

Ludlow Heritage News

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HERBERT EVANS AND THE 'RESTORED' FRIARY: Megan Dawson with research by Colin Sheward

On February 27th 1862 Herbert Evans, probable architect of No.1 Dinham, accompanied Beriah Botfield, M.P. for Ludlow, when he presented a paper to the Society of Antiquaries in London regarding the recent exciting 'finds' in his constituency. What did the massed ranks of academics and luminaries make of this 'virtual friary'?

Botfield, as President of the Shrewsbury Natural History and Antiquarian Society, had helped to fund and organise excavations at Wroxeter and had been involved in the examination of a Roman villa in Northampton. Here in Ludlow his interest was aroused by discoveries made during clearing and levelling operations at a site newly acquired by the Town Corporation. Anxious to rid the town centre of the nuisance of a cattle market (at that time held in the High Street) and to provide better facilities, the Corporation were clearing what remained on the site below the new National School in Lower Galdeford (completed in 1855) to establish a new Smithfield.

Only forty years earlier there had still been the fragmentary remains of a Friary of the Augustinian canons standing there. The Austin Friars (also known as the Black Friars) founded their first house in the town in 1254 at Dinham, where they ministered to travellers and the poor of the town. Two years later they transferred eastwards to Lower Galdeford and over the next 280 years embarked on a considerable building programme as well as enlarging their holdings to incorporate land which stretched down to the Teme and the Weeping (or penitential) Cross, and eventually took in much of Holdgate Fee. By the time of its dissolution in 1538 the Friary had lost much of its original pre-eminence to St. John's Hospital and the Carmelite house in Corve Street. It seems there were only four canons left in



Monastery of St. Augustine, Ludlow. Restored by Herbert Evans, Architect.

residence.

Many monastic houses - or at least their churches - survived the depredations of the period because the local community adopted them as parish churches. Ludlow, however, had its own splendid edifice and so, over the years, parts of the Friary became a farm; parts were dismantled and the stone used elsewhere; its bells and valuable lead from the roof were sold.

By the beginning of the nineteenth century what little was left was, for the most part, disregarded. Contractors working on the railway in the 1850s used the site as a convenient store, having first disposed of large pieces of masonry. When the Corporation workmen moved in, though, the project engineer, Timothy Curley, acting on his own initiative, began recording the plan of what was being revealed. Cellars, a stairwell and load-bearing columns all surfaced. Townsfolk sorted amongst the rubble for medieval artefacts - pieces of carving, fragments of ball-flower decoration and encaustic tiles were rescued. Some were

presented to the Museum and can be seen there today.

Using Curley's plan of the uncovered foundations, together with, presumably, his own knowledge of monastic planning, Evans made a conjectural reconstruction (he called it a 'restoration') of the Friary. His drawing was used to illustrate Botfield's article in *Archaeologia* (the journal of the Society of Antiquaries). We are shewn the usual layout - presuming the church to be orientated east/west - with the claustral buildings to the south. Both the ranges which would house the dormitories for the friars, guests and lay brothers are well endowed with chimneys (not an overly ascetic order) and there are no cloister arcades (the friars were an active rather than a contemplative order). What was Evans's evidence one wonders for this and, too, for placing the tower in the unusual north-eastern position? Stylistically all is of a piece; the two- and three-light lancet windows surmounted by plate tracery throughout firmly suggest a single building in operation

towards the end of the thirteenth century. How much does this concept owe to Evans's imagination? Until further excavations are made we can only surmise, but what is striking is the evident similarity between this and the then recently-built school (now the Bishop Mascall Centre) just up the road. The separately articulated elements, the steeply-pitched

roofs of differing heights, the plethora of chimney-breasts, the groups of lancets, not only echo those of the school, but also adhere to the guide lines set forth in Pugin's **True Principles of Christian or Pointed Architecture**.

The new cattle-market which resulted was relatively short-lived, never quite achieving the popularity of its rival,

established in Corve Street, with which it was eventually incorporated. Only the name remains.

