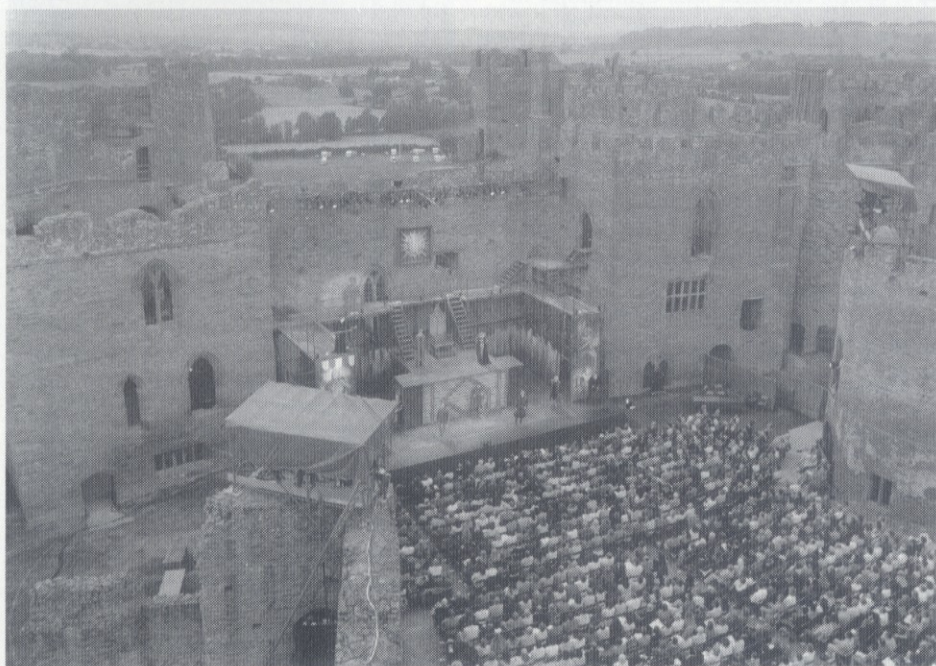


Ludlow Heritage News

No. 25 SUMMER 1996

Published twice a year by Ludlow Civic Society



*Shakespeare at the Castle; the 1995 production of Richard III.
Photograph by Jeremy Pardoe, Tenbury Wells.*

THE LUDLOW FESTIVAL

The 1996 Ludlow Festival begins on June 22nd with the Gala Evening of King Lear in the castle. For the next two weeks Ludlow will entertain and be entertained by a colourful variety of actors, musicians, singers, dancers, writers and other artists. They, and the thousands of visitors who attend the Festival, many from overseas, help to create what Owen Elias, the Mayor of Ludlow, describes as a 'lovely atmosphere' in the town. During the Festival, a theatre critic wrote in 1980, 'the whole town, with its elegant architecture and rushing river, is 'en fete', warm and welcoming in a pleasantly old-fashioned way'.

THE FIRST 25 YEARS

The origins and development of the Festival are skilfully and entertainingly described by David Lloyd, Rosemary King and Maureen Sykes in their booklet 'Ludlow Festival. The first Twenty-five Years' published in 1984 to mark the Festival's Silver Jubilee and the 350th. anniversary of Milton's Comus in Ludlow castle. David Lloyd and his colleagues show how the idea of a Festival was sparked by a series of productions in the 1950s in aid of the restoration of St. Lawrence's Church, particularly the Comus production in 1953 in the outer bailey of the castle. They pay tribute to the industry and vision of those Ludlovians who helped to build an annual Festival on these early foundations: in particular they recognise the contribution of Arthur Reynolds who, they say, 'more than

any other individual can be regarded as the founder of the Ludlow Festival'. They trace the financial and artistic development of the Festival through its first 25 years, and conclude with a review of its achievements and the high reputation it had earned by 1984.

THE FESTIVAL TODAY

The period since 1984 has been, in the words of Arthur Baynon, the Festival Administrator, one of 'steady, controlled growth'. Receipts from ticket sales approached £255,000 in 1995, which compares with annual receipts of about £70,000 in the early 1980s, and £30,000 a decade earlier. In 1995, attendance at all Festival events was about 28,000, of whom some 18,000 saw Richard III. This compares with total attendance figures of 11,200 in 1962 and about 19,000 in 1979, of whom about 15,000 went to the play. These figures show the steady growth of the Festival in overall terms, and also the increasing range of Festival activities.

