

Ludlow Heritage News

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The new sale ring at McCartney's Livestock Market at the Ox Pasture, Overton Road, opened in January 1995.

LUDLOW'S MARKETS THROUGH THE CENTURIES

David Lloyd provides an introduction on the development of the Ludlow markets through the centuries. This is followed by a short history of McCartneys, and a description of the new livestock market on the Overton Road, by Libby Danson.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

For more than eight centuries Ludlow has been an important market town. In 1673 a visitor described it as 'a very great market for corn, cattle and provisions', while at other periods the trade in sheep, pigs and hops has also been noted. The wide High Street, running from the castle to what is now the Bull Ring, was the original market place, but as parts of that open space were colonised by rows of stalls and other buildings, the market overflowed into the adjoining streets. The layout of the market activities changed considerably over the years, but recent detailed work on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries shows what the street market was like at the time. In 1713 the Borough Court ruled that animals 'should stand as near the houses as conveniently may be and not in the middle of the street'. This was to avoid impeding carts and waggons, the number of which was increasing at the time - an early instance of Ludlow's traffic problems! Many buildings retained the rings to which animals were tied into the late nineteenth century. 2d was paid for a standing for each cow and 3d for each ox, but sheep were kept in movable pens at a cost of 6d a pen. Bulls were stockaded in the Bull Ring but other animals were in adjoining streets, such as Corve Street and Broad Street. The same court ruled that 'sheep should stand below the cattle in each street and not amongst the cattle'. On busy market days it is clear

that animals extended down Corve Street well below the present Post Office and in Broad Street as far as Brand Lane, occupying in Broad Street the space now taken by parked cars. It is debatable which are the most obnoxious!

A sale notice for the Golden Lion (part of which is now the Library) in the *Salopian Journal* in 1806 describes it as 'in the Pig Market' and there are other indications that this part of Old Street was used for this purpose. Ludlow was noted for its horse fairs, which attracted buyers from all over Wales and the West Midlands, and these seem to have been held in Castle Square. The Market Hall itself was used for selling wheat, oats and other kinds of corn, while in the later eighteenth century the hop market was in Mill Street, causing one of the inns there to be called the Hop Pole. The stench and the mess must have been appalling, and there were frequent complaints that the streets were not properly cleaned by the Chamberlain - the member of the Corporation responsible. Until they were cleared away in the 1740s the Shambles or butcher's stalls at the top of Mill Street were a particular nuisance, as in 1714, when John Tongue and other users of the Shambles were presented at court 'for keeping and using an offensive privy house and making a common dunghill open to the street.....to the great annoyance of the neighbourhood'.

DAVID LLOYD

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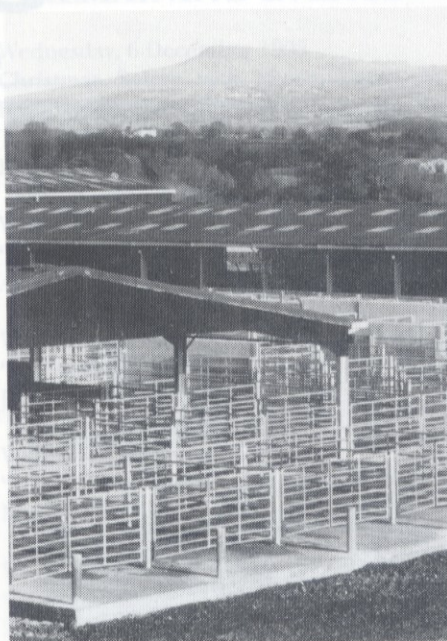
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LIVESTOCK MARKET FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY



*The new livestock market at Ox Pasture with
Titterstone Clee in the background*

Ludlow's medieval origins have been well documented and its castle reminds us of its defensive role in history, but it is also the obvious centre for livestock trading. Here is the meeting of different land types, with a river crossing and a road crossing. The uplands of the Clee Hills, the thinner land of the Mortimer Forest, traditionally used for raising store sheep and cattle, and the richer land of Corvedale and Teme Valley, meet together at this point.