Until the present car park is made redundant and excavations can re-commence, we can only thank Timothy Curley and Herbert Evans for their stirring work in providing us with this 'restoration'.

CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES: James Caird

To judge from my postbag, there are quite a few public misconceptions about the purpose and scope of planning. Chief amongst these is the view that the planning system should deliver everything a person wants to do himself, while denying his neighbour everything he doesn't like. This of course is parody, as no-one asked this in as many words would agree it to be reasonable; but the inference occurs with regularity.

In fact, the purpose of the planning system is to provide for new development in a manner which reflects the public interest. The public interest is a very broad concept. It includes the national and wider public interest as well as the interests of the local community. The public interest does not include private interests, nor the sum total of many private interests, however vociferously they may be expressed. For example, it is in the public interest that people have decent housing, but not that a particular person has a house in specific circumstances; it is in the public interest that the viability of

town centres be protected from predatory retailing, but not the protection of individual shops from competition; it is in the public interest that the rural landscape be protected from intrusive development, but not that a person's view should remain uninterrupted.

This piece is about issues facing Ludlow at the start of the 21st century. But before discussing these it is important to remember that planning, when considered in the greater scheme of things, is a fairly limited discipline. Most activity in Ludlow - economic, community and social - takes place without any reference to the planning system. The planning system relates only to changes of use of land and to building operations (and one or two related topics) small-scale examples of which do not need consent. So the planning system only comes into play with major changes to the fabric and infrastructure of the town or its use.

In many ways we who live in Ludlow are lucky. It is a pretty place, with most facilities one needs and a low crime rate. It

has, in short, a high quality of life. But one must remember that in Ludlow we are provided with many aspects of modern life without having to put up with their physical manifestations. We get defence without military installations, power without power stations, goods without heavy industry, access to air travel without an airport, and so on.

Like everywhere else, Ludlow is facing significant pressures for change. We English tend to be resistant to change, perhaps even fearful of it despite its inevitability. For planning, the trick is to understand the pressures and manage them in a sympathetic way.

I am often asked why so many new houses are being built in Ludlow. The simple answer to this is net inward migration. The natural population of South Shropshire is relatively static at about 40,000, with Ludlow accounting for about 25%. Births and deaths are roughly in balance and in the past new housing has not been required to satisfy natural growth. Of course, Ludlow has not been

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immune to falling household sizes, which arise mainly from people living longer on their own and from increased marital breakdowns. Both of these factors have been increasing demand for houses with in static populations. It will be interesting to see from next year's census (results due from 2003) what the local trends have been in these respects.

The main driver of housing demand in Ludlow is people moving here from elsewhere. Put simply, every household that arrives from elsewhere occupies a house which would otherwise have been occupied by a household generated by the existing population. Community efforts in recent years to improve the economic, social and cultural life of the town (an effort involving a great many people, institutions and agencies) have made Ludlow more attractive to outsiders than ever. Most housing in Ludlow is available in the open market, and buyers from outside the area have not been in short supply.

As everyone knows, high demand for any commodity in a limited market will have an upward influence on prices. Consequently, house prices in Ludlow have been tending to rise more quickly than other indices for several years - a phenomenon now known as 'the Ludlow effect'. This leaves new and forming households in the existing population with fewer opportunities to purchase affordable housing. This is not all bad news because the incoming households tend to have higher than average incomes, which helps the local economy. It does

mean, however, that new housing development will continue to be required. Recent Council studies have suggested that there is enough development land available in Ludlow to provide for new housing until 2011, so hard choices on the location of new land allocations for housing are not needed for a few years yet. Meanwhile current trends will be monitored.