The Festival management continues to make great efforts to widen the appeal of the Festival e.g. by using the outer bailey of the castle to accommodate spectacular events that can be attended by up to 3,000 people, like the Gilbert and Sullivan and Michael Ball concerts in 1995, or the 'Legends of the Sixties' and Beverley Craven concerts planned for 1996. More events are also being provided with the interests of children in mind, including the

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puppet theatre, music and dance workshops and theatrical story-telling events in the 1996 programme. Evidence of the success in broadening the repertoire comes from the British Tourist Authority, which describes the 1996 Festival as 'a feast of theatre, opera, concerts, jazz, exhibitions, literary events, lectures/talks, outdoor events, walks/tours, rock/popular music, children's events, and fringe'.

THE PLAY

The dominant event of the Festival, in both financial and artistic terms, is the Shakespeare play. A keystone of Festival policy is to maintain the play as its cardinal activity. As the number of Shakespeare productions in the country declines, Ludlow's distinctive advantages become more marked. The suitability of the inner bailey of the castle for dramatic productions is, David Lloyd suggests, the greatest asset of the Ludlow Festival. He recalls the characteristically warm reaction of Colin George who, having produced 'Much Ado About Nothing' in 1966, later wrote 'There can be few open air auditoria that combine such perfect acoustics with such a visual grandeur...voices bounce off the rugged walls...like balls from a squash court'.

OTHER EVENTS

The pattern of supporting events is, to some extent, determined by the venues available. Within Ludlow there is no ideal accommodation for large orchestral concerts. St Lawrence's Church is a magnificent and much loved building, and has been the setting of many great Festival occasions, but it has certain disadvantages as a concert hall. It takes an audience of no more than 600; there are inconveniently placed pillars; the acoustics are imperfect and, for those who forget to take their own cushions, the seating can be numbingly hard.

The Festival organisers show great ingenuity in making the best use of the available buildings, and in seizing new opportunities as they occur. The Assembly Rooms, for example, which became available comparatively recently and can take an audience of up to 300, will in the 1996 Festival be in almost daily use for art exhibitions, a dance school and workshop, the puppet theatre, plays and lectures.

MANAGING THE FESTIVAL

The Ludlow Festival is a registered charity. Its governing body is the Council, at present chaired by Patricia Sibcy. As members of the Council retire, the remaining members elect their replacements. From time to time specialist advisers, e.g. in electrical installations, are co-opted to the Council, which has the support of two appointed, non-voting members who receive hono- raria for their part-time services: Anthony Baynon, the Festival Administrator, and Ray Sykes the Business Manager and Accountant. The Council's management costs are therefore modest.



A scene from Othello in 1993.

Much of the detailed work is done through committees concerned with, e.g. sponsorship, publicity, house management, etc. The Events Committee manages the supporting programme, i.e. all events other than the play itself which is run by a professional Director. The choice of play is a matter for consultation between the Director and the Council.

Managing an enterprise this complex is no easy matter. It requires a capacity to respond quickly and imaginatively to all kinds of unexpected problems; Beverly Craven's pregnancy, which caused her to withdraw from the 1995 Festival after the programme had been published, is one example. Coping with the disparate requirements and sensitivities of an extraordinary wide range of professional and artistic talents needs considerable social and political skills. Above all, the Festival needs prudent and accurate financial management. Whereas many Festivals get 25% or more of their funding from their local authorities, often large urban authorities with substantial budgets, the support received by Ludlow's Festival from local authorities is significantly less: about 3% of total revenue. It must, therefore, get closer than most to living within the revenues generated by ticket sales, and this in turn makes accurate forecasting of attendance levels a critical management function. The Festival accountants do this very well. In 1984 David Lloyd wrote that 'good financial management has been a major factor in the success of the Ludlow Festival'. This is equally true today. Although they occasionally get their forecasts wrong, their revenue estimates are usually remarkably accurate: within 0.5% of actual ticket sales for Richard III in 1995. The Festival seems to be managed with both economy of manpower and budgetary rigour.

