

Ludlow Heritage News

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The new link building from Mill Street; photographed by Arthur Bristow

THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS LINK BUILDING

The concept of a link building originated in the Town Council Community Resources Committee, as it grappled after the 1987 elections with the best option for replacing the facilities lost by the demolition of the Town Hall and the Clifton Cinema. It is difficult to attribute the idea to any one individual, but Councillors Stan Jones and Alan Middleton were certainly prominently involved. It was the Ludlow and District Community Association who turned the concept into reality. Much of the credit for the glass front must go to the architect, Chris Bean, but as his proposals went through various committees, Stephen Dornan, from the Civic Society, and James Caird, from South Shropshire District Council, were among those who made significant contributions to the design.

An appreciation by our Chairman, Stephen Dornan

When the Ludlow and District Community Association and its architects opted for a frankly contemporary new link building in Mill Street, they embarked on a high-risk strategy. The fabric of the core of the town is uniformly late Georgian and earlier; Victorian and later building is poorly represented and frankly contemporary building almost non-existent.

There are many who believe that any modern alterations to the core of Ludlow should be opposed on principle. Their safe choice would have been a piece of bland neo-Georgian infill; or, to put it more prosaically, rendered breeze blocks with rectangular holes for the windows and doors, and a standard length of mass-produced cornice to top the design off.

To their eternal credit, the Community Association dared to choose a polygonal glass front. In so doing, they were not desecrating the town; they were acting wholly within the spirit of Ludlow.

Period buildings here are almost invariably sound but conservative in design. If one dates a house in Ludlow from its details the chances are that one will be 20 or 30 years too early; London fashions have always taken time to percolate. The idea of a plain glass front linking

two chaste neo-classical buildings derives ultimately from such examples as the Coutts Building in the Strand of the early 1970's. So the Ludlow time lag is still with us; and just as well; there is some pretty awful neo-classical stuff going up in London these days!

Ludlow detailing is frequently robust. The glass link is entirely within this tradition. Nobody could call it a particularly slick building; there is no great subtlety of detailing; expensive trim is absent, owing to a tight budget – another timeless Ludlow constraint. Iron handrails throughout the link are good and beefy.

Some will claim that glass and steel sit unhappily in the Ludlow township. They should ask themselves whether timber framing and Georgian brick, two totally dissimilar methods of construction, sit well together. Of course they do; provided one respects the scale and uses decent materials one can get away with just about anything!

Only time will determine whether or not Ludlow takes this new building to its heart. But my guess is that it will; and in the meantime, the top deck of the link provides one of the best townscape promenades anywhere in England.

Ludlow Civic Society

20P

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We recently sold this oil on panel of two Collie Puppies which came from the sale of the residue of the contents of Davenport House, Nr. Bridgnorth. Although only measuring 9½" x 13½", they made £1,980 + Premium.

Mr Lawrence Talbot, M.A. (Cantab.), A.R.I.C.S., is available by appointment to help identify and advise on values.

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WATER, PURE WATER

'Water, pure water' was offered as an alternative to beer or wine by the well known Temperance movement song, but how often was this available even in the nineteenth century? Certainly in mediaeval times it was in very short supply and the attempts of Ludlow's town authorities down the centuries to remedy this shortage is a fascinating story. Not that this article attempts anything like a full history; but rather draws attention to some highlights and some mysteries.

The earliest source of water for the towns folk was undoubtedly from wells. The fact that Ludlow is built on limestone means that a well dug down through this rock had a chance of being uncontaminated. This is true even down by the river, there was a well just to the right of the fore court of the Temeside garage and I suspect the weeping cross at the bottom of Weeping Cross Lane was in fact a spring. Certainly there was a basin there where money was put in times of plague, purified by the magic properties of the water, to be exchanged for food brought in from the country. There is also a large diameter well in the basement of the Broad Gate which must date from the middle of the 13c. and doubtless many more whose existence is now unsuspected.

