

Ludlow Heritage News

No. 23 SPRING 1995

Published twice a year by Ludlow Civic Society



This picture from Bill Moody is our most spectacular find. It is the only known illustration of the house at 52 Broad Street, which was demolished in 1879 to make way for the new Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. The house was designed in the 1740s for the Salvays of Richards Castle by William Baker, the architect of the Butter Cross.

PICTURES OF OLD LUDLOW

Last autumn the Ludlow Historical Research Group received an invitation from the Chalford Publishing Company of Gloucester (formerly Alan Sutton) to produce a Ludlow volume in 'The Old Photographs' series. After discussions within the Group, it was decided to accept this invitation, with myself acting as editor. Various members of the Group took responsibility for collecting pictures of specific parts of the town or on themes of general interest. There has also been enormous interest from members of the public. The result will be a book of 160 pages and about 270 photographs. It is hoped that the book will be published in early July and that the price will be £8.95.

Three collections of pictures of old Ludlow appeared in the early 1980s. In 1981 Shropshire Libraries published *A Ludlow Album: A collection of old photographs*, compiled by Bill Webb, who was then librarian at Ludlow. In 1983 Dr. Martin Speight, who was Chairman of the Civic Society at the time, put together *Ludlow in old picture postcards* as part of a series published by a firm in the Netherlands. The following year Peter Klein and myself produced *Ludlow: A Historic Town in Words and Pictures*, which was published by Phillimore. Each of these generated a great deal of interest and supplemented earlier books on Ludlow which were well supplied

with illustrations, such as Oliver Baker's *Ludlow Town and Neighbourhood*, published in 1888.

Valuable as these collections are, our publication breaks new ground in a number of ways. It includes several pictures which have come to light during research on the town in the last ten years. The book is arranged in fourteen sections. The first seven of these work round the town topographically, beginning with Whitcliffe and the River Teme, and finishing at Rock Green. Nearly all parts of the town are represented, not just those of the more obvious historic interest. There are as many pages on Galdeford as there are on Broad Street, and small back yards are featured alongside smart Georgian facades. The second part of the book deals with major themes such as 'Earning a Living' and 'Recreation', and ends with a short section on 'Today and Tomorrow' which illustrates some of the exciting developments which have occurred in Ludlow in recent years, such as the proposals for Castle Square enhancement.

The most distinctive feature of the book is its stress on the people of Ludlow. There are features on well known Ludlow families, such as the Vashon-Baker-Twiddys, the Boden-

(continued on page 2)

Ludlow Civic Society

20p

FREE TO MEMBERS

PORTCULLIS SALEROOMS LUDLOW

Easter Bonnet – Art Nouveau Style



This charming bronze bust of a young lady was modelled by the Belgian sculptor Henri Jacobs of Antwerp, at the beginning of this century; standing 21" high and with a fine deep green patination, she made £1,155 including buyer's premium at our Easter antique sale.

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

NEXT ANTIQUE SALES

Tuesday 20th June (entries closed)

Tuesday 25th July (entries close 6th July)

McCartneys

Fine Art Auctioneers
Tel: Ludlow (01584) 872636

RICKARDS & SON LTD
GENERAL IRONMONGERS

Home ■ Centre

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

Country Yarns



and TACK ROOM

Leading makes
in

WATERPROOF TWEEDS - WAXES
BREATHABLES & FLEECES

Footware by

AIGLE - REGENT - HAWKINS

Plus

ALL YOUR EQUESTRIAN NEEDS

Country Yarns and TACK ROOM

22, The Bull Ring

Ludlow, Shropshire

Tel: (01584) 876226



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



This is one of many groups of Ludlow people featured in the book. It shows the choir of the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Old Street, photographed in 1873, when their new building was opened. The picture was donated to Ludlow Museum by Marjorie Russell, great grand-daughter of William Russell, the builder of the chapel, who is standing on the left of the back row.

hams and the Prices. Unsung heroes are highlighted, for example Herbert Bufton, the grandfather of the present editor of *The Ludlow Advertiser*, who was decorated three times in the first world war. There are many sporting and social groups, including the Ludlow Brownies of 1927, nearly all of whom have been identified, following appeals in the local press.