In the nineteenth century a new livestock market was opened in Lower Galdeford, on what was once the site of a thirteenth century Augustinian friary. In 1861 this land was sold to Ludlow Corporation to be used as a cattle market. It remained in use until some time in the mid twentieth century when a school was built on part of the site. It is surmised that the cattle market in Corve Street opened later than that at Lower Galdeford, but both seem to have been made to take advantage of the railway which arrived in Ludlow in 1852. So important was rail transportation of livestock that pens were made the same size as railway trucks. A buyer knew that three pens of cattle were made the same size as a railway truck and he could arrange their transport accordingly.

After the coming of the railway, developments continued in the area of the station surrounded the livestock market until access became a problem, and no further growth occurred this century. It is also interesting that, despite the trains, cattle continued to be brought into town by drovers who were paid commission by farmers for looking after the delivery and sale of cattle. Townspeople recollect seeing cattle

being driven through Ludlow's streets until as recently as the 1950s.

The Corve Street livestock market was owned and operated by the firm of Auctioneers, McCartneys, now the region's largest auctioneers, estate and land agents. The evolution of McCartneys has been a complicated one, involving amalgamation with other firms who operated mainly in Chirbury and Craven Arms. One of the leading partners was Richard Barker who joined Morris Marshall and Poole's Ludlow office in 1900. When he joined the Ludlow arm was restyled Morris, Barker and Poole and remained so until 1968.

At this time the Ludlow firm amalgamated with Jackson and McCartney, an auctioneering firm founded by two brothers named Rodgers from Bucknell. Jackson and McCartney were taken into partnership some time later and, on the retirement of the remaining member of the Rodgers family in 1895, the name style changed to that of these two men. After the amalgamation of the two firms in 1968 the name was eventually shortened to McCartneys, but the tradition of the firm being owned by individuals as partners continues.

It is an interesting side note that at the time of the First World War, Jackson McCartney, Morris, Barker and Poole were all conducting sales in the Ludlow Market. It took them half a century to actually amalgamate.

The Corve Street site was sold to the South Shropshire District Council in 1994 and the market has moved to a new site at the Ox Pasture on the Overton Road. During the planning stage McCartneys came across the old tithe map for the area, dating back to 1840, and saw that the site of the new market was to be built on what was called the Ox Pasture. Said John Uffold, the partner of McCartneys responsible for the new market 'it seemed too appropriate for us not to include it in the address for the new market'.

Built and owned by McCartneys, the new market has every modern facility on its 34 acre site. It has accommodation for 1000 plus cattle, and 4000 sheep. Animal welfare has been given the highest priority and the modern facilities are based on a simple, yet effective way of selling livestock.

The Corve Street Market could pen a great number of stock as it has amply demonstrated over the years. The new market at the Ox Pasture has replaced these facilities and yet at the same time allowed for expansion. It is in the access, the ease of loading and dealing with stock that the new yard comes into its own. With 3 acres of its 34 acre site being devoted to parking, turn round time has been dramatically

improved. The days when Monday traffic was at a standstill through Corve Street, as far as the eye could see, and also up Station Drive, are over.

The new site will allow for more cattle coming through the market. In the last few years there has been an increase despite the limitations of the Corve Street site. Head of cattle sold has increased from 150,000 in 1990 to 185,000 in 1994. In fact, in the last fourteen years the market has developed into one of the foremost cattle markets in the country, making it second only to Carlisle for fat cattle, out of all the markets in the country. The move to the new site was vital if the company was to expand and remain competitive with other cattle markets.

The new layout which was designed by Mr. John Uffold, partner at McCartneys, includes a facility to conserve the necessary huge amounts of water required by collection from the roofs of buildings. The site has the added benefit of being one field away from a sewerage works. Lairage is provided on grass paddocks, solving the problem of stock waiting around in concrete pens.

There is a central market hall for people to congregate; an open cafe area and a good size canteen. The buildings have been kept in proportion to human scale rather than a huge free span shed covering everything and burying everybody. Animal comfort and user comfort have been to the fore in the design. Low eaves heights; walls to divide the passageways and pens keep the draughts to the minimum and keep the market in compartments that help maintain contact and retain atmosphere. It has been designed first and foremost to be practical and functional. It has been designed to enable animals to be moved and sold with the minimum of stress to them and their owners. It hasn't been designed to have a splendid sale ring and little else, or a magnificent office block serving an inadequate sale yard. They have tried to keep people and livestock largely separate and yet allow easy contact between

the two. They have tried to facilitate quick loading and unloading of stock. They have tried to keep the maximum flexibility in penning and moving animals.

