

Ludlow Heritage News

No. 30 Spring 1999

Published twice a year by Ludlow Civic Society



The Old Bell House in 1910

“LUDFORD! THIS PRECIOUS PLOT”

Ludford appears to be seen by many people as just an appendage to Ludlow. In fact, its origins precede those of the town and it has a character entirely its own.

In the Domesday survey of 1086 no mention is made of Ludlow, but the following description of Ludford is given, “(in Wolphy Hundred) Osbern also holds Ludford. 1 Hide. In lordship 2 ploughs; 5 smallholders with one plough. A mill at 6s. Value 20s”.

Members of “Ludlow Historical Research Group” are currently carrying out a research project on the history of Ludford. The work is often quite difficult but very rewarding and when completed should appear in print.

The parish is quite widely spread, but its heart is contained within a small area of land south of the River Teme. Here we find a complex of buildings which formed the pattern of the nucleus of a medieval village. All are of interest. The parish church, the mansion house, the lovely early 17th-century “Old Bell House”, the Almshouse and the row of small cottages. Almost all places create their special atmosphere. In Ludford the atmosphere is evocative of a past age. An age more tranquil than the present, and giving a sense of community. Here it is possible to forget the juggernauts thundering over the ancient bridge only a few yards away. Instead, one listens to the sound of the turbulent water of the river falling over the weir, and to the bird song.

As Ludford did not become a separate parish until after the Reformation, little is known of the early church. St Giles was a chapel of the Benedictine priory of Bromfield and until 1538 was served by chaplains appointed by the vicar of the priory. The church consists of nave, chancel, tower and north transept, the last being erected by William Foxe who held the manor after the dissolution of the monasteries. Apart from the Foxe aisle, the interior of the church has a Victorian aspect due to the restoration work of 1869. However, the tiny church is welcoming and a visit to the Foxe aisle, with its many memorial tablets and tombs will provide much information about former residents of the parish including the manorial lords. Much has been written about Ludford House and it will be familiar to many readers.

The ownership of the manor can be traced back to 1233 when a family taking the name of “Ludford” held it in their possession until about 1330. (References to the St Giles Leper Hospital are included in information for this period.) The heirs of the Ludford family granted all lands and tenements in Ludford to St. John’s Hospital. St. John’s Hospital was on the north side of the river (i.e. the corner of Lower Broad Street and Temeside.) Evidence of this can be seen in the south wall of the present building which shows a portion of an early arch. The hospice provided accommodation for the sick and for travellers and was served by secular priests. St. John’s continued to hold

Ludlow
Civic
Society
20p

FREE TO MEMBERS

 **McCartneys**
Established 1874 The Independents

**COME AND VISIT OUR NEW
SALEROOM AT
THE OX PASTURE,
LUDLOW**

We hold
Antique, Fine Art and Modern
Household Furniture Auctions
Every Third Friday of Each Month

 Including: Books, Porcelain, Silver
Jewellery, Textiles, Rugs,
 Oil Paintings, Watercolours,
Prints, Musical Instruments
and other collector's items.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Free Pre-Sale Valuations on entries brought in for sale by Auction
- Insurance Valuations
- Probate Valuations
- House Clearances
- Ample Free Car Parking
- Easy and Quick Delivery and Collection Points
- Friendly Staff on hand
- Competitive Commission Rates

Viewing is between 2 pm and 5 pm
the Thursday before the Sale and the
morning of the Sale from 9 am

Mr Lawrence Talbot M.A. (Cantab). A.R.I.C.S. will
be available for consultation by appointment

For further information on our services
please contact the Saleroom on
(01584) 872251

**PORTCULLIS SALEROOMS,
OX PASTURE OVERTON ROAD LUDLOW**

RICKARDS & SON LTD GENERAL IRONMONGERS

Home ■ Centre

Stockists of

Chub, 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

**APPROVED
AGA & RAYBURN SHOP**

Worried by Self Assessment?

