 'The Horse and Jockey' of Oldgate Fee (now Old Street).

The town's Police Station was then sited in Upper Gaolford under Superintendent Henry Biggs, and a P.C. Dee kept a watchful eye on Lower Gaolford.

Ludlow also had a Town Crier at that time, named William Harding, aged 46, who lived over the Draper's Shop in Tower Street.

Five inhabitants described themselves as 'Lodging House Keepers', 4 having a total of 29 Lodgers between them and one, being Elizabeth Hughes of Old Street, saying she had 'now retired' at 71. In addition a Shoemaker, Richard Wilkes, had 9 Lodgers in his house and 3 family, and a Seamstress, a widow of 46, had 4 children and 8 Lodgers.



50P

FREE TO MEMBERS

## PORTCULLIS SALEROOMS LUDLOW



*Charles II Needlework Picture, King Solomon and The Queen of Sheba. Which McCartneys sold for £4,800.*

The Salerooms for The Marches, with a reputation for scholarly research and the careful cataloguing of your Antiques.

Mr Lawrence Talbot, M.A. (Cantab.), A.R.I.C.S., is available by appointment to help identify and advise on values. Our catalogues go to principal dealers and specialist collectors in London and throughout the British Isles.

**Calendar of Sale Dates  
available free**

**McCartneys**

*Members of the Society of  
Fine Art Auctioneers  
Tel. Ludlow (0584) 872636*

## RICKARDS & SON LTD

**IRONMONGERS AND PLUMBERS  
MERCHANTS**

Stockists of

Chubb, Union, Yale Security Products, Tiled  
Surrounds, Rayburn Cookers and Spares,  
Eley Cartridges, Domestic Electrical  
Appliances, Prestex and Yorkshire Fittings,  
Copper and Polythene Tube, Boiler Flue Sets,  
Roof Insulation, Fisons Garden Products  
Antique and Brass Door Furniture

**APPROVED CHUBB CENTRE**

**LUDLOW 872934**

6-7 BULL RING, LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE SY8 1AE

**AUTHORISED DEALER FOR BRITISH GAS  
RING LUDLOW 873619**

## CASTLE BOOKSHOP

5 Castle Street

LUDLOW

Shropshire

Tel: 872562

**Booksellers and Stationers**

*For all your special  
book requirements*



**REG. MARTIN & SONS**

*Family Butchers*  
(Proprietor, Stuart Martin)

1 Market Street, Ludlow  
Telephone Ludlow 872008

*Home killed meat  
Home made Pies & Sausages*

*Cooked Meats a Speciality*

Counting those 'of no occupation' as one category of occupation, there were in 1861, 121 different occupations in the Ward. It is not feasible for comments to be made on all these individually, but some are now made on those, and related matters, of greater interest.

'A' is for Accountants of whom there were two, though there was one of these who did somewhat daringly describe himself also as an Estate Agent. There were 17 Apprentices, two being girls apprenticed to Dressmakers, and 15 boys, apart from one articulated to a Surgeon, being apprenticed to various trades. There were 8 Butchers in the Ward and 9 Bakers, one aged 72 and one, Caleb Small, having a shop in Tower Street, which then, as now, consisted largely of different shops. Three Druggists (or Chemists) named Grieves and Jenkins lived in the Ward, but no doctor, though there was an Optician, George Clarke, lodging in Oldgate Fee.

Charwomen totalled 32, 5 of whom were married, 13 were widows, and 14 unmarried, one of the last, aged 40, having 4 children, all born in different places. Many, however, were Heads of their Households. These were complemented by 22 Washerwomen, ranging in age from 17 to 70.

In the Ward, 308 women had no occupation, other than that full-time and worthy one of 'Housewife' looking after their families, though a number of other married women carried additional occupations, such as Coal or China Dealers. There were 255 Children, aged 5 or under, amongst whom there were only two sets of twins and 11 lived in lodgings. Scholars, aged between 5 and 15, amounted to 367, 4 of whom were pupils from the same family living out with a Governess and 4 were in lodgings. Amongst these 622 young persons, 15 were 'Nurse Children', that is, put out, on payment, to live with a family other than their own as unofficial foster children.