However a running water supply is a great advantage and the monastic houses and friaries were very keen on organising these. Thus when the Augustinians built their friary in Lower Galdeford in the 1250s they used a stream passing through the site.

The first piped water to the town was probably made about 1300, although the earliest surviving reference is in a Palmers Guild Muniment of Title dated 1325 as follows 'Indenture between the Community of Burgesses of the town of Lodelowe de one part and Richard son of Geoffrey de Butterlye of the other part;... and Richard during his life will maintain and repair the two aqueducts of the town of Lodelowe with their water pipes (fistulis aquatics) all their lead parts and their brass stopcocks (clavibus ereis) while however they shall have the right to use the water through its course (dum tamen per cursum et usitationem aque fuerint) wholly excepting damage and burden of repairs and of maintaining the walls, the stones of the said aqueducts of the said course (de terorate onere emendationis ac sustentationis murorum lapiderorum aqueductorem predicti cursi) and if the aqueduct, pipe or stopcocks are broken by force or malice the Burgesses will repair them at their own cost. Lodelowe Sunday after Lady Day A.R. 18 Edward II'

This tells us that there were two conduits of lead pipe laid in stone troughs. It ran from a spring called St Julian's Well, now at the end of Julian's Avenue to an outlet at the West end of the Tolsey which was called the White Conduit, this is a distance of about half a mile with a drop of some twenty five feet. The water comes from the junction of the strata of Old Red Marl and gravel composed of 'old red'

debris.

The White Conduit is shown in an engraving by Ziegler done in the 1820s while S. Gallein's well is still visible covered by a pitched stone roof. Some aspects of the operation of the water supply are shown by entries in the Bailiff Accounts 1611 'paid for a loke and key for the doare in the condite fyld & for mending the doare two severall times before xvii^d.

So originally the water was accessible through a wooden door. This being necessary to enable the water to be lowered to allow the pipe to be repaired as shown in the next extract of 1668 'ffor repaying the pipes in the Conduit feild with 2lb of Sawder 0.2..0 for coales 3^d Labourer to lade ye spring' 8^d.

A good example of the Burgesses repairing damage caused by 'force or malice' can be given from the accounts for 1558 'more to Season for mending the boil & standart of the whit conduit which a boy did breke over xij^d paid by 'William Bedow towart the hurt for sowder and workmanship in this october' iij^d iiij^d Boys will be boys!

John Leland, that indefatigable traveller, visited Ludlow in about 1540 when he observed that 'There be two castelets for conduit water in the towne, servyd from one spring or head'. This is confirmed in 1558 when we learn that the pipes have been extended to Castle Street at some time in the recent past 'pavd more to the massones for viij weeks at v' a wyke for workyn on the new koundytt in the kastell strette' xl³.

There are also a number of references about this time to a conduit in Corve Street. This is shown on Wood's map of 1835 as on the east side of Corve Street just south of Station Drive. It was probably fed from a spring filled reservoir below Gravel Hill. Certainly the Carmelite friary, built in 1350 on the west side of Corve Street, had a piped water supply; almost certainly coming from the same spring, since they took the trouble to acquire two half burgage plots, end to end, stretching from Corve Street up to Gravel Hill.

The next document I want to consider is a map showing a new source of water for Ludlow, namely Whitcliffe. This plan shows a proposal, dated 1870, for a reservoir on Lower Whitcliffe a mile from the town fed from a spring which now flows across the road to Downton and on along the road, now a field track, to Priors Halton. But more interesting is the presence of an earlier reservoir a little higher up the slope. The pipe from this is shown to pass under the Clive Cottages, across the river just above the weir, enter the castle by the postern tower, emerge into the outer bailey where it divides. One branch goes to Dinham House and the other leaves the outer bailey by the entrance and passes down Castle Square and on to the end of Castle Street. What are we to make of this? The fact that the pipe goes under the Clive Cottages suggests it was laid to supply water to these which were built about 1830. However, it is very difficult to accept that the pipes would be laid into the castle after it



The White Conduit on the end of the Tolsey in about 1825

was abandoned in 1689.