HAVE ALL YOUR
QUESTIONS ANSWERED
BY

**SYKES & CO.
REGISTERED AUDITORS
& ACCOUNTANTS**

135 Corve Street
Ludlow
Tel: (01584) 874707
Fax: (01584) 874706



**REG. MARTIN & SONS
Family Butchers**

(Proprietor, Stuart Martin)

**1 MARKET STREET, LUDLOW
TEL: LUDLOW 872008**

*Home killed meat
Home made Pies & Sausages*

Cooked Meats a Speciality

Ludford until the hospital was suppressed in 1536.

The western range of Ludford House contains the oldest stonework and is thought to have been the St Giles Leper Hospital which later became almshouses. The four great chimney stacks and certain architectural details suggest communal living.

In 1537 the ownership of Ludford was acquired by William Foxe a member of an enterprising family who benefited greatly from the opportunities to obtain property cheaply after the dissolution of the religious houses. The Foxe family held Ludford until about 1630 during which period changes to the house were made. The hall range was built and possibly rebuilt and the almshouses rebuilt on the present site.

The heirs of Edward Foxe sold the house to Robert Charlton in 1638. Robert Charlton, a London goldsmith, who was of Shropshire origins, bought Whitton Court and then Ludford House which he gave to his son Job on the occasion of Job's marriage.

Sir Job Charlton was a lawyer who became Chief Justice of Chester and, for a very brief period, Speaker of the House of Commons. Described by Arthur Mee in his book "the Kings England" as "one of the finest judges in England who lost his job to 'bloody' Jeffreys and then got it back again".

It was Sir Job Charlton who rebuilt the almshouses on the present site in 1672. The building, which is of stone, consists of one and a half storeys with three high gables and dormer windows with drip hoods and cills. At the rear three large stacks carry the six brick panelled chimneys said to be, in design, well ahead of their time. At the centre of the facade a niche, which also has hood and sill, stands empty. This was obviously intended to carry the founder's name and his coat of arms. This does not seem to have been remedied in the 327 years of the almshouses life, and is something which I would like to be done in the very near future. This, I believe, would give interest not only to the building but to Ludford. Internally the almshouse is divided into six units by timber frame panels. These each had originally two rooms of 12' by 15' with one room on each floor. Now the rooms are further divided to accommodate modern facilities. The fireplaces are sets diagonally in the corner of the lower rooms.

The tiny houses were built to house "six poor and impotent people, and one to be warden". In 1672 Sir Job conveyed the almshouse, together with the land, to the inmates. They were constituted a corporation with a common seal and with the power to purchase lands. Their investments seem to have prospered and by the mid-nineteenth century the inmates were receiving an allowance of five shillings each week. Now all is changed. The houses are administered by a trust and let

to suitable individuals for a modest rent. The quality of the building of the almshouse is said to be in advance of its time and says something about the wealth of the founder.

Ownership of the manor by the Charlton family continued until 1920.. During almost three hundred years in their possession Ludford house was enlarged and modernised. In 1761 T.F. Prichard, Shropshire's finest 18th-century architect, was called in to redesign the east wing.

Edmund Lechmere Charlton was perhaps the most controversial member of the family. He was unpredictable and given to financial extravagance. He was parliamentary representative for Ludlow and was said to change his political allegiance according to events. He is recorded as having taken part in the last duel fought in England. His contribution to the Ludford scene was the building of a pair of attractive Gothicky cottages (next to the Charlton Arms) in 1841. He died in 1846.

The Old Bell House, a lovely timber frame house of the early seventeenth century, together with its mill, is much admired, particularly by visitors to Ludford. Both buildings have been carefully and lovingly restored by the Civic Society's present chairman, Neil Aiken. House and mill are now in separate ownership and make splendid homes for their owners. In addition, the fine period gardens are much to be admired.

The road on which the heart of Ludford stands, can readily be seen as a former turnpike road by the site of the octagonal tollhouse.