Among the more esoteric occupations could be said to be those of Jane James, aged 20, a Bark Chopper, a father and son as Basket Makers, a Besom Maker, a Straw Bonnet Maker, a Smock Frock Maker, a Castrator, a Bootbinder and a Bootcloser, a Lace Designer and a Commission Agent lodging at 'The Friar's Inn' in Old Street. There were two Chelsea Pensioners, though it is difficult to understand how one of them, an Irishman, Rooney, had become a Chelsea Pensioner at the age of 39! Also to be found were three Fishing Tackle Makers, a Fur Cutter, a Thatcher, two Ropemakers, a Fellmonger, who prepared skins for leather, a Drover, three Tallow Chandlers and four Spadetree Makers (wooden handles for spades). Even more exotic however, in Broad Street Ward, were those of a Dolls Eye Manufacturer, whose wife was a Hatter, two Fancy Needle Workers, two Photographic Artists, a Poultry Dresser, a Wadding Weaver and Letter Carver and the Guard to the Worcester Coach, whose burden of responsibilities and duties was undertaken by Robert Lewis, aged every one of his 13

years, we hope!

Three Schoolmasters lived in the Ward, two employed in the new National Schools and the other, a Widower, aged 54, running a private school in Old Street. There were two other private schools in Old Street operated by Widows in their sixties, one having an assistant of twenty-one. There were two Schoolmistresses in the National Schools and another assisted her father in his school in Old Street.

By far the largest occupation was that of Labourer - 14 Farm Labourers and 175 General Labourers, though some worked in specific trades, such as that of Mason or Maltster. At the time of the Census, one Labourer, Thomas Hughes, aged 28, was a prisoner in the Police Station. There were 8 women employed as General Labourers between the ages of 16 and 66! One Labourer rejoiced in the name of Lot Maggs, whereas no doubt one Housewife was proud of being Tryphena Potter, or was it an abomination for her?

Only one Clergyman dwelt within the Ward - in Old Street. This was the Reverend James Archibald, the Vicar of Downton-on-the-Rock, aged 60, with his family of 7, including his son, Silvanus and his daughter, Maria Christina, both in their twenties, but of no occupation.

Two 'Gentlewomen' lived with their servant in Old Street. They were sisters, Catherine Valentine and Ellen Trustlove, in their sixties. No 'Gentlemen', so defined, resided in the Ward. Three women lived on income from property they owned and four as Fundholders on their investments in Government Funds and Consols. Three of these were sisters named 'Hodges', also living in Old Street with a servant.

Talking of servants, 57 people in the Ward were employed as Domestic Servants - 4 as Housekeepers, 2 as Cooks, 3 as Ostlers at Inns, 4 as private Grooms and 44 as General House Servants - that is, maids-of-all-work. Ten of these last were aged 14 or below, the youngest being 10! The first four categories and the majority of the fifth worked away from where they lived. Very few in the Ward could afford to keep a servant other than the occasional young drudge on a pitiful pittance in the Lodging Houses.

Public Services were represented by a Drainer, an Excavator, a Scavenger, three Roadmen, two Rag and Bone Collectors (though one was a woman, Alice Jones, aged 55) and seven Sweeps. One claimed to be a 'Master Sweep', employing two 'lads', including his grandson, aged 10 (shades of 'The Water Babies'!). Yet another Sweep was John Bennett of Frog Lane, said to be 'independent' and all of 14 years.

Susan Wainwright, aged 63, of Oldgate Fee was a Midwife and her husband, George, aged 65, was a Gravedigger. The Alpha and Omega of a partnership! There were two other Midwives, widows, aged 70 and 77.



Francis Bedford's view looking up Corve Street in c.1861. Notice the jettied timber building on the site of Castle Garage. No. 32 (extreme right) was occupied by Henry Towers, a cattle dealer, while next door in buildings demolished in 1902 were a skinner and a cabinet maker. The pace of life seems remarkably unhurried.

Presumably they acted in a consultative capacity?

William Harding was employed as a Relieving Officer for the Town, James H. Calder as a Surveyor of Taxes (Inland Revenue), whom it will be found was a Scotsman, and there was a Toll Collector, Elizabeth Waldron, a widow of 50, of The Sheet Turnpike Gate, Lower Gaolford, showing turnpike tolls were being collected there as late as 1861.

Of the more technical trades, there were 3 Engineers, 6 Glaziers and Plumbers, 8 Tinsmiths, 9 Ironworkers, 2 Miners, 6 Saddlers, 7 Seamstresses, and a Gunmaker, aged 17.