We know that there was a fountain in the inner bailey of the castle in 1683 which Dineley sketched on his visit there as part of the retinue of the Duke of Beaufort. This is undoubtedly the one installed by Sir Henry Sidney together with many other improvements, as recorded in the Penshurst Papers.

'Item for making of a Conduyt of ledd to convey the water into the same Castle of Ludlowe the space of a myle and more in leinght for making a howse of lymestone being the hedd and for a goodly large founteyne of lyme stone and ledd ... and for conveying of the water in ledd from the same founteyne into the garden (outer bailey) and divers other offices within the house, and from thens into the Castle Streete within the said Towne of Ludlowe and there making of a fountain of lyme and stone.'

Sir Henry became President of the Council of the Marches, whose seat was Ludlow castle, in 1560 but was only regularly in the Marches from 1570, this gives added interest to a small item from the Bailiff's Accounts for 1575 'paid to certayne persons that did draw the Condytte lead belonging to the Castle owt of the Teame, to make them drink' xij^d.

Perhaps this was an unsuccessful first attempt to lay the pipe across the river, the last phrase of the entry means, of course, that the xij^d was to provide drink for the 'certain persons' who fished the pipes out of the water.

I think we may therefore conclude that there was a water supply taken from the spring on Lower Whitcliffe from about 1570 onwards but the pipes shown on the 1870 plan may well be a later version of this facility.

Finally a very important addition to Ludlow's water supplies was installed in 1808, not for drinking but river water to be used for other purposes.

The Corporation Minutes for the 28th October 1807 reported that complaints had been received that the 'Inhabitants were not sufficiently supplied with Water.' A Mr Hezeltine of Shrewsbury was called in to make a survey. He declared that 'the Scale of the Works was very inadequate' and so it was

ordered that the Bailiffs etc. 'take the same into consideration and give direction for carrying out the same or such parts thereof as they shall think necessary and the funds of the Corporation will allow into effect so as to supply the town sufficiently with water and guard against the danger and evil of fire.'

No sooner the word than the deed!

Corporation minutes of 10th November 1807

'Works in part completed and the remainder in a great state of forwardness'; they

also decreed that 'The Waterworks should in future be under the Care of a person hired or retained by them for that sole purpose with a Suitable Salary' and 'that the distribution of the water into specific parts of the town at certain given periods of the day such as the resident members' of the Corporation 'should deem most proper.' Corporation minutes 28th October 1808 'James Chantle of Ludlow yeoman, employed to undertake the Turning of the Water to the different Houses of the Town'.

This is an astonishing fast response to a complaint when the extent of the 'Waterworks' is revealed in a booklet entitled 'A description of Ludlow with an Historical Account of the Castle, printed and sold by W. Felton 1812.'

The relevant passages read 'on the Northern side of the Market House a conduit has lately been erected at a very considerable expense to the corporation which contains two large reservoirs, the one for river, the other for spring water; the latter of which is used for drinking. The river water is also brought under ground into almost every street and may be had in almost every house for a small annual payment to the corporation. At the bottom of Mill Street is a water engine which serves to throw up a copious supply for the reservoir at the Market House. It was newly erected in the year 1808 at a cost to the corporation of more than £1,500.'

This was a very large sum of money in 1808 and provided for a Tangye pump driven by the water of the Teme on the site of the Mill Street corn mills of 13c origin. It had to raise the water some 100 feet to the Market House and its remains were removed a mere seven years ago. From the map previously mentioned we know that an extra reservoir on Whitcliffe Coppice was built in 1870 to supply more drinking water and this was probably the last improvement of the water supply provided by the town before the Elan Valley pipe line connected Ludlow into a much wider network.

Ron Kitchener

Acknowledgements are made to the 'Historical Research Group' for much of the documentation used in this article. R.K.