Whilst Ludford is a delightful place in which to live, it is not without its problems. Not least of these is the difficulty of finding space for parking. Some residents have found garages nearby. Unfortunately, others have abandoned their cottage gardens and use the acquired space for parking cars. In an urban scene this is regrettable, in Ludford it is disastrous. As the SSDC have not the authority to intervene, it can only be left as a matter for conscience. Whilst not ideal, I believe "on street parking" is a preferable solution.

The opinions expressed in this article are entirely my own.

As I have no title to anything within the surrounding area, perhaps I may be seen as being objective.

My hope and desire is that future changes in Ludford may enhance and not detract from the beauty and character of "this precious plot".

D. Arrowsmith

STEPHEN DORNAN 1949 - 1999

Stephen Dornan during his time on the committee of the Civic Society had a great respect for the Society's members. He would regularly remind his committee that "the membership are sovereign". He would also on occasions reminisce about the time when, having just moved to Ludlow, he stood for a position on the committee and was not elected. Maybe the two were not entirely unconnected and served as a constant reminder of personal fallibility. One thing is certain, that during his fifteen years on the committee, six as its chairman, he was dedicated to serving its members and all the people of Ludlow.

Although Stephen took up a career as a successful practising solicitor, becoming a partner at Morgans of Mill Street, at heart he was an architectural historian. At the drop of a hat he could recall details of buildings and architecture from towns all over the United Kingdom. His guided tours on many of the Society's excursions were often masterpieces yet he would confide to all and sundry that 'I only got the book out last night to revise'. Probably true but I suspect he could have done just as well without the revision!

One of Stephen's great attributes was being able to 'work the system'. His knowledge and understanding of small town politics was second to none, and how well he used it to the advantage of the town. His style of argument was not confrontational but persuasive backed up by a deep knowledge and understanding of the subject. He was always ready to take in other opinions: how many of us have been invited to talk over a topic at a working lunch at the Wheatsheaf!

Stephen was an invaluable element of the committee both as a member and as chairman. An ability to sift the evidence plus strong beliefs of his own would lead to a masterful summing up. His wit, occasionally somewhat irreverent, would often take the tension out of a potentially confrontational situation. His ability to draft a telling paragraph for inclusion in a planning representation was compelling and instantaneous. He did however have a great love for the red biro, motivated by his desire to improve any difficult point he had been developing. His wish to seek continual improvement had to be stopped by an ultimatum that the latest draft had, at last, to become the finished version.

Stephen was not perfect, he could be very disorganised. As proof of the genuine affection and high regard in which he was held there would always be someone willing to get him organised. He thrived on the need to do things at the last minute, and this might explain his habit of swotting up the night before leading an excursion. None of this should obscure what he achieved for Ludlow, not just the big successes like obtaining the extension to the Conservation Area, but the hundreds of small successes requiring detailed knowledge, persuasive argument and boundless perseverance.

One of the more recent campaigns which Stephen led was to gain greater protection from further development of the southern approach to Ludlow along the Overton Road. Five years ago, when the arguments were raging about the move of the cattle market to the Overton Road site, Stephen

was the first to recognise the potential problems this could raise in the future. How right he was; there followed the move of the Portcullis Saleroom to the cattle market site and then the building of an office block at the Severn Trent site next door. The latest planning application for this area is for two football pitches and a two storey clubhouse 100ft. long by 30ft. wide, with car parking and floodlights. "How

sad it is Stephen that you are not with us to fight off this latest threat".

Ludlow Civic Society is frequently accused in the press of wishing to present Ludlow as a museum. Stephen's attitude, which is now fully instilled into the Society, was far from this image. He was an avid supporter of the Assembly Rooms link building and argued strongly on behalf of the new Castle Box Office. His support for a modern treatment of a development was always tempered by the condition that it must be of a superior design, be correctly detailed and use appropriate materials.

Six years as the Society's chairman represented a huge commitment, and we were fortunate that he was persuaded to remain on the committee when he relinquished the chairmanship three years ago. His knowledge, wit, enthusiasm and endeavour will be greatly missed. Stephen Dornan's death is a great loss to his family, his friends, the Society and to Ludlow. We send our condolences to Stephen's mother, his brother and to his fiancée Anthea.