After the Railway came to Ludlow in 1852, by 1861 there were 21 Railway Workers living in Old Street Ward. These included a Ticket Inspector, a Brakesman, three Platelayers and fifteen Labourers. It is perhaps significant that the only Engine Driver was born at Crewe.

What is somewhat surprising to discover is that there were 41 Shoemakers and it is known that there were a not inconsiderable additional number in the town's other Wards, 17 in Broad Street Ward, for instance. The question that arises is whether all these could be gainfully employed in meeting the shoe and boot requirements of Ludlow and its environs, or whether there was a small manufacturing boot and shoe trade in Ludlow at that time, selling these outside the area?

There were some 17 Hawkers, 4 of whom were Irish, 8 lived in lodgings, one was a Widow of 80 and one 'a Book-Hawker' of 22 who, maybe, was an agent for John Parry, the Ward's only Bookseller in Old Street. In addition there were 7 Journeymen (or Travellers).

'No occupation given' was entered against 121 persons in the Ward, 43 of whom were elderly Widowers and others were retired Servants, a Policeman, Farmer, Draper, Innkeeper and Glovecutter. A considerable number, however, surprisingly were those in their late teens, many in families who must have been on the poverty line. Whereas in the large families some of the teenage girls may well have helped about the house, there appears to be no reason why the young men should not have been employed, when children of 10 and 12 were working, unless it was shortage of jobs.

In this poor and seemingly overcrowded Ward, where incomes were small and houses or tenements likewise, the Victorian propensity for large families was well exhibited. There were 36 families with 5 children, 15 with 6, 2 with 7 and 8, and 1 with 9. Most children appear to have started a working life, where feasible, at 14 or earlier. Time and again it is disclosed that husbands were often very much older than their wives, up to 20 years or more. This was possibly because until they had managed to save, or earn enough over the years, they were unable to buy, or rent a small house or tenement so as to afford to marry and start a family.

The bare statistics of this Ward's 1861 Census furnish fodder for fascinating if, in some circumstances, grim surmise. Was there foundation for tragedy in the house of Thomas Price, who at the age of 79 was still working as a Labourer, living in Lower Gaolford, his wife was 77 and the only other occupant was their grand-daughter, aged 15 months? How could they adequately look after this baby? How also could Samuel Chipp, a small-time Butcher, aged 42, and his wife, Susan of the same age,

## Red Balloon Book shop

NEW BOOKS  
for all the family

+  
Book Tokens

+  
FREE Customer Order Service

Open six days a week

4, Old Street, Ludlow. Tel: 0584 872149

## Barber & Manuel

Delicatessen & Fine Foods

2-3 High Street, Ludlow.  
Tel. 875608

Sole suppliers in Ludlow of  
LOCAL PRIZE WINNING:

Yoghurts, apple juice  
and cream cheese.

Also stocked:

Hand-made Farmhouse Cheeses  
Real Dairy Ice Cream  
Speciality teas, Aroma Centre Coffee,  
Salami, Parma Ham  
and much more!

TELEPHONE  
LUDLOW 872088

R. WALTON LTD.  
BAKERS and CONFECTIONERS

Bakery, Shop and Office  
7 and 8 Market Street  
Ludlow  
Shropshire





Ladies Gentlemen &  
Childrens Outfitters

**F.J. BOWEN LTD**

BROAD STREET,  
LUDLOW

Established 1860

## CURIOSITY SHOP

127 OLD STREET, LUDLOW  
SHROPSHIRE

Specialising in  
17th & 18th century oak  
Grandfather clocks

&  
Paintings

0584 875927

(Resident on premises)

REMOVALS

STORAGE

## J. BISHOP

Carriers to the Furniture Trade  
and of Works of Art

Carpets a Speciality

2 & 3 Lower Galdeford, Ludlow  
Tel: 0584 873501

bring up a family of 9 children in their Old Street home? With difficulty, one imagines, as no child allowance could be claimed in those days. Then there was Jane Cook, said to be Head of the Household, aged 17, single, with no occupation. She had three lodgers, one a young man, aged 19, with the small wage of a Railway Labourer, and the other two, girls of 22 and 23, both unmarried and unemployed. In the absence of any unemployment money then, on what, and how did this particular household live?