Some of the stock comes from as far away as Ross on Wye, Llandrindod Wells, Shrewsbury and Kidderminster. Buyers come from all over the country to Ludlow's main Monday sales of finished stock, calves and weanlings and to the fortnightly sales of store cattle and sheep.

In the seventeenth century there were 18 livestock markets in Shropshire, with 7 specialising in cattle. There are now 7 in total, but in these remaining markets, trade is increasing, new sites are being opened, and stock arrives from an increasingly wide area. With the Ox Pasture, McCartneys are confident in the firm's commitment to Livestock Auction and the upward trend is expected to be maintained, with the firm continuing to serve the region with which they have been associated for so many years.

Libby Danson (McCartneys)

EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE:-

Your committee's minutes for 2 September 1991 summarised their opinion of the proposal to put the new market on the Overton Road site *'The Lower Barns proposal was the wrong site for the livestock market - access being poor and involving a much increased use of Ludford Bridge by articulated lorries, tractors with trailers, etc.; a spoilation of the southern approach into Ludlow setting a precedent for further development in the area'*. Whilst acknowledging the importance of the continued success of McCartney's livestock market to Ludlow and to the surrounding countryside, the Civic Society still is concerned about the repercussions of its move to the new Overton Road site. These concerns, voiced at the time of the original planning application, are becoming reality. What has happened? Hundreds of yards of hedgerow have been destroyed to improve visibility for vehicles accessing the new market. Already two planning applications for further development have been approved by the District Council, one for an office block

at Severn Trent Water's Lower Barns sewerage works and another by McCartneys themselves to move the Portcullis antiques auction room to the Overton Road site. Evidence that the re-siting the market would bring more heavy traffic through Ludlow and over Ludford Bridge can be seen every Monday market day. So far the Society's appeals to Shropshire County Councils Surveyors Highways Department have fallen on deaf ears. We will continue to work to preserve what is left of the beautiful southern approach to Ludlow.

Neil Aikens



Mr John Uffold, McCartney partner and auctioneer in action.

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A LUDLOW ROMANCE

The following account has been compiled by Stephen Dornan and Derek Williams, and is based on the entries made over forty years in Joan Swann's scrapbook. The experiences recorded in this scrapbook mirror those of many newcomers to Ludlow, from the instant attraction to the town or to a particular house to the hours of toil spent in uncovering the character of the chosen building.



Ludlow Civic Society President Alfie Wood handed over the Joan Swann memorial bench to the Town Mayor, Councillor Owen Elias, on Sunday 6 August 1995 in the presence of Joan's daughter Jane Preen. The bench was financed by donations from Joan's friends and relatives and the Civic Society and has been positioned adjacent to the Assembly Rooms, Mill Street. Pictured from left to right are Alfie Woos, Councillor Owen Elias, Jane Preen and Stephen Dornan.

When the late Joan Swann cycled into Ludlow, in the summer of 1942, it was love at first sight. In the affectionate scrapbook of her life in Ludlow that she was to keep for the next forty years she recalls the thrill of that first visit. After riding over Ludford Bridge, under the Broadgate and into the town 'I wanted to be nowhere else..... I had a half formed idea that this was the place I would like to live in, but at that time I couldn't visualise how or when'.

For some time after the war Joan and her husband Geoff had their hands full, building up their business and raising a young family, but in the early 1960s, when their children Charles and Jane were old enough to enjoy such excursions, they began to explore Shropshire again. The range of these outings was limited by the strict family rule that - to keep the interest and support of the children - they should be home in Walsall before 9 o'clock every evening! Then, in January 1965, Joan saw an advertisement in the Birmingham Evening Mail: 'Ludlow: cosy period cottage in old town, 2 bedrooms, £700.' Unable to come to Ludlow until the weekend, Joan was on tenterhooks whilst she imagined the house of her dreams being snapped up by another buyer at the last minute, (although she might have been reassured when it was re-advertised two days later at £600 'for quick sale'.) Arriving in Ludlow, Joan and Geoff found that the house was in Mill Street - not, as Joan had expected, Lower Broad Street, which was the view of Ludlow that would come to her mind whenever she recalled her premonition that one day she would live in the town.