Neil Aikens



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
12 BULL RING, LUDLOW
Tel: 01584 875555

MORGANS SOLICITORS

- PROPERTY
- FAMILY
- BUSINESS

7 MILL STREET, LUDLOW
SHROPSHIRE SY8 1BA
Tel: 01584 872333
Fax: 01584 876459

The Feathers at Ludlow



THE FEATHERS, THE BULL RING, LUDLOW,
SHROPSHIRE SY8 1AA
Tel: (01584) 875261 Fax: (01584) 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
Tel: Ludlow 875261 for reservations.

JOHN CLEGG

*Period Country Furniture
Mahogany and the
Unusual*

12 Old Street

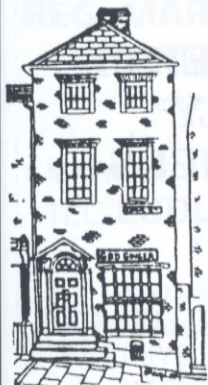
LUDLOW

Shropshire

Telephone:

Ludlow (01584) 873176

G & D GINGER Antique Dealers



5 Corve Street

Ludlow

Shropshire

SY8 1DA

Tel:

01584 876939

LUDLOW COACHES AND THE BILLS

Who sent Lady Hamilton a basket on
12th July, 1799?

What was Mabbit's Horn?

Why do the sides of Broad Street slope
up or down to the pavement? These
three questions all relate to the coaching
era in Ludlow prior to the arrival of the
railway in 1851. Horse drawn coaches
carried passengers, mail and parcels,
three times a week, and in the 1820's
daily, between Ludlow and London, via
Worcester and Oxford. There were other
regular services to Hereford and
Chester, and in summer, to
Aberystwyth, (to enable the wealthier
townspeople to indulge in the, then, new
fashion of sea bathing). A network
existed which connected Ludlow with all
the major towns in the country. The Mail
Coaches operated under contract with
the Postmaster General, and under
penalty had to keep to strict timetables.
Short distance passenger and parcel
services to and from the coach points
were run by the local carriers.

The London service was naturally the
most important and the best known, and
is where Mabbit's Horn comes in.
Mabbit's Horn is now the name of a
house on the west side of the
Leominster to Ludlow road, about half a
mile south of Ludford. At that point, on
the coaches travelling to Ludlow, a
certain postboy by the name of Mabbit,
having strong lungs, would sound his
horn. Apparently this could be heard in
the town, especially when the wind was
in the south, giving notice of the coaches
arrival.

One would imagine that on this straight
and almost level stretch of road, the
horses would be at a fast trot, shortly to
be reined back to a walk, with the brakes
grinding, to descend slowly down the
slope at the side of Ludford House.
Here, no doubt, the coachmen would
have exchanged a few ribald words with
the maids who had run out from the
house for a moment of fun. On crossing
Ludford Bridge with the horn blowing
again, the horses must have been urged
into a sharp trot to start the stiff haul up
Broad Street. Here we have the answer
to the third question.

Today the roadway of Lower Broad
Street is raised on a slight embankment
with its sides sloping down to the
pavements. Above the Gate the reverse
is true. The roadway lies in a shallow
cutting with its sides sloping up to the
pavements. Before 1829, the roadway
was laid on the natural slope of the

ground. From the bridge for about 100
yards it descended slightly, and then rose
very steeply through Broad Gate and
beyond. As the coaches become heavier
at the beginning of the 19th century, the
horses became less able to cope with
their loads. In 1829, to find a solution,
the Borough Corporation, presumably
after pressure from the coach proprietors,
sought the advice of Thomas Telford,
then aged 72, but an engineer of
international repute and sometime
Surveyor to Shropshire County Council.
Telford's answer was to make the slope
from the bridge to the Butter Cross more
uniform by increasing the less steep
stretches and reducing the steeper ones.
This is what was done, and what exists
today. It was a successful project.