Perhaps fortunately, one will never know the true answer to these problems and many others which must have faced our predecessors here some 130 years ago, but these unvarnished records tend to make hypnotic reading. Maybe some historian will be tempted to write 'The Decline and Fall of Upper Gaolford', in what George II might have been pleased to call 'Another thick book, Mr Gibbon?'.

**Derrick Banks**

### SIR HENRY LELLO

On the right hand side of the chancel in St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, is a brass tablet recording the death in 1640 of Frances, wife of Henry Lello, who had died soon after the birth of a son. Henry Lello was the son of Thomas Lello and grandson of John Lello, both of Clunton, and little is known about any of them. Henry was, however, the nephew of Sir Henry Lello who achieved some modest recognition.

He had been educated at Oxford and the Inns of Court and had been sent to Turkey to deliver an organ to Sultan Mohammed III as a present from Queen Elizabeth. On the sudden death of the existing ambassador Edward Barton in 1597, Henry Lello took over the duties of English ambassador in Constantinople. Mohammed III had been on the throne for two years, and Turkey had been at war with the Holy Roman Empire for four.

The organ was a royal bribe and so Lello was upset when it arrived damaged after six months at sea. He had it repaired in his own house in the 'Vines of Pera', and when it went to the Seraglio the Sultan was pleased with his unusual gift.

In 1603 Ahmed I became Sultan and had to face a series of internal risings in Anatolia because the troops were being harshly treated by their commanders. These important local problems were the start of dissensions which eventually led to the decline of the Ottoman Empire. Ahmed, then aged 16, marched against the rebels but withdrew and so the Grand Vizir took over and had crushed the rebels by 1609. Lello gave a detailed account of these events and commented also on the serious economic problems which accompanied them, but he was not a successful ambassador and relations with Turkey sank to their lowest ebb. However it was his shrewd bargaining power which persuaded the Turkish government to reduce the import duties on English goods. A dull man, he was

'tall and thin, awkward in his bearing, nervous and over-anxious and spoke with a high-pitched voice.' He was given to blushing, and was nicknamed Fog.

His Report is in the Cotton Collection of the British Museum (folio Nero B XI), but a more readable text is a book by S. Mayes called *An Organ for the Sultan* published in 1956.

Contemporary accounts are by Theophilus Lavender (Rev. W. Biddulph), *Travels of Certain Englishmen*, and Puchas' *his Pilgrimes*, and both are worth going to a rare books library to read.

Lello was knighted by James I on his return to England in 1607 and was appointed Warden of the Fleete. This was a prison on the east bank of the Fleet river in London and had been first built in Norman times. During Henry VIII's reign and until 1641, prisoners convicted by the Star Chamber were sent there and these included John Donne. This son of Shropshire is one of the more notable members of the Lello family and I would be very grateful to learn about any other people with the same name.

**John Lello**

*Responses to this or any other item can be forwarded through The Editor, Ludlow Heritage News, c/o 32 Corve Street, Ludlow SY8 1DA.*

### A LUDLOW COINAGE?

Ludlow over the centuries has enjoyed a varied commercial history upon which recent research has shed some light, and yet detail is all too often hard to come by because account books, ledgers and other records were regarded as essentially ephemeral and were destroyed when their owners had no further use for them or when businesses closed. Even rarer as survivals are those flimsy items which would have been regarded as so commonplace in their day that nobody would have thought for a moment that they were worth putting aside – I am thinking here of paper wrappers, trade cards, bill-heads, circulars and advertising – items which sometimes may be found by chance under floor boards but which all too rarely occur in organised collections. These can so often give us a very direct insight into commercial practice in a far more vivid way than a dry page of accounts, like the soapy if not grovelling circulars of the 19th century soliciting custom, or the charming woodcuts printed on the sheets of wrapping papers for tea, tobacco, or other dry goods.

There are other objects that while being relatively durable pose questions which, because of the rapidity of change and the passing of those who handled them, may never be satisfactorily answered. An example of this is the puzzle of Ludlow's 'coinage'. I use the term cautiously because throughout the town's long and distinguished history no coins were ever minted here; however during the 17th and 19th centuries local traders had cause to have token coins struck, some of which enjoyed a



wider circulation even beyond Ludlow's boundaries. Despite the fact that some tokens were familiar enough objects barely 130 years ago and less, few townspeople seem aware today of their existence and even fewer of their real purpose to which they were put.