Joan had discovered No. 12 Mill Street. No. 12 (and its neighbour No. 11 which histor-

ically has always been part of the same complex) are indeed 'cottagey' and in that way as in others they are untypical of Mill Street. Like Broad Street, Mill Street was largely gentrified by smart Ludlow society in the 18th. Century. Houses which were not fashionably rebuilt tended to be fashionably refronted. Nos. 11 and 12 never received this treatment; they remain two storeyed, and No. 11 exhibits the only exposed timber framed facade in the street. The reason for their survival in this form probably lies in their situation at the corner of Bell Lane. The back gardens along Bell Lane were built upon by cottages fronting Bell Lane at an early date. An ample garden seems to have been considered essential in fashionable Ludlow, and Nos. 11 and 12 did not enjoy that amenity. There must have been many more houses like these in the 18th. Century, and they remain interesting examples of an older Ludlow. Although both cottages have been much rebuilt and altered, the massive scantling timbers and the curved braces inside probably indicate



Joan Swann in 1942 the year she first visited Ludlow



The 'Union Jack' wall at 12, Mill Street

a 15th. Century origin.

Geoff and Joan took an instant liking to No.12 despite its dilapidated condition. (Joan immediately prepared her own detailed and utterly honest description of the state of the house, which she included in her scrapbook alongside the comparatively bland 'particulars' from Morris, Barker and Poole). Before the day was out, Geoff had bought it as a silver wedding present for Joan, so her dream of a home in Ludlow had suddenly become a reality. In her scrapbook she wrote 'I'm so excited and thrilled..... floating on air! I don't suppose that I shall ever in my life have such a wonderful week as this last one'. On the same page there is another note, evidently added some years later, admitting that 'little did I guess the hours and hours of stomach wrenching scraping and being choked with lime and never having time to look at Ludlow.'

Joan writes that buying the house in Mill Street began 'the most exciting five years in all my life'. It wasn't everyone's idea of fun. For years the family spent its weekends stripping walls, scraping and creosoting beams, removing grates, cementing, painting, wall-papering and tackling all the other jobs that would eventually reveal and restore the original features of the house. It was dusty and dirty work. Joan describes how the lime from the beams turned their hair and clothes white and burnt their skins. She writes that she bought no new clothes for five years; who needs new clothes, she asks, when all your free time is spent scraping lime off beams? And they didn't always get things right first time, for example 'creosoting turned out to be a mis-

take as we never got rid of the smell. Years after, things still had the smell of creosote on them'.

But they were encouraged and rewarded by regular and palpable signs of progress, and occasional triumphs. As they stripped the walls, the original pattern of beams gradually emerged; they found the holes in the window beams into which the first window bars had been fixed, they took particular pleasure from exposing what they came to call the 'Union Jack' wall. And there was the wonderful moment when, having removed the iron grate from the living room, they discovered a fine Tudor fireplace, complete with curved oak beam and original stonework.

In September 1965 the Swanns were able to buy, for £300, the adjoining cottage at the corner of Mill Street and Bell Lane, and to plan a home complete with three double bedrooms, two sitting rooms, kitchen and cloakroom. They applied the same stripping and renovating techniques to their newly acquired property, discovering an elegant and comprehensive pattern of beams in the bedrooms.

After five years of unrelenting hard work the Swann family was, for a time, able to relax and enjoy its new house. Then, in 1971, they began, with professional help, a major programme to renovate and restore the interior and exterior of Nos. 11 and 12 and to integrate the two properties. The work included installing a new bathroom; re-slating the roof; replacing some of the load-bearing beams and straightening others; stripping the plaster from the front of No.12 to reveal its fine stone front; exposing and redecorating No. 11's original exterior beams. These alterations and renovations left the house more or less as it can be seen today. From then on the Swanns were able to enjoy the comforts of the house for which they had worked so hard.

Joan Swann enjoyed her life in Ludlow. Her scrapbook shows how much she loved the town and how proud she was to play a part in its affairs. Through her efforts and those of her husband and children she was able to leave a corner of Ludlow in a better state than she found it; an achievement that we can all appreciate and applaud.