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PLANNING ISSUES: 1

What Civic Society members can do

One of the ways in which members of the Civic Society can contribute to the conservation and enhancement of Ludlow is by participating in the planning process. In recent years your committee has been very active in this way, and we can be confident that this will continue during the current year. We have various kinds of input into the process, including:

- i *Commenting on current applications.* Our comments are prepared by Chairman Stephen Dornan and new committee member James Harris, a retired professional architect. When submitted, they are summarised by SSDC Planning Department officers for presentation to the Planning Committee.
- ii *Representation on the Ludlow Conservation Area Advisory Committee.* This committee meets monthly and advises the SSDC on planning applications within the Ludlow Conservation Area and on those which have an impact on it. A Civic Society representative is one of ten voting members. This representative was once Philip Gillam and later Jane Caulcott. Your committee has nominated James Harris as Jane's successor.
- iii *Making representations on draft local plans and at*

planning inquiries. Your committee made detailed comments on recent drafts of the Ludlow Plan and on the South Shropshire Local Plan which will succeed it. The Society was represented at the inquiry on the livestock market site development by our President, Alfie Wood, and at a recent inquiry on the South Shropshire Local Plan by our Chairman, Stephen Dornan.

Although your committee is there to take a lead role in these matters, other Civic Society members can contribute. Courses of action you can take include:

- i *Visit the Planning Department* at Stone House and exercise your right to see the application file.
- ii *Refer any concerns you have* to a Civic Society committee member.
- iii *Lobby South Shropshire District Councillors,* especially those who are the elected representatives of your ward.
- iv *Make your own written representation,* which will be incorporated in the officer report to the Planning Committee.
- v *Attend the Planning Committee meeting* to see how effectively your local members represent your point of view.

Difficult planning matters now under consideration

LUDLOW CASTLE

Powis Estates, with the support of English Heritage, seeks to convert the 16th century buildings left of the outer bailey entrance into a ticket office, shop and interpretation centre. This involves reinserting the first floor and constructing a roof of modern design and materials.

After careful study of the plans and discussions with the architect (1993 Ludlow Festival lecturer Bob Tolley), your committee has expressed approval of most elements of the design but they were divided about the view of the modern roof from Castle Square, as seen over a dip in the curtain wall. A minority, including your Chairman and Vice-Chairman, felt that a sight of the new roof would show that the castle had a contemporary use, and would not be out of place in a building which already has structures from late 11th century Norman to early Victorian (the part now occupied by Castle Flats). The majority, however, believed that modern style and materials would be out of place in such a context and argued that the medieval wall should be raised to its former height, thus masking the proposed new structure. This majority view has become the official submission of the Society and has been forwarded to the Planning Department.

This application has now been approved.

137 CORVE STREET

This interesting property has a timber framed interior, which was refronted in brick in the early 18th century, and altered again after 1750. There are long associations with the Hattam family, leading Ludlow craftsmen for nearly a century, and with the Valentines, who were malsters as well as bakers and grocers. Many of the house fittings are of very high quality, especially a superb built-in mid 18th century cabinet in a front reception room. A long range of outbuildings includes a workshop supported by upper crucks (rare in Ludlow) and a fine brick kiln once used for malting.

Stoneham Housing association have applied to convert this into a hostel for homeless young persons. Some months ago permission was given to convert a nearby property in this way but this application has been withdrawn for technical reasons.

Your committee supports the aim of helping the homeless but feels strongly that a building of this quality should not be subjected to institutional use. In the light of representations made by your committee and others, Stoneham have modified their original proposals considerably, but the fundamental mismatch between the quality of this building and the use proposed remains.

The application has now been refused.

PLANNING ISSUES: 2

Our Conservation Officers

Colin Richards and Harley Thomas, the Conservation Officers respectively for South Shropshire District Council and Shropshire County Council, play an important part in the planning process. They provide guidance for applicants and advise the Ludlow Conservation Area Advisory Group and the SSDC Planning Committee on conservation matters.

COLIN RICHARDS

Colin Richards was born at Sutton St Nicholas, a small village north of Hereford. This is a place rich in architectural interest, and may have inspired Colin's obvious empathy with old buildings and their materials.