To return to our coach journey: the final
destination, after the slow climb up
Broad Street, was either the Angel, or
prior to 1818, the Crown, whose
proprietors went bankrupt that year. The
latter was larger than the Angel, having
40 bedrooms, and was immediately
opposite, occupying the building which
takes in the Choices video shop and the
Shapla balti and kebab house today.
These two were the Ludlow coaching
inns where ostlers, landlords, onlookers
and people meeting passengers or
collecting parcels, would be awaiting the
coach's arrival.

The coach proprietors, who were
sometimes the landlords, managed the
passenger and parcel services from the
inns where their clerks kept the
accounts. For each journey there was a
separate "Mail Coach Bill". In 1995,
eleven original copies of these bills were
found underneath the floorboards of the
upper floors of 55/56 Broad Street
(formerly the Crown Inn) during
electrical re-wiring operations. The
owner of the property, Mr Peter Marston,
very kindly allowed the Ludlow History
Research Group to take photo-copies of
these bills. Seven of them are for
coaches starting from Ludlow, four from
London to Ludlow via Worcester. The
bills approximately A3 size, and headed
up in one inch high Italianate lettering
with the date in large handwriting
beneath. The earliest for the Ludlow
Mail Coach is 10th May 1795, the latest
for the Mail Coach from Worcester to the
Crown Inn on 23rd November 1803.

The bill for the coach from Ludlow,
leaving on Friday 12th July, 1799 is
reproduced below. The top part gives
the names of the passengers, whether
they are travelling "Inside" out of the
rain and in the comparative warmth, or

"Outside" open to the weather and probably in considerable discomfort. Their destination follows, and the fare charged to each and whether paid or to be paid. The second part lists and numbers the parcels, packages and other items to be delivered. Against each is stated the name of the consignee, their address, description of the item and the fee. Note that No.5 is to Lady Hamilton at 84 Great Portland Street. Somebody sent her a basket on which 3 shillings had to be paid for carriage. Unfortunately we are not told who the sender was or what the basket contained. A reasonable guess at the identity of the sender is that it was Admiral James Vashon who lived at 54 Broad Street, next door to the Crown, or Captain Bulkeley of Brand House. Both were good friends of Nelson who, in 1802 came to Ludlow, accompanied by Lady Hamilton and her husband, on their way to visit Richard Payne Knight at Downton Castle. (He also might have sent the basket). The Shrewbury Chronicle reported that the people of Ludlow turned out in force to welcome Lord Nelson, and that he was made an honorary freeman of the ancient borough.

As for the contents of the basket: salmon or trout seem to be unlikely as it was mid July. Game possibly, or more likely fruit, perhaps the latest kind of cherries from Andrew Knight's experimental orchards at Elton?

The lists of passengers in the Mail Coach Bills that we have do not throw up any familiar names, but then the sample is

meagre, covering 11 days in a period of 6 years which is short when one considers that the coaching era lasted from the 1656's to the 1870's. The parcels section is more interesting because the service was used by a greater range of people, a number of whom we have heard, and there are delivery addresses. We find Lord Clive four times. Twice when he was sent baskets at his place in Berkley Square, and twice, packets, at Walcott Park. Another member of the family, W.Clive, had his luggage sent as an outside passenger from London on 14th April 1797 costing him eight shillings.

The addresses to which parcels were sent in London, nearly all have familiar street names; Piccadilly, Tottenham Court Road, Charing Cross, Strand, Old Bond Street, Fleet Street etc. There are many cases of packets addressed to barristers in the Inns of Court. We find Staple Inn, King's Bench Walk, Lincoln's Inn, Gray's Inn and one to the Exchequer Office. These would seem to be packets of legal documents referring to cases being fought out in the Courts in London, and one wonders how many were connected with disputed wills. At the time, the notorious Court of Chancery, described by Charles Dickens in Bleak House as a "sombre and sinister temple", was in full swing hearing cases of this sort. One of the frustrated petitioners in the novel, who attended the Court daily waiting for a judgement, was a gentleman from Shropshire.