LOCAL SUPPORT

The Festival brings to Ludlow actors, musicians and other entertainers with national and in some cases international reputations. In this sense, it is an event of national standing and significance. But a good deal of the organisation and support that makes the Festival possible comes from local people. Most members of the Council

Continued on Page 3

ALFRED ARDEN WOOD, CBE : 1926-1995.

Providence was kind to Ludlow Civic Society when it sent us Alfie Wood as our President. Amenity societies depend on volunteer effort; and all too frequently suffer from well intentioned amateurism as a result. Alfie was both a volunteer, and a professional to his fingertips.

A glance at his entry in Who's Who discloses Alfie's importance as a planner, and the breadth of his experience.

He was a Yorkshireman by birth and, like so many of his generation, was caught up in the War, serving as an officer in the Tank Corps. Alfie was a man of action; he was proud of his military connections.

Afterwards, he read history at Hertford College, Oxford, and this awakened an interest in architecture and the environment. After training at Leeds School of Architecture, he worked in Stockholm, Harlow, Yorkshire and Glasgow. But the great break came with his appointment as City Planning Officer for Norwich in 1965. Pedestrianisation and pedestrian priority in town centres is something taken for granted these days, and it is easy to forget that Alfie was a pioneer in instigating the London Street Scheme of pedestrianisation in Norwich. It was an instant success and attracted international attention. His initiative in the 'Over the Wensum' scheme resulted in the reconditioning of a large, derelict, area in the centre of Norwich. A contemporary residential development was successfully slotted into the core of an ancient and attractive city; the sort of exercise that Alfie described as 'shoehorning'.

From Norwich in 1972 he went to Hereford and Worcester; and in 1984 he went on to the West Midlands as Chief Planning Officer, an arduous assignment. Success followed success. He was a member of the Historic Buildings Council, head of Historic Areas at English

Heritage; he occupied a string of academic appointments and was advisor to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg; a C.B.E. followed in 1988, after ill health effectively put an end to full time work; ill health which he fought with spirit. Shortly after his recovery, his wife died, a bitter misfortune.

A typical day out with Alfie was a trip up to London to lobby English Heritage. Coffee at his stylish house at Dunley was followed by a smooth ride down the M42 to his own parking space at the NEC station. Croissants, before we entrained; he knew the station catering staff. Euston in good time and a leisurely ride to English Heritage H.Q.; much banter with the receptionist. A respectful hearing from the senior staff at English Heritage; he had given some of them their jobs. Lunch at his favourite Italian restaurant; he knew all the staff and enquired after their families. A walk back up Regent Street, interrupted by a break at Liberty's to pick up a new tie. (Why do successful planners all wear bow ties?). An entertaining train journey home; followed by a refusal to charge his expenses for the day.

Why did Alfie volunteer to help us? I suspect it was because he believed that we were fighting a just cause, a cause in which he believed himself. He spoke frequently of a move to Ludlow, a move which, alas, never took place. He appreciated Ludlow and its physical attractiveness. He knew that good environments tend to produce better, happier communities.

Alfie was a generous man; generous with his time, generous with his expertise. He was a tactician and a diplomat, and all the more effective for that.

This Society has sustained a great loss with his passing. We send our condolences to his son and daughter.

STEPHEN DORNAN

Ludlow Festival . . . Contined from Page 2

live in or near Ludlow. During the Festival itself hundreds of volunteers, carry out a range of tasks essential to the smooth running of events. About 150 act as stewards. Others are dressers, box office staff, sellers of programmes and refreshments. Some lucky local people become extras in the play.

Many of the industrial and commercial organisations that support the Festival through 'sponsorship' are local. Wells Soft Drinks Ltd. is a particularly generous sponsor. In addition, there are generous local patrons who make substantial donations to the Festival by sponsoring particular events. Corporate and individual sponsorship amounts to approximately 10% of the total annual turnover. About half of this support comes from local sources.

Local people, currently about 1500, show their support for the Festival by becoming

'Friends'. An annual subscription of £10 secures certain benefits including priority booking rights.