The book is unashamedly pro-Ludlow. The opening paragraph proclaims boldly that this is 'a celebration of Ludlow', while the first photograph shows two children skipping happily over Maryknowl to illustrate 'the joy of growing up in Ludlow'. There are views of Ludlow from various angles, including a little known painting from the Brinks Coppice, just off Halton Lane, an early work by Henry Peach Robinson, the son of a Ludlow schoolmaster who later became a photographer of high reputation. I hope the book highlights most of the architectural 'glories of Ludlow, for example the upper east side of Mill Street, a fine sequence of Georgian fronts which is not often illustrated.

A feature of this publication is the amount of public interest which has been created. The core of the collection was put together two years ago as a Ludlow Festival exhibition. Many people who came to that exhibition gave or lent me pictures and others appeared after a lecture in November 1993 in aid of the Christmas lights. A similar talk given last month for the Mayor's Charities and the Friends of the Assembly Rooms was packed to overflowing, partly due to excellent press coverage beforehand, and this time more pictures than ever have been brought to my attention, including the remarkable collec-

tions of two Ludlow residents, Bill Moody and Harry Field, both of whom have been accumulating postcards and other visual material for many years.

As a result of this public interest, pictures have come to light which have not been published before. With so many to choose from, there has been little need to overlap with the previous publications. Some of the best pictures of Ludlow, such as Vogelsank's superb panoramic painting from Whitcliffe in 1722, have thus been omitted. Because Peter Klein is preparing a book on the work of Francis Bedford and Thomas Jones, very few works by these two fine Victorian photographers have been included.

It has been a real joy preparing this book, not least because of the many conversations I have had with people who have rich memories of Ludlow - Winnie and Connie Faulkener, for example, Frank Roberts, Tom Badlan, or Celia Rowlands, with her detailed recollection of civic life in the 1950s and 1960s. As never before, I have realised just how proud so many Ludlow people are of their town, and I hope that some of that pride comes through in this book.

The book 'wallows in nostalgia', a phrase used by Canon Keith Jones when he returned to Ludlow in October 1993 to speak at an Old Ludlovians Dinner after many years away from the town. But the book has another purpose which is to enhance that "pride of place" which so many Ludlow residents have in this ancient and beautiful country town. Such a purpose comes close to the aims of the Ludlow Civic Society and I hope that members will buy and enjoy this book in large numbers.

David Lloyd

CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES

SUPERMARKETS

At the time of writing, we are still at stalemate. Shortly before the District Council's Planning Committee met, with its Officers' advice to grant planning permission for a site which the District Council own, the Secretary of State stepped in and suspended their power to grant planning permission by an Article 14 Direction.

Once an Article 14 Direction is issued, the Secretary of State must decide whether or not he wishes to take the decision into his own hands. To date he has neither revoked the Article 14 Direction nor called the application in for his own decision. Sooner or later he must do one or the other; and if he does decide to call the matter in, necessitating a Public Enquiry in which the Secretary of State will be involved, it will be interesting to see if he calls in the parallel application for a supermarket on the Lloyds' site, to the rear of the Corve Street and to the north of Station Drive. This is precisely what he did nearly two years ago with an earlier Cattle Market site application and an application for a supermarket at Foldgate Lane. Watch this space!

THE ANGEL

Your Committee continues to oppose an application for almost 20 additional residential units behind the Angel with no provision for parking. Although the applicant has made certain token gestures to the adjoining property owners, attempting to lessen the impact of his development, your committee still considers the whole of the scheme to be flawed.

In our last bulletin to members the design was described as stage scenery at a Dick Whittington pantomime. The latest proposals have been described in committee as 'Widow Twanky' architecture.

The Committee enjoys the odd moment of mirth, but this application is a deadly serious one for central Ludlow; it is clearly in breach of the rules of the District Council's Local Plan, and if planning permission for it is

granted, the decision can always be quoted against the District Council on appeal for similar schemes in the future.

LOWER BARNs

It comes as no surprise that Severn Trent have applied for planning permission for an office block at the Lower Barns Sewage Farm. Those familiar with the fields to the south of Ludlow will know that the Sewage Farm is in close proximity to McCartney's new Ox Pasture Auction Yard. The Committee's great fear is that the McCartney's development will prove the key to industrial and residential development which could potentially wreck the southern approach to Ludlow - one of the great approaches to the town. There is a sneaking suspicion that an office block in this area could be part of a process which will end in business park and industrial use where one would least expect it. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

18 CASTLE SQUARE

This is the slightly drunken looking house with an upsy downsy bay window lying immediately across the way from the Assembly Rooms. To a casual passer by, this looks like a very routine building indeed, but it is nonetheless exceedingly interesting and is a pleasant part of the townscape.