The photograph above shows a selection of brass pub-checks or inn tokens which were generally in circulation during the latter half of the 19th century, enjoying a particular vogue during the 1860s. The example at the top is perhaps the commonest, struck for Edward Morris who was licensee at the Wheatsheaf Inn in Lower Broad Street certainly between 1856 and 1871. On the reverse is the value, in this case 1½d. or 3d., usually surrounded either by a wreath of leaves or an advertisement such as FINE ALES & CIGARS. The vast majority are almost certainly of Birmingham manufacture.

Below the Wheatsheaf check is that of Henry Dodd at the Hop Pole Inn at 53 Mill Street (fl. 1861 - 1871), while top left is that of Robert Henry Hodges at the Raven in Gravel Hill in about 1891. The twopenny token of the Blue Boar Inn (centre left) is more difficult to date since the innkeeper's name is not given, while to its right is an example from the Eagle Inn in Corve Street which has served through the periods of at least two licencees in that James Jones (fl. 1888 - 1891) has had his name hand-stamped over that of a previous landlord. At the bottom are the checks of William Bird of the Queens Arms Inn (now the Bridge Inn) who flourished between 1877 and 1909, and George Griffiths of the Three Horse Shoes in Upper Galdeford (c. 1877). The last prominently mentions the skittle alley, and this may well be a clue to its purpose.

These tokens appear to have had several uses; some possibly being handed out to drum

up fresh custom, especially when a new landlord took over or a pub was newly opened. Others, such as that from the Three Horse Shoes, may either have served as a prize or been given to a skittle player on entering the alley to provide the first drink free. Others were used by clubs or societies who took a room for meetings, receiving the equivalent value in tokens in return for the rent of the room. The tokens were then handed out to the members after receipt of their dues and the first drink was 'free', subsequent drinks being to the landlord's profit. This was known as the 'wet rent' system and probably accounts for most examples, but which use obtained in a particular tavern is today hard to establish.



The second photograph shows two types of check for which establishing a clear purpose has proved difficult. The four at the top are countermarked or stamped upon old withdrawn copper coinage, either worn flat with age or possibly ground smooth, bearing the names of wine and spirit merchants. The four known are Massey's from the Bull Ring; Bowyer's, possibly of the Pheasant Inn (now the Indian restaurant); Harding, perhaps of the Raven in Gravel Hill; and I. Thomas, thought to be John Thomas of the Fox in Upper Galdeford. All are crudely stamped, usually on one side only, and have no value marked on them. These are thought to have circulated freely in change merely as advertisements, but it is also possible that they served some other function such as obtaining a discount for the bearer. All probably circulated in about 1860, and their use first by one business may have stimulated the others to follow suit. A rare variety of the Bowyer piece exists in die-stamped form.

The last two checks shown are die-stamped in brass, the three varieties known being almost identical and with no value marked.

## Antique Corner

*Period Country Furniture  
Mahogany and the  
Unusual*

**John & Anne Clegg**

12 Old Street  
LUDLOW  
Shropshire

Telephone:  
Ludlow (0584) 873176

## G. & D. GINGER

*ANTIQUE DEALERS*

5 Corve Street  
Ludlow  
Shropshire  
SY8 1DA

Tel. (0584) 876939

## TREASURE AND SON LTD

Building Contractors Specialising  
in Restoration Work

Also, our established workshop  
will deal with all your  
joinery requirements

CONTACT US ON:  
**LUDLOW  
872161**

**BROAD BEAN**  
 Wholefoods  
 Delicatessen  
 Wines

**IN THE HEART OF  
 HISTORIC LUDLOW**



60 Broad St., Ludlow, Shropshire (Tel. 874239)

*Take a stroll down Broad Street and through Broadgate to the delightful beamed 18th Century Pub set in the Town Wall*

### *The Wheatsheaf Inn*

Lower Broad Street, Ludlow  
 Tel: 0584 872980

*Cool ale and good home cooked fare served in delightful surroundings. Bar snacks and A La Carte Menu – available all week.*

**3 course Sunday lunches £4.25**  
 (Booking necessary)

**Open 12-3.00 pm 6-11.00 pm**

**Quality printing  
 Typesetting  
 Design  
 Stationery  
 Office supplies  
 Photocopying  
 Rubber stamps  
 Fax bureau**