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A WALK UP MILL STREET

Each Christmas Connie Brooks sends a vignette to her American children and friends about Ludlow. This is last year's offering which combines a historical snapshot of Mill Street together with a selection of recipes across the years.

Our walk begins at the River Teme. Ludlow's Norman founders knew what they were about; the river wound round a hill leading to a strategic Castle site. A river meant water as well as mills and fish for new burgesses. For about half the year there was an unrelenting diet of fish; salted for keeping, stiff and briny, decreed by the Church. It was perked up with a mustard sauce from a Roman recipe; chopped parsley, garlic, fine bread crumbs, vinegar, white wine and dry mustard. One over-fished fellow wrote 'thou wilt not believe how wery I am of fysshe, and how much I desir flesch were cum in ageyn. I have ete non byt salt fysshe this Lent and it hath engeyrde so much flewme within me that it stoppith my pypes that I canneth speke nother brethe'.

**'... thou wilt not believe how wery I
am of fysshe, and how much i desir
flesch were cum in ageyn...'**

On Lower Mill Street, just above the river, the Lord of the Manor owned a generous piece of demesne land in the 13th. and 14th. centuries. Its value rose steadily, indicating worth of agricultural land and increasing population. The principal crop on the Lord's orchard was apples for cider-making, but pears and soft fruits grown there are said to have made summer puddings to please the palates of the Genevilles and de Verduns, who shared Lacey family property. The Lord's orchard is still there, divided into allotment plots now.

Just above, one comes to remains of Mill Street's postern gate, one of seven in the old guardian town wall, built to keep residents in and brigands out. The only remaining gate is in Broad Street.

Up again on the east side is the stone town house built by the Cheney of Cheney Longville in the middle ages. In 1188 Geraldis Cambrensis, a Welsh churchman accompanying the then Archbishop of Canterbury to recruit for the Third Crusade, stopped to rest at Barnaby House, just round the corner on Silk Mill Lane. Cambrensis and recruits were offered wine cheese (curds & whey) with Blaanda bread; a round, flat bannock, as refreshment by the household of Thomas Barnaby, Treasurer to Edward IV. The Grammar School was moved into the Cheney house from near St. Lawrence's Church in 1527. Ludlow College occupies both buildings now.

Across the street, two properties, 23 and 23A Mill Street housed the Theatre in the 18th C. The Honourable John Byng, staying at the Angel in Broad Street in 1784 wrote "... seeing a crowd at the door, told a play was about to begin we sallied, took places in the boxes amidst a fashionable

audience, were sufficiently amused, tho' it lasted too late. We were told Mrs. Siddons made her first appearance here. The company, consisted of 28, including the band, perform three times a week. We had our supper, did not get home 'till half 11 o'clock. Ludlow is one of the best towns for the genteel to retire in I have seen". What were the Hon. Byng & Co., given for supper? Perhaps small fish from the Teme, mutton in beer, boiled onions, salat with violet buds snipped in it, and sweet cubes of coloured jellied milk. In our garden at 23A in 1995 we're still unearthing bits of white clay pipes, smoked at theatre intervals and discarded.

Continuing up Mill Street's west side one comes to 47, a wooden house, retaining its medieval jetty. Walter Balle and his wife lived there in 1284 when it first was recorded, paying 6 pence annual rent, plus best pickings of chicken and goose eggs from their garden plot for the Lord. In 1389 the house was given to the Palmer's Guild in exchange for prayers to be said to save somebody's soul. In 1619 James Webb, cordwainer, head of Ludlow's Leather Workers Guild, and his wife were tenants. James I was on the throne, the Council of the Marches, with its headquarters at Ludlow Castle governed five English counties and all of Wales. The town was thriving economically and socially. Mrs. Webb would have entertained her friends, the town's self-designated gentlewomen, with Rosemary Biscuits and Shropshire Cakes. Her guests would have brought their hostess gifts of Burnt Sack, Claret, Malmsey, Muscodyne, and enormous sugar loaves. Drinking wine, eating, gossiping, filled their afternoons. But none dared smile too broadly; their teeth, like Elizabeth I's were blackened by excessive sugar. 47 Mill Street was done up recently, rare plaster ceilings were found, with Tudor vines, flowers and fruits. There are pomegranates, said to have been the symbol of Catherine of Aragon, who lived in Ludlow Castle with her husband Prince Arthur for 5 months in 1501 and 1502.