In the middle ages, this was an important house, the Leaden Porch, which was one of Ludlow's most high status dwellings. Subsequently it was reconstructed in the 1670s by Thomas Crump, an official at the Court of the Welsh Marches, and his wife Mary; it still bears a dated and initialed panel to commemorate the event.

It has recently emerged that the building is in a desperate state of disrepair. It will be interesting to monitor the situation. Can the present owner succeed in rescuing the property himself, or will he apply for listed building consent to demolish? The problem is every bit as important as the saga of the Barley Mow in Lower Broad Street.

Stephen Dornan

CIVIC SOCIETY'S FUTURE ROLE

Since our Chairman, Stephen Dornan, decided after last year's Annual General Meeting to appoint a Press Officer, the Society has enjoyed unparalleled media coverage. We have had 40 insertions either in the National, Regional or Local press amounting to 422 column inches of publicity. Coverage has been about the activities of the Society and in recent times the Corve Street supermarket development. By publicising our monthly meetings there has been a marked improvement in attendance and, to the joy of our Treasurer, additional funds. National and Regional coverage of the supermarket debate has spread as far as the Wall Street Journal, The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Independent on

Sunday. As importantly we have also been contacted by a number of towns troubled by supermarket developments similar to our own.

Taking all of this into account, it would seem the role of the Press Officer has been reasonably successful. Although the Society must gain considerable benefit from this media coverage, this in itself is not sufficient. Whilst it is one thing for the Society to be in the centre of National interest regarding the public debate on the issue of the supermarket development, at home our lifeblood is the Society's membership. For without their support and encouragement the aims and objectives of the Society could not always be

(continued on page 6)

Red Balloon Book shop

NEW BOOKS
for all the family

+
Book Tokens

+
FREE Customer Order Service

Open six days a week

Open University stocked

4, Old Street, Ludlow. Tel: 01584 872149

Nock Deighton

THE ESTATE AGENTS



Established 1831

Fine Residences
of Distinction

In Ludlow
and South Shropshire

Auctioneers · Valuers · Surveyors

10 Broad Street, Ludlow

Tel. 01584 875555

CASTLE BOOKSHOP 5 Castle Street LUDLOW Shropshire Tel: 872562

Booksellers and Stationers

*For all your special
book requirements*

• THE CURIOSITY SHOP •

**CLOCKS
COUNTRY FURNITURE AND
MILITARY SPECIALISTS**

**SUPERB RANGE OF
GRANDFATHER CLOCKS
(ONE OF THE BIGGEST IN SHROPSHIRE)**

- Bracket & Mantle Clocks
- Music Boxes
- Barometers
- Antique Pistols
- Guns • Swords



**FULL OR PART
HOUSE CLEARANCES
OPEN SIX DAYS**

- WE BUY AND SELL
- TOP PRICES PAID
- TRADE & RETAIL

**GRANDFATHER
CLOCK REPAIR &
RESTORATION
SERVICE**

Evenings and Weekends by APPOINTMENT only

LUDLOW (01584) 875927

Vodafone (0836) 592898 (premium rate charges apply)
127 OLD STREET, LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE

A GLIMPSE OF LIFE IN LUDLOW CASTLE

A book review with a difference, Joan Ryder's research into an 18th Century publication provides a snapshot of life in much earlier times.

Does a visit to Ludlow Castle provide one with any idea of what life was like for the men and women who worked within the walls of this Royal Residence?

Unlike the many official records of the Court of the Marches, held in the castle from 1509 to 1689, details of more mundane matters appertaining to the Royal Residence are very sparse.

Whilst researching the Winwood families of Ludlow I discovered that on 4 October 1624 Arthur Winwood was appointed Clerk and Receiver of Fines at the Court of the Marches; on 27 June 1628 he was promoted to the Office of Porter of the Castle - a post similar to that of a modern prison governor.

A friend, recognising my interest in Ludlow Castle, passed on to me an ancient book, purchased by her late husband in a Shrewsbury second-hand book shop.

Its pages of coarse paper were tatty, and in addition, the outer cover of the book was missing.

Ludlow Museum staff identified it as a copy of 'The History of Ludlow Castle', printed and sold by J. Thomas in 1794.

After a short history of the castle and details of Court precedence, the book throws a new light on the life of Officers of the Court of the Marches and employees within the Royal Residence.