BENEFITS TO LUDLOW

The Festival is sometimes criticised as an elitist frolic of the middle classes. As the range of Festival events broadens, this criticism looks increasingly threadbare. Owen Elias is an enthusiastic supporter of the Festival. He sees it primarily as a means of increasing commercial activity in the town: for Ludlow's shops, hotels, guest houses, pubs and restaurants the gain is obvious. But Mr. Elias also recognises less tangible ways in which Ludlow benefits from the Festival. It attracts the kind of publicity that enhances the image of Ludlow. It provides what he calls 'a focus for the town'. It is an annual experience we can all share: something to look forward to, enjoy and remember with affection and the best kind of civic pride.

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SECRET GARDENS OF LUDLOW

Strangers to Ludlow, walking past snug-fitting period town houses in mediaeval planned streets, don't know what they're missing; hidden behind are burgage plots cultivated as gardens for almost a thousand years.

We lucky ones who live here, hurrying on our rounds, tend to forget the fertile oases are there unless a passage is open, or we're invited in. As much in this remarkable town is unseen as seen: static bricks and mortar on view, fresh naturalness screened from sight. The contrast makes each more significant.

Little wonder more acclaim is awarded Ludlow's pedigree buildings: not only are they visible, they endure, like proud, elderly gentry, well-bred bones prominent on their aristocratic faces. But gardens hidden behind them, transient though they may be, have their own tales to tell of people, plants, historical periods, as successive owners have come and gone. Traces remain of each era; the archaeology of the garden, an established study, makes it possible to recreate worthy ones.

'Britons are passionate gardeners', said Vita Sackville-West 'with something in their blood breeding tranquillity'. They have a head start in gardening, having practised it since conquering Roman armies brought their Mediterranean experience and plants along in the 1st. century A.D. Anglo Saxons continued gardening in utilitarian form until the Normans added French flavour after adorning land round their castles, noblemen round their manor houses with lawns, flowers and trees, all trying to top each other. When Ludlow was the seat of the Council of the Marches, roughly 1473 to 1689, influential men brought their aspiring wives, settled in the best houses, many still in existence. Their walled gardens were designed to display their prosperity: 'delicious places, picked by pleasure herself to dwell in, along with health'. Next Tudor Renaissance spirit conceived

formal designs: knots edged in box and lavender, copied in embroidery patterns. Mazes were popular, and piped water 'spouting up to wett strangers'. 18th. century Ludlovians promenaded, met in the Assembly Rooms for refreshment, invited each other into their gardens. They must have been a relaxed lot, with servants to do the skivvyng. 'They brought flowers into their houses, and had furniture carried into their gardens'. 19th. century Victorian tastes ran riot with excesses of colour and over-abundant, self-conscious public bedding. Now, late in the 20th. century, gardens, grand English obsessions, are envied round the world; but few countries have clement climate and ardent, accomplished gardeners to achieve them. Visiting gardens on show, seeing how others coax, curb arrange plants is instructive as well as a treat. And there are plants to purchase; show me a person who can resist another plant, I'll say I've seen a self-denying stoic. Wherever they are, gardens are refreshing, rewarding things; hidden ones are singularly seductive, which brings us back to secret gardens. Each of these words entices; used together they are irresistible, promising seclusion, mystery, surprise.

In 1990, Cy Jones, Chairman of Friends of the Assembly Rooms, organised the first benefit tour of Ludlow's Secret Gardens. The 16th. June 1996, 2-6 p.m. will be the 7th. increasingly successful year. In 1995, as sun smiled on them, over 700 people strolled the town, had tea, collected ideas, thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It might have been the 18th. century, with Jane Austin writing the script.

Over six years nearly fifty gardens have been open, each as individual as its owner. There's space to recall only a few of so many memorable ones.

1990: 22 Raven Lane: compact, composed with care and exquisite colour sense, it was thought to be one of the finest examples of horticulture in town. It isn't easy to achieve



The Old Bell House, Ludford



Number 11, Dinham

Library. Newly redesigned, the garden has elegant detail and colour, statuary, well placed planting.