The future of retailing is an important issue for Ludlow if it to retain its role as a market town. In recent years retail analysts have been divided as to what effect the Internet will have. At one time they were predicting the death of the shop; but few now think this will happen. The Internet is bound to increase its share (estimated at £2.7bn next year) and this can only be at the expense of traditional retailing. But it is increasingly the case that people consider shopping to be part of their leisure activity and Ludlow is well placed to capitalise on this. Ludlow's meteoric rise as a place for foodies and its skilful marketing on the web are helping to keep the town healthy. The Festival, the Festival of Food and Drink, craft shows, markets and other events all help to keep it on the map. The fact that these activities are all locally promoted and involve so many people is further evidence of a healthy community. What is certain is that the planning system has little to offer in this process beyond encouraging the consolidation of the retail core of the town.

Sustainability is a widely misunderstood term. It means developments to provide

for the needs of today without jeopardising the ability of future generations to do the same. What it does not, and clearly could not mean, is the adoption of energy and ecological balances in which the inputs balance the outputs. The planning system's main contribution to sustainability is the aim to locate new development so as to lessen the need to travel by car. Car travel produces greenhouse gases, pollution and traffic congestion. By placing new housing developments near a wide range of services and facilities, it is hoped to promote more travel on foot, bicycle and on public transport. Planning policy for sustainability is likely to reinforce the role of market towns, but will increase development in them as the development of less sustainable settlements is phased out.

Both the Shropshire Structure Plan and the South Shropshire Local Plan are now being reviewed; and both have the horizon year of 2011. There has been considerable debate between the County and District Councils about the housing requirement. Shropshire County Council believes that new housing should be kept to a minimum on the grounds that most new housing would be likely to generate unsustainable travel patterns. The District Council has placed greater weight on the need to maintain balanced communities, feeling that a widening housing affordability gap for many emerging households cannot be good for the community. The compromise strategy has been an allocation of between 2,700 and 3,400 dwellings (to be completed between 1996

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and 2011) with the exact number dependent upon the nature and location of emerging housing need.

The consultation period for the Shropshire Structure Plan is now over. An examination in public will now be held in 2001, with the new plan being adopted in 2002. The review of the South Shropshire Local Plan is running about a year behind

this schedule. The District Council has recently asked for some more work to be done on the distribution and nature of future housing demand. The Plan is likely to be placed on deposit for public objection in the spring of 2001, with a public local enquiry in 2002 and adoption in 2003. The issues raised in this piece are bound to feature strongly in the debate.

No doubt Ludlow Civic Society will have views it wishes to raise and I look forward to an interesting discussion.

James Caird is Head of Planning at South Shropshire District Council. The views expressed here are his own and not necessarily those of the Council.

A SUMMER IDYLL; WINIFRED KNIGHTS IN LUDLOW: Megan Dawson

Nineteen twenty was an exciting year for the brilliant young painter, Winifred Knights, and where better to celebrate it than Ludlow? She was twenty-one in June that year and had completed her course at the Slade School of Art with flying colours. In 1918 she won prizes for figure composition and was made a Slade Scholar. The next year a painting based on drawings made during the Knights' family holiday won the Summer Composition Prize. 'Village Street, Mill Hands Conversing', now in the collection of the University of London, shows groups of rather formalised figures gathered as if for a meeting in front of a mill in the Essex village of Roydon. In 1912 the winner had been the young Stanley Spencer with his painting 'The Nativity'. Like Spencer's, her style tended towards the slightly flat and formalised - representational but not realistic - emphasising the complexity of the composition and its narrative content. And she had a boyfriend.



Winifred Knights at Hockley's Mill

She and the handsome Arnold Mason had studied at the Slade together, although he was what we would now call a mature student, having served in the Artists' Rifles during the war. Before then, when he was only twenty-three, a portrait of his was accepted by the Royal Academy.

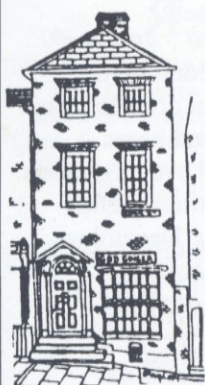
Indeed, he was to pursue a successful career as a portrait painter, although Paul Liss, an authority on early twentieth-century painting, speaks of his exquisite landscape studies. In 1951 he was elected a Royal Academician.