There is evidence that the Council of the Marches involved itself in matters of a domestic nature - for instance, an Order of Council for supplying His Majesty's Household in the Castle of Ludlow with Venison, three Bucks each from:-

'Oakley Park, Bewdly Park, Hoult Park, Malvern Chase, Corftane Chase, Bryndwood Chase, Sholwich Park, Moghtree Forest, Fickenham Forrest, Denne Forrest, Darlamore Forrest, Kingswood Forrest,' whilst Maryfield Forrest and Snowdon Forrest were to supply 'three Bucks or three Staggs each.'

This Order was signed by James Whitelock and Henry Townsend, and a note added to the effect that 'like Warrants go out in Season for Does and Hinds to all the places aforesaid.'

The book also reveals that Terms of Staff Service clearly set out - 'Service done by His Majesty's Keepers of the said Castle and his Servants.'

This covers the work of gardeners, who not only sowed seeds, tended plants, grew vegetables ('to be brought to the Castle every morning and evening'), but also kept the



Visitors at Ludlow Castle (by Joan Ryder)

Walks, Courts, and Ditches clean and the hedges cut - 'for which service there was particular Payments made, beside the usual Salaries paid.'

From this can be envisaged the type of gardens laid out in the Outer Bailey of the Castle.

Under the date 1577, the Fees of the Court are quoted concerning the Office of Clerk of the Council, Clerk of the Examiner's Office, the Attorneys and other Clerks, Councillors and the Solicitor.

Then comes details of the Porter's Fees, and some interesting details of what life would be like as a prisoner under the charge of the Porter -

'...every person committed to the Charge of the Porter, shall there be detained as a Prisoner, according to the Quality of the Offence, and not to depart out of the Circuit of the Porter's Lodge, without the Special Licence of this Council, and to take and receive of them such Fees as hereafter ensueth.

First, for every Treason, Murder, or Felony, to be detained in Irons, during the Council's Pleasure, and not to depart out of the Circuit of the Porter's Lodge.

Item, all Persons committed for Contempts, of any Misdemeanours, of Offences where the Queen is to have a Fine for the same; they likewise to be detained in prison, without sufferance to go abroad, except by the Special Licence of the Council.

Item, to take and receive, as their ordinary Fee of every person committed for a single Contempt.....2s.6d. and not above, except for his diet.

Item, to take and receive of every person, being of the degree of an Esquire, and above,

BROAD BEAN

Wholefoods
Wines & Cheeses
Essential Oils
Vitamins & Supplements

*Shop in the heart of historic Ludlow
while shops
last!*

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

and committed for any offence for which he is to wear Irons, to take for his commitment.....2s.6d.

And of every person being committed under the degree of an Esquire.....2s.6d. for his fee.

Item, it is further ordered, that the Porter shall continually have in readiness for the Entertainment of Prisoners, two tables for diet, to be in this sort kept, videlicet: The best and first table at eight pence the meal; the second at six pence the meal; and the same to be with meat and drink furnished, as the parties, may according to their payment, and have therein competent and convenient; and the party committed to choose at his commitment, at which of these tables he will remain; and if he fail to make payment of his Fees of Commitment, the day following his commitment, and the ordinary charges of his diet after every week's end; then the Porter to take bond for due payment thereof.

Item, it is further ordered that if any person be committed to remain in ward, until he should pay the Queen's Majesty any sums for a fine, or to any person, any sum of money to the same party; by this Council ordered, or for the not accomplishing of any order taken by this Council, and shall not conform him to perform the order and discharge the fine, and make payment to the parties, within one month after the time of his commitment; then the Porter, at the end of the said month, to give knowledge to the Council thereof, to the end, order thereupon may be taken that the party may be removed to Wigmore or such other place as the Council think meet. And when any person is or shall be committed to ward, there to remain until he shall pay fine or other debts to the Queen, or any sum of money for costs, or other causes, to the party, to detain him as prisoner in manner as aforesaid, until the attorney of the party and the clerk of the fines, by a note in writing, subscribed by their Names upon the Copy of the Submission, shall acknowledge to have received the said Sum, wherein he is chargeable, as well to the Queen, as to the Parties. At the Court of Westminster the 24th. Day March 1576.'