He was educated at Leominster Grammar School, and at Trent Polytechnic, where he took an Honours Degree in Town Planning. He followed this with a Diploma in Architectural Conservation at Bristol University, and he is currently studying part-time for an M.A. in Architectural History at Keele University.

Colin worked for Hereford City Council before coming to South Shropshire. He helped prepare the local plan and gained experience as an Area Development Control Officer. In 1985 he became the City's Conservation Officer, and from there moved to South Shropshire District Council in 1988 to become that authority's first holder of such a post.

Colin sees his role as providing a technical and educational resource, to be used by owners of historic buildings as well as by Council officers and members. He enjoys the work he does in all parts of South Shropshire, where historic buildings abound, but regards Ludlow, one of the best preserved historic towns in England, as the icing on the cake.

Colin's quiet and courteous manner has won the respect of many people. Those who own historic buildings and who wish to conserve and enhance them will receive patient and well informed advice, and as much practical help and grant aid as he can muster. But those who neglect their properties or wilfully molest them will find they have a formidable and persistent opponent. Colin makes an important contribution to the fine planning team we have in South Shropshire and the Civic Society wishes him many satisfying years amongst us.

HARLEY THOMAS

Like Colin, Harley Thomas is a native of the Welsh borders. He grew up near Presteigne and attended the Grammar School there. But his first working years were spent in farming. Basically a countryman, he came to think of Ludlow as a major town and Shrewsbury, where he is now based, as a metropolis.

In his twenties Harley decided to make a career in archaeology and architecture, in which he was keenly interested. He took a degree at Cardiff University, specialising in medieval and post-medieval buildings. Then he went to work for Hampshire County Council, where he was curator of a museum of farming and rural life. His experience there at restoring buildings deepened his interest in conservation and gave him valuable practical experience.

Next, Harley returned to South Wales, to work for an environmental charity, and then he had a few years as a self-employed consultant. He worked for several bodies, including English Heritage, and one of his commissions was the relisting of buildings in Ludlow. Harley tackled this responsible job with zeal and tact, but though his recommendations were submitted nearly four years ago, they are still sitting on a Whitehall desk – to his and our intense annoyance.

His work at Ludlow and elsewhere had given Harley a taste for Shropshire and when the post of County Conservation Officer became vacant in 1991, following the move of Carol Ryan into academic life, Harley applied for the job. He was delighted that he was successful, and though his imprint has already been felt across the county, he feels particularly at home in Ludlow, due to the detailed knowledge he has of Ludlow buildings. We for our part are delighted to have him. He and Colin make an excellent team.

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LUDLOW TOWN TOURS

Surely there were town tours of Ludlow from the beginning? Wasn't Geraldus Cambrensis taken on one in 1188 as he rode through town recruiting for the third Crusade? He wrote in his diary about '... the noble Castle (one hundred years old).' A mediaeval town's protracted past is one of its privileges. It has architecture and records to prove it. So, appropriately, townspeople of any of its phases have been/are proud to show it off.

Ludlow's Castle attracts all eyes. Well, it *should*. Roger de Lacy began building it around 1086, on lands inherited from his father Walter, a henchman of William the Conqueror. Think of the hordes led about the Castle over the centuries. 'Now there, on your right, are some Norman bits', they'd have been told 'and there's the well, there the garderobe tower Geoffrey de Geneville built in the 13th century, there the royal arms of Elizabeth I, within the garter, and there ...'. You see? So much history to show and tell.

Then there's the Parish Church, wouldn't members of the Palmers' Guild have taken visitors round, say in 1447, telling how it was in 1199? Displaying a fresh set of misericordes, new stalls wrought from Bristol oak, and a spectacular Perpendicular style tower? Probably everybody tripped over the elongated points of their modish, mediaeval shoes.

And the market: a boon to local commerce since Edward IV incorporated Ludlow as a borough in 1461: 'guaranteeing no interference in democratic rule.' Countless of the curious have learned how insidious inflation can be. For instance: a barrel of small beer cost 4s. 4d. at Ludlow market in 1559.