In the June of 1920 Knights began painting a large (6ft. x 5ft.) canvas for the Prix de Rome Scholarship in Decorative Painting. Exactly what was meant by decorative painting? It was obviously intended that it be on a rather grand scale - public rather than private; suitable perhaps for one of the then fashionable murals which decorated so many public buildings of the period; concerned often to convey a strong narrative in somewhat monumental terms. The winner gained a three-year place at the British School at Rome.

The subject set for 1920 was 'The Deluge'. Entrants were given eight weeks to make all their preliminary studies and complete the painting.

Her composition was a striking one.

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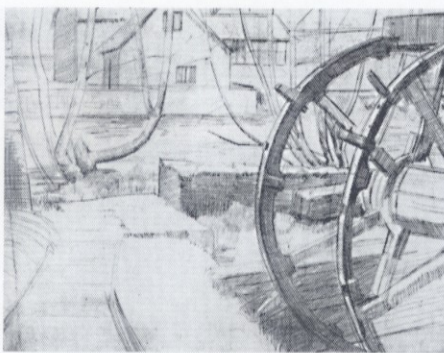
Executed in a restricted palette of rich greys and browns, it is dominated by the strong diagonals of a fleeing crowd, and they and their sharply-defined shadows contrast with the verticals and horizontals of the rapidly submerging landscape. A dynamic and assured work.

When the painting was finished and dispatched, she needed and deserved a holiday. What better than to join Arnold at his temporary summer studio? Winifred, her friend and fellow Slade student, Mary Attenborough, and Winifred's father left London for Ludlow. Contrary to local legend, a very proper arrangement!

Mason had rented Hockey's Mill at the bottom of Old Street. In 1920 the building, whilst no longer working, was still virtually complete with a deep jetty overhanging the river and its wheel still intact. Photographs taken that summer shew Winifred, dressed in the sort of clothes she was to wear for the rest of her life - a long gathered skirt, short tight bodice and ballet-like pumps (much like the 'gypsy' costume favoured by Augustus John's wife, Dorelia) - posing by herself or sitting on Mason's knee outside the mill.

She made a number of studies during her stay, drawing the Teme, her bedroom in the mill, and the mill wheel with, across the river, Ludford Mill.

On September 21st her mother wrote from their home at Streatham, to tell her daughter that she had won the prestigious Prix de Rome, and on October 31st she left, with her aunt as chaperone, for the British School at Rome - the first woman to take a place there.



The Mill Wheel, The Old Mill, Ludlow

During the three years she was in Italy her letters home tell of her excitement and delight, her hard work and the studio she found in a village outside the city, the parties she went to and the clothes she wore ('I went in my black skirt, silver bodice, white stockings and sandals').

Arnold Mason, to whom by now she was engaged, came over to be near her, but in 1923 another Slade student, Tom Monnington, arrived and Winifred was immediately captivated. Monnington and Mason's rivalry resulted in a fight, and in 1924, to the apparent dismay of her family, none of whom was present, she and Monnington were married in Rome.

Tom Monnington became an R.A. and, in 1966, President of the Royal Academy. The marriage was not, however, to be a complete success and it was Mason who remained a lifelong support and friend. Her last commission seems to have been a mural of 'Scenes from the Life of St. Martin of Tours' for Canterbury Cathedral completed in 1933 - a work with distinct overtones of the Quattrocento paintings she so admired.

She had a brain tumour and died suddenly in February 1947 when she was only fifty. In the years leading up to the war she made many studies for 'The Flight into Egypt' but after her death the huge, barely-started squared-up canvas was destroyed. 'The Deluge', which many believe to have been the finest of all the pictures submitted for the Prix de Rome, now hangs in Tate Modern at Bankside.