It is evident that life for the Castle employees was not always pleasant - dissatisfaction and danger arose from time to time, as revealed by - 'An Order of Council for preventing the contagion of the Plague, from being brought into the Town of Ludlow, 1631, the same then raging in Shrewsbury and Wrexham.'

This Order excused 'the personal appearance of all the Inhabitants of the said Towns in this Court until further Orders be taken in that behalf.'

The Order bore the signatures of Jo. Bridgeman, Nicho. Overbury, Mar. Lloyd and Edw. Waties.

A copy of an undated letter written by Sir Job Charlton, Chief Justice of Chester, on behalf

of himself and three other Justices of the Court, reveals dissatisfaction concerning their attendance allowance - and no wonder! For attending the Court twelve times every year, besides any intervening occasions as required, with their journeying to and from Ludlow, His Majesty had allotted them the sum of £100!

Their humble petition requested the sum be amended to £500 - '£200 to your Petitioner, Sir Job Charlton, and £100 per Annum to your Majesty's other three petitioners.'

Regretfully there is no evidence to show the outcome of this petition!

The book goes on to provide evidence of how staff vacancies were filled - for instance, 'An Order for Admittance of Richard Phillips to be an Attorney in place of his father, Thomas, lately dead.'

In addition it gives the wording of the Attorney's Oath and the Examiner's Oath. Following these comes 'The Certificate of Sir Thomas Chamberlain, and Sir Henry Townshend, Knts., two of His Majesty's Council, in the Marches of Wales' which shows the vast amount of work dealt with by the Court of the Marches -

'At the Term at Ludlow, for the Marches of Wales, which began the Monday after Whitsun-Week, and continued a month; we heard there above 260 Causes, set down by hearing, concerning poor Men, at a small Charge unto them, near their own Country, besides as many Rules and Motions, by ending of matters and controversies, there depending between them, besides many Misdemeanours and Offences, concerning His Majesty.....'

At the bottom of one page is a reminder of a sad occasion in 1603 -'The Signat of our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth with the Right Honourable Edward Lord Zouche, President of His Majesty's Council in the Marches of Wales, and the rest of the same Council, was by order of the said Lord President and Council broken and defaced per me. (Signed) JO. POWELL.'

The Civil War, referred to in this book as 'The Unhappy dissertions in the Reign of King Charles I', culminated on 9 June 1646 when Ludlow Castle was delivered up to the Parliament.

There is evidence that after the Restoration there were grave misdoings within the Royal Residence, as revealed by an undated and unsigned document addressed to 'My Honourable Friend Sir Job Charlton, Knt. Sergeant at Law, Chief Justice of Chester' - 'A Remonstrance of the Justice in Ordinary at the Council of the Marches of Wales.'

It concerns Instructions III, V, VI & VII - presumably Standing Orders for the running of the Establishment, and the Court of the Marches, within the Castle of Ludlow.

It is clear that no proper accounting was

(continued on page 6)

John & Anne Clegg

*Period Country Furniture
Mahogany and the
Unusual*

12 Old Street
LUDLOW
Shropshire

Telephone:
Ludlow(01584) 873176

G. & D. GINGER

ANTIQUE DEALERS



5 Corve Street
Ludlow
Shropshire
SY8 1DA
Tel. (01584)
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

LUDLOW'S HISTORY AND HERITAGE ITS PRESENT AND ITS FUTURE

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

*Would you like to know more
and say more?*

To join contact Mr Brian Atwood OBE,
Hon. Treasurer & Membership Secretary,
36, Lower Broad Street, Ludlow
Tel: 01584 876607

LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY
YOUR TOWN AND YOU!

THE DORDOGNE HOUSE TO LET

Traditional Perigordian Farmhouse
Delightful rural setting
Superbly equipped, sleeps 5/6

Available in May, June, September
and October 1995

At 1,200 French francs per week

For further details telephone:
Sheila & Terry Lucey
01584 861273



Creative Woodwork

**Renovation and
Restoration**

*Traditional
Carpentry and
Joinery*

J. M. LANSDELL BSc. (Eng)
(01743) 718201

(continued from page 5)

being kept - there is 'mis-employment of the Diet money' resulting in non-payment of servants' wages, which in turn 'leads to the servants to invent ways of evasion to rise Money out of the Counsellors Attorneys, and Clerks, - yea, and extract Money from Gentlemen that are invited to meet at the Council Table.'!