1994: 8, Corve Street, just below what was the Corve Street gate is a spacious Capability Brown type garden one can glimpse if the entry is open. If it is, you stop-in-your-tracks, take-in-your-breath, say AHHHHH. Framed by views of castle, church tower, Whitcliffe, Welsh and Stretton hills, in mediaeval days the property was listed as 'a lyttel tenement, house and garden close, 3 shillings rent'. 38 Broad Street, rebuilt in 1768, the garden reflects loving care lavished on it; specimen plants, trees, a pool for wildlife, it is so well done it looks utterly content, as though it did itself.

1995: 7 Dinham: the house, consequence of conversions from mediaeval to Georgian, Regency, then Victorian periods, is complemented by an intimate, charming garden enjoying full sun. The Old Bell House, Ludford: featured twice in Country Life, dates back to the Three Crowns Inn, 1500. Sir Nikolaus Pevsner wrote '... at the bottom of the garden, by the River Teme, the stone mill with timber gables faces the Ludlow mill in Teme side across the river'. The present garden is vast, handsome, flourishing with the tender care it's given.

There. That was just a soupcon of early local gardens on show to whet your appetite for Some More Ludlow Secret Gardens on 16th June 1996. Put the date in your diary; who would risk missing it? The price £3.50, remains the same.

It isn't the first time I've rattled on about lovely Ludlow and its unique gardens, recycling some bits here. To my pleasure, I discover ever more about the rare, preserved town plus its life's breath and blood: concealed, secluded places. The undisclosed is always more alluring, the veiled more provocative. That's why secrets are irresistible.

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IMPRESSIONS OF A PUBLIC ENQUIRY

Tim Andrewes' personal impressions of last autumn's Public Enquiry on the proposed supermarket on the old cattle market site. Stephen Dornan and Tim Andrewes (who also represented the Town Council and the Green Party) presented the Civic Society's case.

Nudging open the door to the district council chamber, my arms hugging a bundle of documents and papers, a view of lively, bustling chaos opened up before me. With ten minutes to go before the start of the public inquiry, the chamber was rapidly filling up with witnesses, barristers, council officers and local people, swimming in an ever-rising tide of paperwork. From out of the sea of suits and scripts would come first the arguments, and then, eventually, an outcome to an issue that has dogged Ludlow for ten years.

Presiding over the Inquiry was the Inspector, John Waldron. His face and body language were perfect for his role as impartial judge. Throughout the inquiry he would generally hold the features of his face in a single expression. It was a fixed, unmoving look, eyes open but not quite wide, brow furrowless, lips stretched ever so slightly into an expression that could be interpreted as a whole host of different moods: a smile of mild bemusement? a faintly mocking, scornful sneer? or a drawn, intense, purposeful mouth from which a searching question was about to pounce? His eyes tended to look above the heads of the assembled parties - usually towards the window and wall above the Civic Society's bench. It was an expression that could not be read, that gave away no trace of the Inspector's thoughts. This was the man in whose hands the decision would rest yet, frustratingly, it was impossible to tell how he was reacting, except at those points in the inquiry when one side unequivocally scored a point against the other. At these rare moments, his eyebrows would rise slightly before the pen was picked up and notes written down.

It makes sense to have an outsider as Inspector - someone with no local interests or obvious preconceptions. But one of the striking aspects of the inquiry generally was the sheer number of outsiders brought in to have their say. For the duration of the inquiry, the outsiders occupied Ludlow's best hotels. They were clearly making the most of the town, but their appreciation was in essence only short-term. It seemed somewhat unfair that these outsiders - the 'experts' - would have their say and then just walk away, without having to live with the consequences of the ultimate decision. The carefree attitude of some of the participants was epitomised by the retail witness for the District Council. Mr Percival had been employed essentially to protect the Council's interests; his task to prove the advantages of the Cattle Market site over the Lloyd's depot site. He freely admitted that he did not find it easy to walk from the bottom to the top of Corve Street though

he thought this factor was of little importance in assessing how integrated the supermarket might be with the town centre. When asked to comment on the previous inspector's prediction of shop closures should another supermarket open, he gave a one-word response: 'Tough!'. This blatant lack of sympathy fitted ill with the fact that Mr Percival's fee was being met by the council-tax payers of the district.

I suppose it was really the wrong time of year for outsiders to care deeply about the town. The inquiry took place in the middle of a fairly wretched winter. You could see them walking up and down Corve Street during the lunch break on damp, windswept pavements. They could be identified by their smart suits and the way they stared with such intent and interest at the scene of dereliction on the corner of Station Drive.