Arthur Bristow

Ludlow Mail Coach Bill

No of Parcels	FRIDAY 12 TH JULY 1799			PARCELS	PAID	TO PAY
	MR WESTWOOD	1 INSIDE	LONDON		2 12 6	
	MR GRUBB	1 OUTSIDE	LONDON		1 6 6	
2	LADIES	2 INSIDE	WORCESTER			1 2 -
12	GRINDERS		DO			5 6
1	MR	1 OUT			4 6	
	MR HARRIS	1 INSIDE	WORCESTER			4 6
1	RADCLIFF	23 UPPER BERKLEY STREET	1 PARCEL			1 6
2	POWELL	GOODGE STREET TOTTENHAM CT. ROAD	1 00			1 6
1-3	3	MONNEREY 62 BOROUGH	1 00		1 10	
2-2	4	BULL & SON 1 FENCHURCH STREET	1 00		13 4	
5	LADY HAMILTON	84 GREAT PORTLAND STREET	BASK			3
	WALLS	NEWCASTLE ON TYNE	BUNDLE			6

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



EGO

CAFE BAR

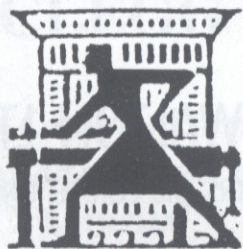
Ludlow's most contemporary venue for excellent coffees, teas, fine wines and beers as well as lunch and evening meals. Private parties a speciality.

QUALITY SQUARE
Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1BZ
01584 878000



MACKENZIE & SMITH

Fine Furniture Restoration



The Old Sorting Office, 7 Corve Street
Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1DB
Telephone: 01584 877133



K.M. Mackenzie

The Feathers at Ludlow



THE FEATHERS, THE BULL RING, LUDLOW,
SHROPSHIRE SY8 1AA
Tel: (01584) 875261 Fax: (01584) 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.

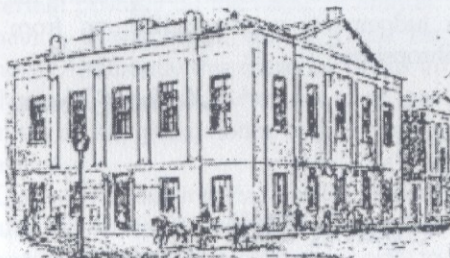
A visit can be memorable and inexpensive
Tel: Ludlow 875261 for reservations.

LUDLOW IN THE SPRING OF 1899

(This is the first of what is intended to be a series of articles about life in Ludlow 100 years before each issue of Heritage News. Most of the material will be drawn from contemporary newspaper reports).

THE PUBLIC ROOMS CONTROVERSY

The affair that attracted most attention from the Ludlow Advertiser in the early months of 1899 was the great public rooms controversy. A few years earlier the company that owned the public rooms in Mill Street — now known as the Assembly Rooms — had offered to sell the building to the town for £2500. A town meeting had voted in favour of the purchase, but the Town Council rejected it. The issue resurfaced early in 1899 when the offer was repeated, this time at the bargain price of £1500. (It emerged later that to help the town get the public rooms at such an advantageous price several public-spirited shareholders had agreed to sell their shares at half their market value). The supporters of the proposed purchase wanted to establish within the public rooms a free library, a school of art, and a permanent home for technical education. It seemed to be an offer not to be refused.



A LARGE SHOW ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

But refused it was! In January 1899, eight members of the Town Council voted against the purchase as an "inexpedient" use of public money. The Advertiser was outraged: "the last place on earth one would look for consistency is the Ludlow Council Chamber. The voting of certain members of the Town Council have ceased to surprise us, but the reasons that they advance for the fickleness of their principles can never fail to amuse..."

A few weeks later the offer was withdrawn. "Thus have eight members of the Town Council" thundered the Advertiser "deprived the town of a school of art, and put still another obstacle in the way of the educational advancement of the rising generation of the borough... their breadth of view on

educational matters would have done more credit to the fifteenth century than the dawn of the twentieth".