As a result - 'The King (who hath provided for all, and payeth for all) is greatly dishonoured and a great Scandal and Mockery brought upon us, that serve here for nothing, for we serve him as yet without any Salary, without either Meat or Drink or Lodgings furnished at the King's Cost as it was accustomed in former Times. But contrary wise, command has been given to search the Lodgings, to see if we have any of the King's Goods there, and to bring them away, and our Servants slandered and abused, and some of them by the Lady's Order commanded out of her House; its well she cannot carry the Castle with her.

The King's Plate and Linen carried to Golden Grove, a thing never heard of, and all because there's no Household here to keep them.'

Mention of 'The Lady' and 'Golden Grove' would seem to refer to Lady Carbury and the

family's home address in Wales - the Earl of Carbury was President at this period.

The Remonstrance quoted above ends with a final plea for the admonishment of the Earl of Carbury and his Lady.... 'If he were somewhat admonished I think he would not be as apt to ill-treat us, nor his Lady neither, and to tell us in effect that we have nothing to do in the Government of the Household, as his Lady write which no doubt had it from himself.'

From the tone of this dissatisfaction it is clear that the demise of the Royal Residence and the Court of the Marches was looming ominously on the horizon.

The book concludes with an Inventory of the Castle taken on 8 September 1708 by Ben. Karver, Geo. Bruntt and Ben. Carless, delivered by Captain Jones to the Governor.

The meagre contents of the Castle at this date reminds us of its demise - a sad end for a Royal Residence and a Court of Justice which played such an important part in bringing peace to the Marches of Wales.

We are indebted to those 'several gentlemen' who 'acquired' the original Manuscripts, and to Mr. Thomas of Ludlow for ensuring the survival of such interesting records.

Joan Ryder

Civic Society's Future (continued from page 3)
achieved so successfully.

In this it is very important that the Chairman and Committee are certain that our activities are being handled properly. We must retain our current level of membership and, through the active promotion of the Society and its role, attract new friends to join.

Enclosed in your copy of this edition of 'Heritage News' is a brochure setting out some important facts about the Society. The principle aims and objectives have been summarised with some additional information about the scope of what we do and details of last years activity programme and what exciting events are being considered for next year. We also plan to circulate this brochure to households in the town where we believe there may be interest in the Society's activities but where we have no record of membership. It is hoped that this mailshot publicising the affairs of the Society will encourage more people to join us. Additional copies of the brochure and a separate membership application form can be obtained from our Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Mr. Brian, Atwood O.B.E., 36, Lower Broad Street, Ludlow, telephone number 01584 876607.

If you have any friends or neighbours whom you believe might be interested in joining the Society the Committee hopes you will do everything possible to encourage them.

The Annual General Meeting is approaching and the Committee thought this might prove to be a useful occasion to debate just how successful the Society is in achieving its aims and objectives, and fulfilling our role in the community. Many of us believe that the Society is effective but it is important to periodically seek the views of our members in case this is not so.

Our Chairman hopes we will be able to discuss some of the key issues on which the Committee would appreciate member's views.

- * Just how well does the Society achieve its aims as set out in the Constitution (summarised in the brochure)?
- * Are these objectives sufficient or are they in need of review?
- * Does the social programme satisfy the needs of the membership?
- * Does the Society communicate and publicise its activities sufficiently well to its members?

In conclusion, this limited market research would be of enormous benefit to the Committee. It would certainly demonstrate to the membership that the Society is addressing the 1990s. Hopefully continued publicity will be of enormous benefit to the Society and through this will attract new members.

Brian McKibbin

PLANNING CONUNDRUMS

James Harris poses some philosophical questions about some of the more obscure planning applications.

The conservation of Ludlow's architectural heritage not only involves change on a super-market scale. On the contrary, the urban matrix of the whole town centre is subject to a range of changes at varying scales from major building developments such as the reinstatement of the Angel Hotel as a going concern, to the apparently simple repair of paving and bollards - and a glance at the top of Broad Street and outside the Wheatsheaf will show the unsightly effects of poor workmanship and supervision. Consequently, the Civic Society finds itself having to respond, constructively, to environmental changes of widely different kinds; even the smallest of these can involve tricky problems in visual aesthetics and raise difficult issues about personal freedom versus responsibilities to society as a whole. Ultimately, such issues are deeply philosophical - and the swimming pool of philosophy doesn't have much of a shallow end! However the following are a few examples, briefly summarised.