Although I have, as yet, found no written evidence, there may have been at least one other painter at Hockey's that September. In the collection of Manchester City Art Gallery is a painting called 'Temeside Ludlow' by Charles Cundall. Cundall also served in the First World War and then studied at the Royal College as well as the Slade. The subject, viewpoint, composition of the oil painting and Knights's drawing are virtually identical apart from the addition of a figure in the middle distance. Were they sitting side by side as they drew? Was Cundall there at a quite different time and both just happened to sit on the same low wall or boulder or bit of machinery? A letter from the artist to Manchester City Art Gallery dates his painting as 1923, but it was quite common practice to store summer sketches to be worked up later into a painting.

What a shame that Winifred Knights was never tempted to use her drawing of the mill wheel for a finished painting! How sad, too, that her early promise was never completely fulfilled. It seems that she stopped painting altogether during the Second World War - a victim of her excessive fear of the bombs.



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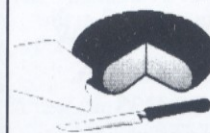
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LUDLOW - JULY-DECEMBER 1900: Derek Williams

This continues the series of articles about life in Ludlow 100 years ago.

We left the Ludlow Town council in June 1900 steeling itself to pay for the new sewage works that might achieve a much needed improvement in the health of the town. In August, the Local Government Board put more pressure on the Council by insisting that the town would not be allowed to extend its boundaries to include East Hamlet (see **Heritage News** No. 30) until it had solved its sanitation problems. (The **Advertiser** thought that a few gentlemen of broad and independent views from East Hamlet would greatly improve the quality of debate and decision-making in the council chamber.)

At last, in the autumn of 1900, the Town Council borrowed £8,740 from the Public Works Loan Commissioners to pay for a new sewerage scheme, and the work began immediately. The first areas of the town to be affected were Corve Street, Mill Street and Dinham.

The residents of Dinham were also suffering from the side effects of the other major civil engineering project afflicting Ludlow at the end of the 19th century. Drunken navvies from 'the pipe track' (see earlier articles in this series) were to be found every day lying on the seats of Castle Walk and under the walls of the castle. Policemen were said to be walking past them but taking no action. The Town Clerk had to remind indignant councillors that the Watch Committee no longer had much



In 1900 a dispute about Ludlow's maces held up the election of a new mayor.

influence with the police, who were now under the control of the County Council. In October, Ludlow was having difficulty in finding someone to replace Councillor Marston as Mayor. At a series of private meetings, at least four members of the Council had been approached but had declined the honour. The problem, it seemed, was that the Council was attaching certain conditions to the nomination. Because these matters were discussed in private, no-one would say exactly what these conditions were, but it was believed that they concerned the maces. The **Advertiser** deplored the secrecy with which the affair was being handled, and commented tartly that 'it really seems a calamity that the Council are obliged to elect the Mayor in public and are deprived of the privilege of keeping him

altogether to themselves during the whole year of office.' Eventually, Mr Councillor Chubb agreed to stand and was installed as Mayor on 11th November. Not many people turned out to watch the mayoral procession. 'We could not help feel,' said the **Advertiser**, 'how irretrievably disinterested (sic) the public are in council matters.'

As Christmas 1900 approached, Ludlow began to celebrate the end of the century. The **Advertiser** in December reviewed the scientific and political achievements of the 19th century and speculated about what the next 100 years might bring. In one remarkable editorial, the **Advertiser** suggested that the age of steam would eventually give way to the age of electricity. The editor was also liberal enough, and brave enough, to remind his readers of the seamy side of living in the richest country in the world. 'One of the darkest blots on the 19th century,' he said, 'is the way in which the housing question has been neglected, if not altogether ignored.' In one respect, however, the **Advertiser** was tragically wrong: it predicted the end of war. 'We live in a progressive age, and we are optimistic enough to believe that just as the 19th century saw the end of duelling, so the 20th century will see the civilised nations of the world submitting their disputes to an international tribunal instead of deciding them on the battlefield.'