Just above 47 is the Guild Hall. In 1283 Margaret, wife of William de Bradstone, gave to the Palmer's Guild her house 'to be called the Guild Hall, worth £4-3-4d silver', hoping it would purchase sufficient praying to keep her in heaven. St. Lawrence's Church was the formal centre of Ludlow's spiritual and civic life, but the Guild Hall came next. The annual Guild feast for the Palmer's Brotherhood, held at Pentecost, was the big event of the year. Vast batches of bread were baked, beer brewed, cider, cheese, bacon, fish, beef, capons, and venison were prepared, cases of wine brought

from Bristol. Candles lit the feast, rushes and sweet herbs were spread on the floor, actors and musicians entertained the guests. Guild officers were given sumptuous new robes each year. Their wives wore gowns made of yards of velvet and silk with whale bone hoops, and cork soled shoes with high heels. Their teeth may have been black, but their plunging necklines would have drawn all eyes. On that rowdy night praying was not on the menu. In 1392 the Palmers caused a new exterior to be fashioned over the Guild Hall's medieval core. In the 18th. C. Thomas Pritchard gave the building a classic facade. Now, looking the same, it's a magistrate's court, dealing with the thieves and drunk drivers of our day. Up a bit was the Shambles where medieval butchers gathered in one location. It was gory, smelly, noisy. cattle and horses were butchered there, then drawn down wide Mill Street to be washed in the Teme before being hung on display. Early Britons loved meat when the Church let them have it. In the 17th. C. Ludlovians lapped up Dutch Pudding; fresh beef, suet, bread crumbs, eggs, cream, herbs and spices were mingled, tied together in a great Colwart cabbage leaf, and placed on a grate over a fire. The last building on Mill Street's west side

is Castle Lodge, prison for miscreants in the middle ages. In 1604 a Bailiff's account records; 'pay'd to Walker for his paynes in putting Roman letters on Elizabeth Fisser's head; Peccavi.... I have sinned'. In 1605: 'pay'd for cords to tie prisoner to barre, more cords for warders who attend barre, more cords to hang the woman, and pay'd for the hier of a hangman'. It was a grim place....the building still has a foreboding look. You can bet prisoners were fed minimally; cabbage stew was on offer most days, and that, with bits of bread, was that.... a little cabbage, lots of water. The end of our walk brings us to Castle Square, the market, still going strong after 900 years, and on the east side of Mill Street, The Assembly Rooms. In the palmy days of the 17th. and 18th. centuries people assembled in the classical building for morning coffee, tea and chatting after strolling about a la Bath. Nine hundred years of history but the wide street in the rare town remains essentially and reassuringly unchanged.

I am indebted to Michael Faraday's, David Lloyd's and Peter Klein's books on Ludlow history. Recipes referred to can be made available if anyone is tempted.

Connie Brookes

PICTURES OF OLD LUDLOW – Reviewed

James Harris reviews the latest edition in the Archive Photographs Series depicting Ludlow. This has been compiled by David Lloyd and is published by The Chalfont Publishing Company. The book is dedicated to Civic Society member Dorothy Arrowsmith for 'her infectious enthusiasm for the history of her adopted town'.

Most bookshops have compilations of old photographs of English towns – but this selection is something special. What makes it so is, first, the encyclopaedic knowledge of Ludlow that David Lloyd and the members of the Historical Research Group have been able to bring to the project and, second, the wealth of photographs and facts which has come from all manner of people in the town and elsewhere – over 120 named in the acknowledgements. The result is thus a team and town effort and this puts it head and shoulders above most comparable collections. Nevertheless, teams have to be led, contributions sorted out, and a sense of purpose established. David Lloyd has set out to present a visual and factual history of Ludlow so as to capture the unique quality of its townscape and to make his readers fully aware of its origins and development. This book achieves these objectives in an exemplary way. It turns out to be much more than this: the captions are not simple descriptions but amplified notes and almost mini-tutorials on social changes, economic history, and memorable events and personalities. This brings still photographs to life so that we can begin to understand Ludlow in some depth, and appreciate its changing character and richness over time. At another level, the book is a treasure trove

of now vanished features that form the speculations of newcomers and the reminiscences of longer term residents: the cinema; Whitcliffe as a treeless quarry; the station and love it or hate it the Town Hall. There is something of interest on almost every page.