EAST HAMLET: INCORPORATIONISTS AND HOME RULERS.

The public rooms controversy was a dispute between those who wanted to conserve public funds and those who wanted to improve education. The East Hamlet question was, at least in part, about the choice between saving money and improving public health.

In the early months of 1899 there was a great deal of concern in Ludlow about sanitation and public health standards in the town. Open sewers, one running through the town from Gravel Hill and another on the south side of Lower Galdeford, were described in the Advertiser as "dangerous nuisances". Various sewerage improvement schemes were being considered, but it seems to have been widely believed that to tackle the public health issue properly required close co-operation between town and parish to the point at which East Hamlet would merge with Ludlow. At a parish meeting early in the year a majority of East Hamlet ratepayers, who would presumably have had to pay more as ratepayers of Ludlow, had voted against incorporation into the town, but in the March parish elections, fought between "incorporationists" and "home rulers", all the incorporationists won. The Advertiser reports that at a parish meeting in May only forty eight East Hamlet ratepayers, an eighth of the electorate, still supported 'home rule'. "There can be no doubt" said the Advertiser, "that the dawn of the twentieth century will see brought into being a greater Ludlow".



A STRIKE

In April the carpenters and joiners of the town went on strike, demanding an increase in wages from 6d. to 7d. and a new code of working rules. The strike was settled after a week; a new code of rules was agreed with a pay rise to 6fd an hour.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

On 17th January 1899 the Mayor called a public meeting to discuss advertising the attractions of Ludlow and its neighbourhood. The Advertiser reports "a very meagre attendance". There was concern that whereas Church Stretton was on the list of towns to which the railway companies sold special weekend tickets from Lancashire and the West Midlands, Ludlow was not. The town clerk reported that in the previous year advertising in the North Western and Great Western railway guides had cost £40. He had also agreed to place, free of charge, a number of photographs of Ludlow in the railway carriages of the two companies.

What attractions were there for visitors to Victorian Ludlow? The Inspectors of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company chose Ludlow for their annual picnic in June 1899, and the Advertiser published details of the their visit. After lunch at the Angel, the party was taken in brakes through Oakly Park to Downton Castle. They returned to Ludlow at 4p.m. to visit the church, the castle and "other places of interest", took tea at the Angel and returned to

Manchester on the 6.09 p.m. train.

The Advertiser reports that the May Fair of 1899 was "attended but moderately" on the Saturday, but on Monday "countrymen" from the surrounding villages poured into the town "with the usual pushing, crushing and throwing of confetti about".

CRIME

The "wave of violence and crime", including three murders, which was said to have swept over Shropshire in the closing months of 1898 had abated. Mr Justice Wright, at the Winter Assizes, congratulated the county on its immunity from crime. The latest figures for Shropshire showed a decline in convic-

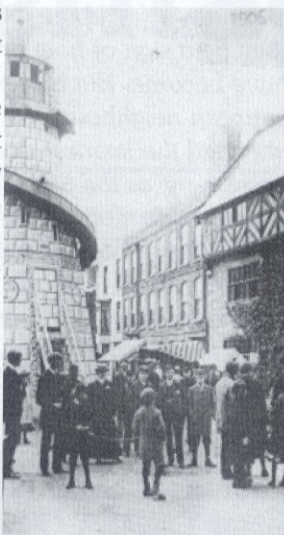
tions for drunkenness and other minor offences but a slight increase in more serious offences.

FASHION

Each issue of the Advertiser included a Ladies Home Column "especially written for this journal". The advice offered was invariably both categorical and austere. In March, the author deplored the fashion to wear coloured underclothes. White underwear, she (or he?) asserted "must be cleaner, sweeter and altogether more delightful than the coloured silk garment, which could not be entrusted to be tender mercies of the ordinary laundress". Ludlow ladies who might be tempted to look across the channel for ideas were warned that "bright coloured jackets, as a rule, do not appeal to the taste of the English woman; they suit French women better". *These are some of the events and ideas that were making the news in Ludlow 100 years ago.*

In the next issue we will look at what was happening in the town during the last six months of the nineteenth century.