The Inspector's air of calm objectivity stood in marked contrast to the blatantly partisan approach of the QC for Tesco's. Almost his first words of introduction were an air-clearing blast: 'My job is to seek an implementable planning permission.' Mr Horton was out to talk up his own witnesses, to denigrate the opposition, and to take no prisoners. He was keen that the inquiry should not exaggerate the architectural value of Ludlow's streetscapes. He was more than happy to indulge in prolonged mudslinging - against, for example, the composition of Royal Fine Art Commission, rather than argue over their submission. His standard technique was to show up opponents for their lack of qualifications rather than the weakness of their arguments. Often it felt as though Tesco's had hired not a barrister but an assassin - a character assassin. At times Mr Horton did not even pretend to be civil, or to concentrate on the logic of the issue. He was a wolf in wolf's clothing.

To call the Inquiry 'public' is something of a misnomer. Of course, members of the public had the right to attend every session and - midway through the proceedings - to give their views. Written representations, too, would be received by the Inspector and taken into account. But the views of the public at an Inquiry, as in the planning process generally, have a bearing on the outcome according to their quality rather than their quantity.

To participate fully in the event, it was necessary to be there for the whole thing. Only in this way could you follow the developing arguments and be in a position to second-guess your opponents' likely lines of attack. To sit through the inquiry from beginning to end was both mindnumbing and fascinating at the same time. The ground



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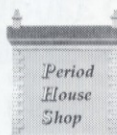


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moved enough during the proceedings to keep up interest. Revised plans for the second scheme were presented on the first day. The Walters site reared its head as a credible alternative site - and one which offered distinct advantages over the Cattle Market.

Most unexpectedly of all, the two parties keenest on a supermarket on the Cattle Market site - Tesco's and the District Council - continued to fall out with each other on design issues. The Council, supporting all three schemes before the inquiry, clearly believed that it was important to show up the relative merits of particular plans, thereby offering the Inspector a set of criteria for a decision. But this led to some rather bizarre, embarrassingly pointless exchanges such as that over the potential for a disabled ramp at the Corve Street entrance in Design 3 (when Design 3 clearly had an entrance with steps onto Corve Street, and when all three designs had level entrances from the car park anyway). All this friendly fire was welcome, if somewhat baffling relief for the

opposition, and cannot have helped to advance the case for the supermarketiers. There was much posturing and bluff at the inquiry - perhaps most of all from the public themselves. We hoped our dedication and strength of conviction would outweigh our obvious lack of qualifications. To play the part we presented our bound proofs of evidence, struggled through cross-examination and at all times looked as though we knew what everyone else was talking about. Most challenging of all was the production of a summing up at the end of the proceedings - a feat achieved by furiously typing up the Civic Society chairman's handwritten manuscript at 7.30a.m. on the last morning of the inquiry!

The Inspector often seemed to be at his most interested when members of the public were giving evidence - a heartening sign that he could put all the professional bluster into proper context. It remains to be seen how he will condense the weeks of evidence and cross-examination into a decision fitting for our town.

TIM ANDREWES

CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES

Members will receive a copy of Heritage Diary with this edition, which contains a comprehensive review of current planning issues. However for non-members the contents of the Diary are summarised here.

The three major planning issues of recent months are all in a state of suspended animation: the development of the Angel Hotel site in Broad Street awaits satisfactory parking provisions; the enhancement of Castle Square depends on the level of future finance; and the supermarket development issue awaits enquiry Inspector's recommendations and, more importantly, the decision of the Secretary of State for the Environment in response to it. In the meantime two further issues have come to the fore.

The plans for a proposed new Ludlow Library and Museum Resource Centre were confirmed recently when the South Shropshire Journal reported that an agreement had been reached between the District and County Councils for the lease of land for the development of these facilities. The new museum resource centre will accommodate the activities presently inadequately housed in Old Street; the main museum exhibits will continue to be housed off Castle Square. It is understood that the building will be located at the end of the Parkway shopping thoroughfare between Parkway and Portcullis Lane. The District Council propose to make up for the loss of 70 car parking spaces by demolition of the Portcullis Salesroom, creating another 75 parking spaces in its place.