However in comparison with the traditional architectural quality of most of the urban fabric, it was perhaps inevitable that the least satisfactory section would be that on 'Today and Tomorrow'. In this section, the new sports hall is nothing to celebrate in architectural terms, whatever its merits as a timely facility, and the scheme for Castle Square has such controversial shortcomings as to make its inclusion at least questionable; again, rather than a shot of some standard sheds and cattle pens well outside the town, a view of the cleared wasteland of the former livestock market was, surely, an essential 'Archive Photograph' for the present and the future – despite possibly interrupting the production process; lastly, the one work of architectural merit, the Assembly Rooms, is poorly served by a mediocre perspective rather than the good photograph it deserves; there is, too, an 'ad hoc' feel to the composition of these concluding pages in comparison with the rest of the book.

.....Continued on page 8

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END OF AN ERA

In May this year, Dick Stephens, a founder member of your Committee, at last decided that it was time to step down. He had served since the Society was first formed over 30 years ago, under the chairmanship of Fred Reeves. Dick's credentials to speak for Ludlow were impeccable, his father was from Kington and his mother was born in Lower Broad Street. They were married at St. Giles Ludford and are buried in Ludford Cemetery. His father was a Councillor for many years and Mayor during the '30s. They had three children, Dick's brother still lives on Temeside, but his sister died 8 years ago. The family ran three shops in the town. Their Delicatessen, standing where Somerfields is now, was the first in Ludlow. The General Groceries, next to Woolworths in Castle Square was the first to introduce self-service to Ludlow and they had another Grocery shop in what is now the Card Shop in High Street. This record is ample evidence they were always open to innovation and change.

Dick still remembers vividly the inaugural committee meeting at 27, Broad Street and the battles over the bypass and the Tolsey. The first won, the second only partially so. Dick's knowledge of Ludlow and its past has been invaluable to this Society on numerous occasions, and many decisions in committee have been swayed by Dick's vivid memory and quiet insistence.

Dick Stephens was unanimously voted Vice-President at the A.G.M. We wish him and his wife Pat many long years of further retirement at their beautiful Dinham home.

1995-96 PROGRAMME OF REMAINING EVENTS

Wednesday, 6 December 1995

Christmas Soiree with Music, Poetry & Prose at The Feathers Hotel

Tickets £4.00 (To Include Punch & Mince Pies) from the Treasurer

Wednesday, 17 January 1996

'Ludlow - The Way Forward'

A Members Forum

Wednesday, 21 February 1996

'Architecture after Modernism'

James Harris Ph.D.

Wednesday, 20 March 1996

'There's No 'Right Way' to Garden'

Mirabel Osler

Wednesday, 17 April 1996

'Florence'

The Rev. Dr. Brian Curnew

Saturday, 27 April 1996

'Visit to Gloucester'

Details and booking form from Dorothy Arrowsmith - 01584 875623

Wednesday, 15 May

Annual General Meeting of the Society

7:30 in High Hall - Castle Square.

Annual Subscription: £5.00 per member

Meeting Fees:

Members: £1.00 per meeting

Non Members: £2.50 per meeting

All meetings except the AGM and the Christmas Soiree will take place in the Ludlow Assembly Rooms and commence at 7:30 p.m.

.....Continued from page 7.

PICTURES OF OLD LUDLOW - Reviewed by James Harris

None of this should detract from the overwhelming success of this thoroughly worthwhile undertaking and thanks are due to all concerned. South Shropshire readers should all have this book at their elbows, not simply to 'flick through' or have as an invaluable reference, but to study in detail and reflect on during the proverbial 'long winter evenings'.

In the offing are crucial architectural decisions which will have significant townscape implications. This book is a timely reminder that in Ludlow, architectural quality has traditionally been a primary objective and the ultimate criterion that has largely determined one of the finest environments in England, Ours, as a matter of fact...

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