Derek Williams



Ludlow Civic Society

1998-1999 Officers & Committee Members

President Sir Keith Thomas
 Vice Presidents: Dr Martin Speight
 Dick Stephens
 Chairman: Neil Aikens
 Vice Chairman: Dr James Harris
 Treasurer: Brian Atwood OBE
 Secretary: Prue Bellack
 Committee:

Tim Andrewes, Dorothy Arrowsmith,
 Susan Crook, Bryan Heatley,
 Barbara Holcombe, Stan Jones,
 John Lansdell, Bill Lloyd Kitchen,
 David Miller, Tim Pimblett (Advertising LHN)

1998/1999 (remaining) PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Sunday 18th April

Visit to Malvern

Details from Dorothy Arrowsmith

01584 875623

Wednesday 26th May 1999

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

ADVANCE NOTICE THE CIVIC SOCIETY'S FESTIVAL LECTURE

The Society is sponsoring a celebrity lecture on
 Architecture during this year's Festival.

Do make a date in your diary for **Tuesday 29th
 June at 7.30pm** - and obtain tickets from the
 Assembly Rooms! This really is a very exciting
 developmeny indeed. Ed.

**The publication of Heritage News is made
 possible by the generosity of our
 advertisers. We hope that you will
 continue to support them as they have
 supported us over the years. Please do
 mention their advertisement in Heritage
 News when next you visit them. Thank you.**

DISCORD IN BROAD STREET

*The immense popularity of the recent
 TV series "Neighbours from Hell"
 may be a sign of how prurient we
 have become. But disagreement
 between neighbours has always
 attracted the keenest attention from
 passers-by, as the following extract
 from the Hereford Times of 19th
 June 1866 shows. At least, on the
 evidence of this episode, when
 Victorian neighbours fell out they did so
 with a touch of erudition and humour, and
 the affair was reported with style.*

Derek Williams

Ludlow - Neighbours Quarrels

A good deal of amusement was
 created here last week, by the
 proceedings of two respectable
 tradesmen. The parties are next-door
 neighbours, living at the top of Broad
 Street; and each has during the
 present Spring ornamented his shop
 with a new plate glass front.

The two houses exhibit an anomaly of
 architecture not infrequent in many of
 the ancient timber-built houses in
 Ludlow, but which we believe is
 peculiar to the town, viz, that the
 dividing line (it cannot be called a
 partition wall) is not perpendicular,
 but in this instance assumes the the
 shape of a joiner's brace, the first floor
 of A's house protruding into the side
 of B's to the extent of about eight feet,
 over a portion of the latter's shop, and
 under his second floor bedroom. B's
 shop windows are formed of one
 plate of glass, measuring about eleven

feet by eight feet and reach from floor
 to ceiling; over these run a board and
 handsome cornice, on which in large
 gold characters his name and business
 is written. The portion of cornice over
 his north window is carried along that
 of the front of Mr A's first floor to the
 extent above mentioned, hence a
 dispute has arisen between the two
 parties, and Mr A has compelled Mr B
 to remove that part of it, which has
 given the facade a very one sided and
 unsightly appearance, obliterating the
 word "warehouseman" all but the "w".

On Friday evening a large posting bill,
 containing the words "who is my
 neighbour? The dog in the manger",
 appeared on the front of Mr B's
 house; and this was quickly followed
 by another poster appearing on Mr A's
 front, bearing a large black hand on it,
 with the index finger pointing towards
 Mr B's house, and also the first
 sentence of the tenth commandment
 "thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's
 house". Of course these proceedings
 excited the liveliest curiosity, and
 during the evening crowds were
 viewing the scene, and exchanging
 opinions on the the novel exhibition.
 We know nothing of the respective
 merits of the case, and abstain from
 making any observations, except to
 express our regret that a private
 dispute between two respectable men
 should have given occasion for such
 unseemly gossip and probably great
 misapprehension.