But, forgetting a few things we're powerless to change, how lucky can current Ludlow residents be? And visitors? It's all still *here*, still functioning: even to Festival performances in the Castle in summer, and a send-off for the Hunt on Boxing Day. We even have the resurrection of the Assembly Rooms at the top of Mill Street: reactivating '... public buildings for meetings, assemblies, museum, and other public and scientific purposes, opened in 1840.'

Anyone, now: 1993, *you*, if you haven't, can turn up at the cannon outside the Castle entrance Saturdays and Sundays: Easter to mid-October, every day during the Ludlow Festival, August Wednesdays and Thursdays plus Bank Holidays, and for £1, children free, have a brilliant guided tour of Ludlow. Inimitable Ludlow. Each tour is as individual as its guide. Each guide is facile with facts, and has a unique fashion of presenting them. That's half the experience. The other half depends on the tourer's interest and imagination. As with so much in life, the more of those two the merrier.

For an hour and a half, you'll be walked along the streets of the original town grid, planned to be executed in phases after the 12th

century. Your contribution to the tour's success is to think past tense, with alert senses: smell foulness emanating from the Castle ditch, where the cannon now stands. Avert your nose from another nasty stench at the top of Mill Street where beasts were butchered at the Shambles. See mediaeval women, with shopping baskets on their arms, wearing low, close fitting bodices showing their shapeliness, plus bright coloured stockings. They'd have plucked their eyebrows, shaving hair above them so their foreheads looked higher. And they'd have pulled their skirts close as fat swine, chased by bailiffs with sticks darted about. Down the two main streets: Broad and Mill, now ancient houses have grown together, like elegant, elderly duchesses leaning on each other for support. Imagine them as they were: first rude wattle and daub, then changing to accommodate each architectural need and fashion. Unless you can catch a glimpse through a gate or passage you must guess at splendid secret gardens hidden behind: the burgrave plots of Ludlow's beginnings. Hear beasts bellowing as they're butchered, prisoners in the stocks moaning outside the Castle Lodge, market traders shouting out their wares: ribbons, honey, tallow, two pound sugar loaves. The thing to do is to assume a mediaeval mode as you follow your leader. Deftly, he or she, a Ludlow Historical Research Group member, will condense 900 years into an hour and a half, motivating you to read, mark and digest as much history as you can swallow. You'll never forget it. You'll want brochures, books and time for learning more. Ludlow and its lore, are addictive.

Ludlow Town Tours were designed by David Lloyd and Dr Martin Speight for the 1976 Festival. Then they were sponsored by the newly formed Ludlow Historical Research Group. Dorothy and Bill Arrowsmith took over tour organisation in the early 1980's, which went from strength to strength, and continues, thanks to Belle and Ron Kitchener.

There are other old English market towns and other tours, but it would be difficult to top Ludlow, Shropshire, according to Alec Clifton Taylor, authority, and countless satisfied customers.

Someone once said: 'If you love a particular place, be prepared to do battle to the death, if necessary, to conserve it'.

I, for one, am quite willing to be put to the test.

Constance G. Brooks

KING STREET RESURFACED

Until six months ago King Street, according to a County Council survey, was the worst surfaced street in Shropshire. The funds needed for basic resurfacing were provided by Shropshire County Council and South Shropshire District Council contributed a further £20,000 so that the work could be done to a standard consistent with the Ludlow Conservation Area. The results have elicited delight from some people and vituperative criticism from others. Your editors invited Civic Society Chairman, Stephen Dornan, to put the scheme in context, and two members – Ellis Shaw and Bill Hall – to give their reactions.

Six out of ten to the planners – by STEPHEN DORNAN

Ludlow is a traffic engineering nightmare and in solving its problems Shropshire County Council's Highways Department deserves our sympathy. For good or ill we are still living with medieval planning decisions!

There is nothing new in the pedestrian-vehicular conflict in King Street; what IS new is our expectation that it should be solved to everyone's satisfaction – and that this should be done in an aesthetically acceptable way.