One small scale planning application which raised a tricky aesthetic issue, is the case of a proposed sign on Pearl Assurance House, in King Street. What kind of sign might be appropriate on the rather bland, formal facade of this archetypal, small scale, 1960s office building? Should one look for a romantically lettered board on ornate wrought iron brackets of the kind fairly common on Ludlow's medieval frontages? Or should one look for a 1960s style sign on a 1960s facade? Answers on a postcard please!

The rebuilding of leaning chimneys and the blocking off of others is another area of controversy. Ludlow is a town of chimney stacks of all shapes and sizes, often in intricate brickwork and to traditional designs with complementary pots. Precariously leaning stacks develop sulphate attack on the mortar continues. Their reinstatement involves expensive scaffolding costs and applications come in at intervals for their reduction in height, or removal - but even this can involve substantial expense simply in sealing the roof opening.

In these circumstances, should applicants be refused permission to reduce or remove the stack? It does seem right that owners should be encouraged to rebuild whenever possible, and it is equally important to replace the pots on blocked off flues to complete the balance of the stack and maintain the character of the house, and of Ludlow as a whole. In one instance, as we were told at the Society's March lecture, the removal of the stack so compromised the architectural quality of one house as to debar it from being given 'listed' status.

Recent examples of deeper issues concern solar panels and satellite dishes. Satellite receivers are an expression of contemporary culture to which people wish to subscribe. But do we want them proliferating on classic,

Georgian listed buildings? Similarly, domestic energy provision can be supplemented by solar panels, but do we want to see them arrayed over the traditional roofscapes of Ludlow? Fortunately, these problems can be alleviated: satellite dishes, unlike television aerials can be sited at relatively low levels and to the rear of a property, moreover, technological advance has led to smaller dishes in environmentally friendly colours.

In the case of solar panels, if we were looking down at the rich terracotta roofscape of Sienna we might consider such an area to be an essential characteristic of the settlement and thus sacrosanct. But Ludlow has more of a patchwork of roofs, amongst which, perhaps, a solar panel or two might be hidden by dormers and chimney stacks; on the other hand, the glint of reflected sunlight from an array of glass solar panels might be thought to be obtrusive, and alien, and in any case the actual energy contribution is small. Personal wishes versus the public good, again.

What should be the attitude of the Civic Society to these difficult issues which involve the balancing of often uncertain facts, differing values and hard judgements? The issues arise monthly at the meetings of the Ludlow Conservation Area Advisory Committee which includes two members of the Civic Society committee, myself, and Stephen Dornan representing the Ludlow Historical Research Group. Generally speaking we adopt a pragmatic approach, whilst keeping certain principles and precedents in mind. We analyse, so far as we can, the needs and wishes of the applicant in relation to the importance of the building or the townscape context. The precedents and policies adopted in the past are reviewed in the light of the views of Ludlow's excellent Conservation Officer, Colin Richards. English Heritage, too, has a statutory right to be consulted in the case of higher grades of listing. We try to adopt a constructive and forward-looking attitude, one that corresponds to that of the Advisory Committee as a whole, in recommending contemporary design whenever possible, and almost always suggesting a constructive alternative to an un-approved application. Our views are always well received, noted, and frequently acted upon by letters from the Director of Planning, James Caird, to the appropriate parties involved.

In the case of larger or environmentally significant applications such as the supermarket, the development of the Angel, and the developments in the Bell Lane/Raven Lane area the Civic Society submits written representations summarising our closely argued views. Ultimately, of course, all these matters are decided by the elected members of the District Council's Planning Committee at its monthly, open meetings; how that committee works is another subject.

James Harris

The Feathers at Ludlow



The Feathers, The Bull Ring, Ludlow,
Shropshire SY8 1AA. Tel: (01584) 875261
Fax: 876030

AA ★★RAC

The Feathers' A. E. Housman Restaurant
offers food to suit all appetites and pockets.
There is no service charge, minimum charge or
cover charge.

A visit can be memorable and inexpensive.
Telephone Ludlow 875261 for reservations.

We may not be familiar with the
Taxes levied by the Bailiffs
of Prince Rupert but we can:
**Offer service and advice on
UP-TO-DATE ACCOUNTING
AND TAXATION**

**SYKES & CO.
REGISTERED AUDITORS
& ACCOUNTANTS
135 Corve Street
Ludlow**

**Tel: (01584) 874707
Fax: (01584) 874706**

The best printing for miles.