(to be continued)

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After a simple but dignified service to commemorate his life, Sir Julian Critchley was laid to rest in the lovely surrounds of Holy Trinity Church, Wistanstow, looking down across Hope Dale and up the wooded sides of Callow Hill, one of his favourite spots.

He was born in London in 1930 and spent most of his early childhood there. As war loomed, he was evacuated to Leamoor Common to live with his mother's eldest brother and his family in the maternal cottage. It was probably this early childhood exposure to the beauty of the Shropshire Dales that helped him to form his lifelong love of the region. It was well known that he had a deep knowledge of and affection for South Shropshire and the medieval and Georgian splendour of Ludlow.

Julian had a unique talent. He was one of a small number of writers able to combine a literary life with politics. During the eighties, when still a Member of Parliament for Aldershot, he wrote exten-



sively and in particular about Shropshire. The Civic Society had enjoyed his articles on Ludlow and in 1985 he was invited to become their President. This link with Ludlow was greatly appreciated by Julian because it brought him closer to fulfilling a lifelong ambition to live in Ludlow. He moved to Ludlow in 1992, living for a time in Mill Street before eventually moving to Broad Street, where he continued to live until his death.

Over recent years he had found it increas-

ingly difficult to walk and it was obvious he would eventually have to retire from politics, though he did stand again in 1992. After his retirement and although his disability gave him great pain, Julian maintained an 'open house' where it was possible for his many friends to visit him in his study. Sitting on a daytime bed and surrounded by telephones, fax machines and his beloved word processor, Julian was able to maintain a witty and lively contact. He once expressed concern that on leaving politics he would become forgotten, no longer able to enjoy an intellectual debate on political and current affairs. Fortunately, this was not to be the case, and up to the end of his life he continued writing and contributing to those many topics close to his heart.

Julian was a delightful, witty and intelligent man whose contribution to the well-being of Ludlow will be sadly missed. He will be remembered not only for his writing, but for the strength and courage he displayed during his illness.



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PAST CHAIRMAN, NEIL AIKENS

Neil Aikens took over the chairmanship of the Ludlow Civic Society at the A.G.M. in 1998 and relinquished that responsibility at the corresponding meeting earlier this year. In terms of architecture, landscape and townscape, that two-year period saw some of the most significant developments in the history of Ludlow - certainly in modern times - and presented the society with a seemingly relentless series of controversial issues, each requiring thought, comment and action; in January of this year, for example, the society had a list of seventeen on-going items under consideration! During Neil Aikens's chairmanship, architectural planning applications included the Tesco supermarket controversy; the town centre enhancement project; the British Legion War Memorial; the proposed Ludlow Library and Museum Resource Centre; the development of the former Angel hotel, and of the former Walters site.

In landscape terms, the Gallows Bank meadow preservation; the protection of the unspoiled southern approach to Ludlow; the landscaping rather than housing on the former swimming pool site; and the reinstatement of the River Teme weirs involved quite different issues and criteria.

In respect of all these controversial planning issues it was Neil's task to coordinate the society's studies of context and content with the formulation of its strategy and tactics, and their implementation; this was achieved with the help and advice of the elected committee, but not without a mass of personal correspondence and behind-the-scenes lobbying! Neil performed the chairman's role with quiet distinction throughout, and he maintained the status and respect which the society is accorded by the overwhelming majority of the community in Ludlow. Not all the society's recommendations were implemented, but even in respect of those less successful, the society did achieve significant improvements in what was eventually built or decided.

But Neil's influence had also been brought to

bear earlier, in 1997, when he initiated a sub-committee structure for the Civic Society committee. Despite some concern that this might be unnecessarily complex for a relatively small committee, the framework has enabled discrete assignments to be completed by smaller teams in an effective way. For example, aspects of 'Events', 'Public Affairs' and 'The Local Plan' were all taken forward, together with 'Finance and Membership' and the ubiquitous 'General Purposes' category. When one remembers that Neil was also contributing advice towards the promotion of Shropshire tourism, supervising the structural make-over of his own house and garden, and, between times, introducing and thanking our guest speakers, one realises how much personal effort he has put into his public and less public activities as Chairman of the society; he has our warm appreciation and thanks for all his many contributions during his period in charge of us.

MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICITY

Supplies of our new leaflet are now in position at the four key locations around the town mentioned in the last edition, and every member should have received a copy of their own. In addition a mail drop of all houses in the core of the town has been carried out.

As a result almost twenty new members have been recruited so far.

The promised programme of this year's events (as distinct from the Membership card) is also now available and it is hoped that this will tempt non-members to come to some of our events and join the society.

Please do not forget to pass on your copy of our leaflet to anyone you think may be interested in joining the society. The same applies, of course, to your copy of **Heritage News** once you have finished with it.

LOCAL PLAN

In the Winter 1999 edition of **Heritage News**, reference was made to the comprehensive revision proposed by the South Shropshire District Council to the Deposit Draft Replacement Plan published in July 1998. The second Deposit Draft resulting from this revision was expected to be available by the end of 2000, although a date early in 2001 now seems more likely. Publication is awaited with interest.

In the meantime Shropshire County Council and Telford and Wrekin Council have produced the Deposit Draft of a Joint Structure Plan 1996-2011. The purpose of this document is to set out the overall strategy for the sustainable development and use of land. It indicates how development will be served by transport and other infrastructure, taking account of national and regional policies and provides a strategic framework for the detailed policies in Local Plans. [See James Caird's article in this edition.]

The Structure Plan is reassuring in so far as it acknowledges that there are environmental constraints which severely limit the scope for

continuing expansion of towns such as Ludlow. The recognition of such constraints is clearly to be welcomed, although the value of good intentions expressed in policy statements can only be measured by the extent to which they are put into practice. Comments on details of the Structure Plan have been submitted.

PAST EVENTS - LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY GARDEN PARTY AND HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2000

Warm summer sunshine, still air, a small marquee in a sylvan setting serving cakes, wine and strawberries and cream to the sound of courteous conversation and superbly suitable music; not Glyndebourne nor Goodwood, but the Ludlow Civic Society garden party held on July 22nd 2000. Our thanks to Michael and Megan Dawson for allowing their garden to provide an incomparable situation for some 120 members and friends to enjoy an English summer event in conditions such as we always hope they will be and seldom find they are. The many levels of the garden provided not only ample flat lawn for the serving and consumption of refreshments with a large patch for plant sales, but also a 'musicians' gallery' on the main terrace and apparently endless explorable out-of-the-way corners. Very many people worked hard to help to ensure the success of the occasion, but our especial thanks must go to Barbara Holcombe for such efficient pre-planning and general organisation of the afternoon.

Not even the aftermath of the 'fuel crisis' could suppress enthusiasm for Ludlow buildings open as part of this year's Heritage Open Day on Sunday, 17th September. The event (organised jointly by the Civic Society and Ludlow Historical Research Group) attracted a steady stream of visitors to enjoy four public buildings open for the occasion - the Buttercross, the Guildhall, Barnaby House and the Old Schoolroom. However, the jewels in the crown were the two private houses - the Old Gate House and No.2 Lower Raven Lane - medieval buildings sympathetically and imaginatively restored for modern living. Thanks are due to Graham Willson-Lloyd and Patrick and Judith Beautelement for their generosity in opening their houses. We should also like to thank Dr. Martin Speight, who spent the whole day leading groups of visitors round the Old Schoolroom and Barnaby House; Madge Moran who gave a talk on the Guildhall; David Lloyd who provided a special town tour in the morning; and all the stewards who helped to make the day so successful.

READERS' LETTERS

There are no letters for this issue of **Heritage News**, but any queries, suggestions or responses to articles will be gratefully received. Please address your letters to:

The Editor, Ludlow Heritage News, The Broad Gate, Ludlow SY8 1NJ.