### **The Tortoise Shell Press**

28 Corve Street, Ludlow  
 Tel. Ludlow 874259  
 Fax. Ludlow 874315

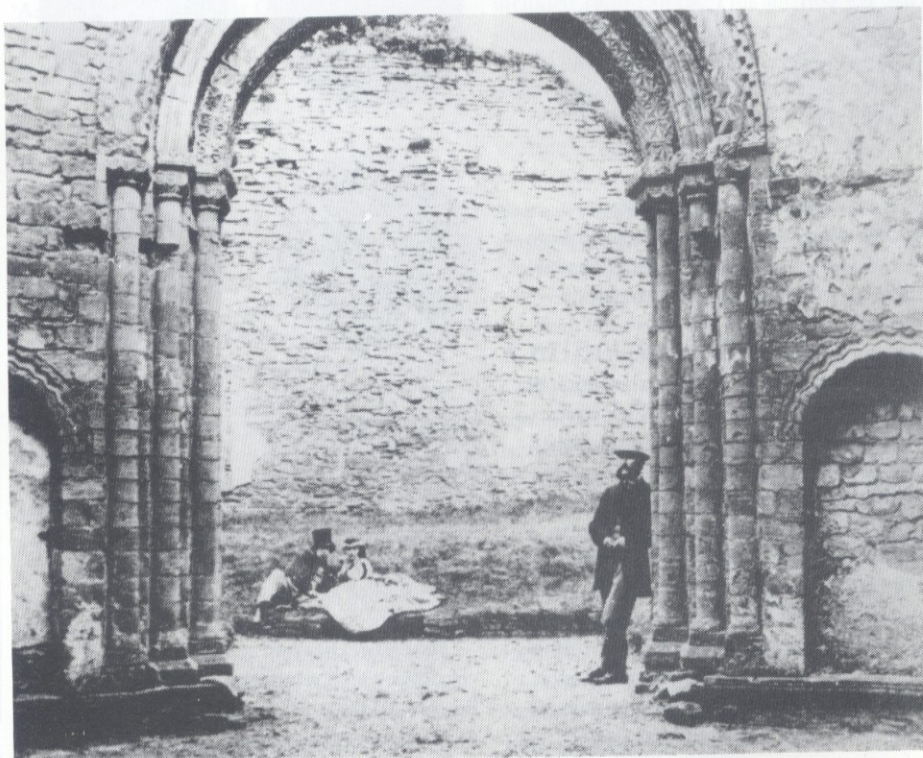
These were issued by the London Tea Company, of 6 King Street, which latterly was part of Gaius Smith's grocery empire (see Heritage News Issue 13). These must date from the 1890s or even later, and yet I haven't heard an authoritative account of their use. Smith's enjoyed a considerable postal trade in tea parcels, perhaps enclosing a token entitling a discount on receipt of a re-order?

**Peter Klein**

*The author is anxious to see any further examples of any of these in reader's possessions for comparative purposes, and further information would be most gratefully received. The examples illustrated are from the collection at Ludlow Museum.*

### **NOTES AND QUERIES:**

With this issue of the Heritage News we are starting a Notes and Queries column to which, it is very much hoped, our readers will actively write and contribute. Questions or answers should be as concise as possible and concerned with the town, its people, and its history. We cannot guarantee to print everything we receive because space is limited, but all answers will be handed on to questioners if not published. Correspondence should be sent to The Editor, Ludlow Heritage News, c/o 32 Corve Street, Ludlow SY8 1DA., and an s.a.e. would be greatly appreciated.



*Another photograph by Francis Bedford, showing Victorian visitors contemplating the decaying interior of the famous Norman round chapel. The niches flanking the chancel arch are some of the fourteen which formerly contained oak panelling bearing the painted coats of arms of the Court worthies. (see below)*

### **NOTES AND QUERIES**

In Ludlow one of the great scandals of the 18th century was the way in which the castle was allowed simply to fall down with the connivance if not active encouragement of the townspeople. Antiquaries such as Dr William Stukeley in 1721 deplored that the castle 'now alas groans out with its last breath the glories of its antient state', and noted that much of the outer ward now lay in ruins, or was 'let out at rack-rents to those that pilfer what they can'. Despite expressions of evident dismay, depredation continued and by royal decree the buildings were stripped of their roofing lead and abandoned to the elements.