PLUS

- Photocopying - colour and black
- Stationery and office supplies
- DTP imagesetting and scanning bureau
- Design and typesetting
- Laminating/encapsulating documents
- Plastic comb binding
- Fax bureau and word processing

The Tortoise Shell Press

South Shropshire's leading printers

131 Corve Street, Ludlow SY8 2PG
(next to cattle market)
Tel 01584 874259 Fax 01584 874315

LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY

1994-95 Officers and Committee Members.

President:	Alfred Wood C.B.E.
Vice-President:	Dr. Martin Speight
Chairman:	Stephen Dornan
Vice-Chairman:	Neil Aikens
Treasurer:	Brian Atwood
Secretary:	Merlin Unwin
Press Officer:	Brian McKibbin
Committee:	
Dorothy Arrowsmith, Owen Elias, Mike Evans, Dr. James Harris, Ron Kitchener, John Lansdell, Brian McKibbin, Gillian Sharpe, Maureen Sykes, Dick Stephens.	
<i>Ludlow Heritage News:</i>	
Editor:	Neil Aikens
Advertising:	Mike Evans

The continuing publication of the *Ludlow Heritage News* is made possible by the generosity of our Advertisers. We hope that you enjoy this edition, and that you will continue to support them as they have supported us over the years. Please mention their advertisements in *Ludlow Heritage News* when you visit them.

LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30 pm

Wednesday 17th May 1995

at

HIGH HALL

Castle Square

Ludlow

Meeting to include discussion on aims objectives and performance of the Society

Printed at The Tortoise Shell Press, Ludlow.
Tel. (01584) 874259

BEHIND THE SCENES

In this column last Autumn we mentioned that David Lloyd would continue to be active in supporting and assisting the Society. Our front page bears evidence of this. I am sure that all of you who are familiar with David's previous literary achievements will be awaiting the publication of 'Pictures of Old Ludlow' with keen anticipation. Similarly, the appointment of Brian McKibbin as Press Officer was announced in the same edition and there has been ample evidence of his contribution during the last year. This includes an item on page 3 of this edition on the future role of the Society, which we hope will form a subject for discussion at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting on 17 May 1995.

MEMBERS LETTERS

Once again there are none, however two articles in the current issue of *Heritage News* cry out for comments from you, the members. The above mentioned 'Civic Society's Future Role' and some of the issues raised in James Harris' 'Planning Conundrums' on page 7. Now, visiting speakers to our monthly meetings frequently comment on the quality and perspicacity of the questions they face at the conclusion of their talks. Why is it, then, that our membership remain so adamantly opposed to writing to the Editor of this, their own publication, with their views on today's issues? If there is anyone who would like to provide an idea, or even the text for an article in a future edition of *Heritage News*, please do not hesitate to contact the editor, Neil Aikens, The Old Bell House, Ludford, Ludlow, telephone 01584 876999.

NEXT YEARS PROGRAMME

Gillian Sharpe and Maureen Sykes have taken on the task of joint Programme Secretaries and plans for the 1995 - 96 exciting programme of events is taking shape. Information given here is provisional but as usual a full list will be included in the autumn edition of *Heritage News*. Our flagship event, the Fred Reeve lecture will be given this year by David Lloyd who has indicated that he will be returning to the theme of Pictures of Old Ludlow. This lecture is planned for 22 November and is sure to be another sell out. One of our Committee members, and our representative on the Ludlow Conservation Area Advisory Committee, Dr. James Harris, will be speaking in February on 'Architecture after Modernism'. Anyone who has read one of James' planning representations will appreciate his way with words and biting wit, these are sure to be evident in his lecture. Our series of very successful excursions will continue and this year a social event is planned to be held in the Feathers on 6 December. Other speakers planned include chef Sean Hill from the Merchant House.

Neil Aikens

TEME VALLEY



Antique Dealers

Jewellers

1 The Bull Ring

Tel: Ludlow (01584) 874686

TELEPHONE
LUDLOW 872088

R. WALTON LTD.
BAKERS and CONFECTIONERS

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



Go Whittle

THE RIGHT CHOICE

FISHMORE ROAD

LUDLOW

TEL: 872491

FAX: 872492

British and Continental Holidays:
Coach Tours, Ferry Bookings

Private Coach Hire
Coaches 16 -57 seats
plus full executive coaches
Pick up our latest day-trip leaflet
from our office in Fishmore Road
or Information Centre
Castle Square