So what are the options? The most obvious is now a non-starter. One could flatten one or both sides of King Street and thus widen the carriageway. But with buildings of high calibre on each side of the street that would be completely unacceptable.

The conflict could be solved by banning wheeled traffic from King Street altogether. But most businesses have to be serviced through their front doors and most Ludlow town centre residents are car owners. Rationalisation of servicing and traffic access IS possible but for the time being some wheeled

access through King Street seems inevitable.

A third option is acceptance of the uneasy compromise that now exists and an attempt at its amelioration. The highways authority has gone for this and it is difficult to imagine what else it could have done. The widening of pavements and narrowing of the carriageway are the best of a bad job. The paviors are excellent. One could quarrel with the machine made blue bricks used for the carriageway and with their busy herringbone pattern. The employment of tarmac is regrettable but the stone setts are, at present, prohibitively expensive. Altogether there are too many treatments and the overall effect is too fussy.

Inevitably, there have been complaints about sprained ankles and near misses. One suspects that there were just as many casualties in the past but that the new layout has brought new publicity and more press interest.

So six out of ten for the planners as things stand at the moment – and that is not a bad score.

Comments by BILL HALL

The resurfacing of King Street is an imaginative attempt at a new departure, a changing of the conventional look of roads and pavements. In some respects it works well but it fails, I think, in its treatment of the parking areas.

It is the general practice, though not a rule, for the meeting of road and pavement to be signalled by a change of height – the kerb – and a change of tone or colour. It is also usual for parking spaces to be the same material and colour as the road.

King Street is arranged differently. While there is a very clear distinction of colour between road and pavement in the central stretch of the street, the parking areas are of the same material as the pavement. The two are separated by a kerb but it is made of the same bricks and is easily missed by those of poor sight. There seems to be some dispute about how many have fallen over the kerb but the danger is self evident.

Two courses are possible. One is to resurface the parking areas so that these are the same colour as the road. The other, significantly cheaper I should imagine, though possibly less effective, is to replace the kerb with bricks of distinctively different colour.

Comments by ELLIS SHAW

The work on King Street has tried to deal with two largely incompatible principles: the provision of a pedestrianised area and the continuation of unrestricted through traffic.

Leaving aside any aesthetic considerations, which are largely a matter of opinion, the safety and workmanship aspects of the scheme I find disappointing. Much of my concern relates to the use of tegula (concrete) blocks for the footpath areas. The wide joints used and occasional inaccurate alignment are clearly a problem for those of us who are less agile as pedestrians than we used to be and constitute a trap for ladies wearing high-heeled shoes. The shape and size of these blocks has made it impossible to form a neat surround to manhole frames etc. leaving an area which has had to be fitted with cement mortar which even now is breaking up further, reducing any visual attraction the blocks may have had. The scheme also lacks any kerb along a portion of its length thus losing the protection formerly enjoyed by pedestrians from passing vehicles.

I suspect that in due course we shall all become used to it but if further works of a similar nature are to be attempted a higher priority should be given to safety of pedestrians and to standards of workmanship.

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EVENTS!

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*Details and reservation form from
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Wednesday 22nd September 1993
The Enhancement of Castle Square
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 Mayor of Ludlow

Wednesday 13th October 1993
Walking the Conservation Tighrope
 John Yates, English Heritage

Wednesday 17th November 1993
Reeves Memorial Lecture
The Public Buildings of Ludlow
 (13th C to 1993)
 David Lloyd

Tuesday 11th January 1994
Social Evening
at the Red Cross Hall

Wednesday 26th January 1994
Ancient Woodland of Shropshire
 Nigel Jones

Wednesday 23rd February 1994
Dendrochronology: Dating Techniques;
A Shropshire Project
 Madge Moran

Wednesday 23rd March 1994
Roman Shropshire
Mike Watson
 Senior County Archaeologist

Wednesday 20th April 1994
Framing Options:
Details of Georgian Architecture
 Dr Steven Parissien

Wednesday 18th May 1994
Annual General Meeting

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