Visitors wandered romantically amidst the

smothering ivy, mouldering splendour, and gothick decay with a morbid enthusiasm. Local entrepreneurs adopted a more pragmatic approach and took to blatant looting, possibly on the grounds of conservation but more plausibly because they had paid a rack rent and now claimed their money's worth. By the end of the 18th century little remained, the lawyer William Hodges in 1794 remarking that 'Of these precious relics scarce a vestige has escaped the plundering hand of the modern Goth or Vandal. The few which in our researches we have met with, have long since consigned to serve as wainscoat for a room in a public house in the town, where they were transferred many years ago by the

## Ludlow Civic Society Winter Programme 1990 - 1991

All meetings will take place in the Gym, High Hall, Ludlow College, Castle Square, Ludlow commencing at 7.30 pm.

Admission to members free, visitors welcome on payment of £2 per visitor.

### Wednesday, 17th October 1990

Mr Alfie Wood, CBE

Caring for Historic Towns

The distinguished planner and architect, former Chief Planning Officer of the West Midlands County, adviser to English Heritage, shares his experiences of planning in historic towns.

### Wednesday, 28th November 1990

#### The Fred Reeves Memorial Lecture

Dr Trevor Rowley

Heath, Shropshire: the quintessential deserted medieval village

This year the Chapel at Heath celebrates its 900th anniversary. The Society marks this event with a talk by the author of *The Making of a Shropshire Landscape* who will tell of this evocative lost village.

### Wednesday, 16th January 1991

Mr R. H. A. Merlen

Motte and Bailey Castles of the Welsh Marches

The hills of the Welsh Marches are redolent with the history of border land strife. These border domains mapped out the future history and power-brokers of England and Wales.

then owner of the house, better known in Ludlow by the name of Miller Page, and of whom it is reported, upon good authority, that he enriched himself by plundering and selling the old materials of the castle.'

The public house in question was the Bull Inn, and the 'relics' which Miller Page had acquired were fourteen panels, bearing the painted coats of arms of the worthies of the Court in the Marches of Wales, which had once lodged in the fourteen niches of the circular nave of the Norman chapel of St Mary Magdalene. These were converted into wainscoting to line the walls of the principal dining room on the first floor of the Bull, where they were a feature of note for well over a century, and more were placed in other rooms as well. (A full list of them and their location was printed in 1841 in R. H. Clive's *Documents Connected with the History of Ludlow*, page 291). Here they survived, referred to in local guide books as being of historic interest, until 1913 when the Bull changed hands.

In the 13th edition of George Woolley's Guide, published in 1909, was repeated the statement that the panelling could be seen 'on application to the worthy hostess, Mrs Crane'. In the next edition of May 1913 we read:

### Wednesday, 13th February 1991

Dr Evelyn Silber

A Very Perilous Experiment: Jacob Epstein - a sculptor in the public eye

Dr Silber is Assistant Director at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, and will explore the public sculpture of this exciting if often controversial artist from his early work for the British Medical Association in 1907/08, the famous figure of Rima made for the RSPB in Hyde Park in 1924/25, through to his commissions for Llandaff and Coventry cathedrals in the 1950s.

### Wednesday, 6th March 1991

Dr Martin Speight

The Georgian Church and its Furnishings

Our Vice-President and former chairman has chosen to speak on one of his many subjects of special interest.

### Wednesday, 17th April 1991

The Westward Look

Presented by the Drama Group of the Birmingham and Midland Institute

An unusual departure for the Society but to end our programme, we journey in the company of the characters of the midland novelist, Francis Brett Young, from North Bromwich to the valley of the Garon, Rhayader.

### Wednesday, 8th May 1991

Annual General Meeting of the Society

'These panels, still in a good state of preservation until 1913, formed a wainscot in the dining room of the Bull Hotel in Ludlow, but have now been removed'. Subsequent stories suggest that they were sold and exported across the Atlantic.

There are two obvious puzzles. Firstly, how is it possible that such historically significant panelling could have been allowed to leave Ludlow apparently with so little comment at the time? Secondly, if it still exists then why is it that in nearly 80 years some report has not surfaced regarding its whereabouts? If it has indeed gone to America then how does one start looking for something which may very well have been fragmented and have lost any associations with its origins? If any reader can suggest lines of research, or indeed has any clues to the answer, I would be most grateful to hear.