A new library building is the single most important facility needed in the town centre; members of the Civic Society have worked towards its inception for several years. However we are concerned at the

apparent ad-hoc, piecemeal approach to the development of the Portcullis area due to the lack of an overall vision of what is involved.

The second new issue is the future of the site at 18 Castle Street. The owner has already accumulated a substantial financial liability as a result of the purchase and subsequent demolition of the building. The District Council's objectives will be to recoup the cost of the demolition of what had become a 'Dangerous Structure' from the owner, and then to avoid the situation slipping into a repetition of the Lower Broad Street saga by keeping the re-building programme moving forward. At a recent Conservation Area Advisory Committee meeting the Director of Planning confirmed that his officers would be producing a Planning Brief to guide the development of the site. This site is of such important architectural significance that there will be matters in which the planning officers will have an over-riding interest: for example, the kind of development proposed, the height of the main facade; its recession or otherwise in relation to the adjoining facades, and the number of floors and their levels in relation to the pavement.

The appearance of statutory notices on Castle Walk reminds us that the thinning of the tree growth around the castle ramparts will be starting shortly. This action has initiated a healthy debate on the pros and cons of the proposed action but like it or not we will soon be able to see from afar the ramparts in all their impressiveness and we shall be able to view the broad sweep of the Teme and Whitcliffe outwards from the terraces.

JAMES HARRIS

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BEHIND THE SCENES

The Society's AGM held on 8th May saw some significant changes to the committee. After six distinguished years as Chairman, Stephen Dornan decided that due to the pressure of other commitments it was time for him to step down. Stephen has represented our interests with discretion and style throughout his chairmanship and has appeared as our chief witness at several Public Inquiries. One of his notable achievements was his success in increasing the size of Ludlow's Conservation areas. We are lucky that we will not be losing Stephen's experience and knowledge since he has agreed to stay on as a committee 'foot-soldier', to use his own terminology. He has also volunteered to lead the autumn excursion, and our enjoyment of his boundless knowledge of architecture in a historical context will continue.

Stephen's worthy successor, in an unopposed election, was David Lloyd, making a welcome return to public life. David will already be known to most of our members, if not in person then by his many contributions to Heritage News. New members will soon be able to experience David's individual style.

Also standing down from the committee in May was Brian McKibbin who acted as our Publicity and Press officer during the last year. We hope to build on Brian's excellent relations with the press, and to continue to improve publicity for our events to maximise attendance.

A welcome also to new committee members Maureen Sykes and Dr. David Milner.

1996-97 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

The following is a provisional view of the programme planned for the next membership year. There are still some details to be firmed up and the final version will appear on next year's Membership Cards.

Wednesday, 11 September 1996

'A week in the life of the House Steward'
 Matthew Applegate from Berrington Hall.

Saturday, 14 September 1996

Autumn Excursion

Provisionally planned to Wightwick Manor to commemorate the Centenary of William Morris. Bookings as usual will be through Dorothy Arrowsmith on 01584 - 875623.

Wednesday, 9 October 1996

'William Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement'

John Archer MA.

Wednesday, 27 November 1996

The Reeve Memorial Lecture

'Cruck Buildings in Shropshire'

Madge Moran

Wednesday, 11 December 1996

'Christmas Social'

Details to be announced

Wednesday 8 January 1997

'Any Questions'

Member's Forum,

Wednesday, 12 February 1997

'Ludlow Historical Research Group'

Evening devoted to contributions from our sister group.

Wednesday, 12 March 1997

'Problems facing small towns in Shropshire (including traffic)'

Mr. Parry, County Planning Office.

Wednesday, 9 April 1997

'The Origins of Shrewsbury'

Nigel Baker

May (date to be announced)

'Annual General Meeting of the Society'

This will be arranged when the date of the Mayor making is known.

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.

TEME VALLEY

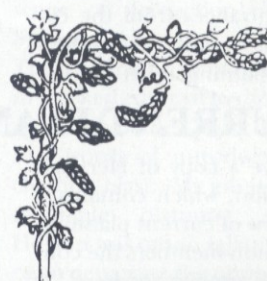


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