Peter Klein

## The Feathers at Ludlow



The Feathers, The Bull Ring, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1AA. Tel: (0584) 875261

Fax: 876030

AA ★★★RAC

For those who enjoy eating 'alfresco'. The new 'Courtyard' restaurant is always available when the weather is suitable and is a worthy addition to the many amenities at the Feathers. Telephone Ludlow 875261 for reservations.

## The Glebe Bistro

58 BROAD STREET  
LUDLOW

Call in for morning coffee.

Quick stop for working lunch?

Try one of our businessman's specials.

Available every lunchtime.

Or if you prefer have a glass of wine with one of our many vegetarian dishes. Join your friends for afternoon tea.

We are open 9.30 am to 5.00 pm

Open weekends

Closed Tuesdays

Ring Ludlow (0584) 875153 for details



Sutton Court Farm Holiday Cottages  
Little Sutton  
Stanton Lacy  
Ludlow, Shropshire

Self-Catering cottages of quality in the beautiful Corve Dale valley.

Sleep 2-6. Open all the year round.

Also

Bed & Breakfast - Evening Meals

For a brochure. Tel: 058 473 305

Dermot & Janet Beaumont-Nesbitt

It is with the deepest regret that we record the deaths over the past few months of our long-standing members Lady Barbara Dyer, Rachel Hall, and Evelyn Moxon. Their sad loss will be deeply felt as much by Ludlow Civic Society as by their families and friends, and their staunch support and keen interest will be greatly missed.

**The continuing publication of the Heritage News is made possible by the generosity of our advertisers. We hope that you have enjoyed this edition, and that you will continue to support them as they have supported us over the years.**

## LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY

**President:** Julian Critchley, MP  
**Vice-Presidents:** Mrs Joan Nash  
 Dr Martin Speight  
**Chairman:** Stephen Dornan  
**Vice-Chairman:** George Carter  
**Secretary:** Mrs Jane Caulcott  
**Treasurer:** The Manager  
 Barclays Bank

**Committee:**  
 Dorothy Arrowsmith, Derrick Banks,  
 Tom Caulcott, Phillip Gillam,  
 Barbara Holcombe, Neil Ker, Peter Klein,  
 James Lane, David Lloyd, and  
 Dick Stephens.

## LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

*Please return either application form or Banker's Order form to:*

Mrs J. M. Caulcott, Hon. Secretary, Ludlow Civic Society,  
 37 Lower Broad Street, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1PH

Please enrol me as a member of the Ludlow Civic Society, I enclose a cheque made payable to the Ludlow Civic Society for £5. (Subscriptions are normally due on 1st September).

Name: (Mr, Mrs, Miss) .....

Address: .....

*(Alternatively it would be helpful if you could complete a Banker's Order. This should be returned to the Secretary, and NOT the Society's Bank).*

### BANKER'S ORDER

To the Manager: ..... (name of your Bank)

Address: (of your Bank) .....

Please pay to Barclays Bank PLC, Ludlow and Craven Arms Branch, 3 King Street, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1AJ to the credit of the Ludlow Civic Society, Account Number 50520861 on 1st September 199.... and on the same date each year the sum of £..... and debit my account number .....

Signature: .....

Name: .....

Address: .....



## RETIRED HOMEOWNERS

Your Home Could Provide an  
Income For Life with a

## HOME INCOME PLAN

For free advice, without commitment,  
consult:

## L. N. GREENALL (LUDLOW) Ltd

Independent Financial Advisers

Eagle House, Corve Street  
Ludlow  
Tel. 872322



## DE GREYS LICENSED RESTAURANT



Functions Room for 60 people  
Parties catered for up to  
120 people.

Morning Coffee,  
Luncheons, Afternoon Tea

BROAD STREET, LUDLOW  
Telephone: Ludlow (0584) 872764

## GO WHITTLE

## TRAVEL

15 TOWER STREET, LUDLOW  
& FISHMORE GARAGE  
LUDLOW  
Tel: 872491

British and Continental Holidays:  
Coach Tours, Ferry Bookings

Private Coach Hire

Coaches 16 - 57 seats

Pick-up our latest day-trip leaflet  
from our office in Tower Street.