

# Ludlow Heritage News

Published twice a year by LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY

No.34 SPRING 2001

FREE

## TALKING POINT



*A photograph of Castle Street before No.18 was demolished. What would you like to see in its place: a modern glass building, an exact copy or a Georgian design similar to its neighbours? Let us know your views.*

## SIX ENGLISH TOWNS, 1. TOTNES: Trevor Rutter of the Totnes and District Society.

**I**n the late 1970s Alec Clifton-Taylor presented a television series on six English market towns, choosing those he thought most interesting and individual. The series was followed by a book published in 1978. The towns were Chichester, Ludlow, Richmond, Tewkesbury, Totnes and Stamford. We thought it might be of benefit to us all to compare notes with the other five towns in the original series, to see if, during the past twenty years, they had experienced the same problems, threats or positive changes that have been felt in Ludlow, and to learn, perhaps, from their responses to these changes. We begin with Totnes.

When Alec Clifton-Taylor made his programme on Totnes he cheerfully noted that three new industries had arrived and were flourishing. One of the most important developments in the meantime has been the disappearance of two of the three traditional local employers, without countervailing creation of jobs. In economic and social terms this is a great loss; but it incidentally helped to create an opportunity to improve the town's appearance. Downstream from the bridge of 1829, the

demise of the old riverside business of timber-importing and ship-building left a large space bordering the Conservation Area, which was derelict and subject to flooding. Flood prevention measures of 1981 made it possible to regenerate this neglected area, greatly enhancing the main approach to the town from the east. Old apple and grain warehouses have been renovated as flats, and an extended development of housing in the local vernacular style presents a much improved river front.

Only politeness could have caused Clifton-Taylor to ignore an eyesore which dominated this entrance to the town, in the shape of a garage/workshop immediately at the end of the bridge. When this recently moved to the Industrial Estate, the Totnes Society sought, through the planning process, to influence what would be built on this prominent site. The Society has, perhaps grudgingly, accepted the large new development of luxury housing which is now being constructed as being at least in keeping stylistically with the neighbouring buildings, which are important enough to have warranted extended treatment by Clifton-Taylor. Further upstream, Harris's bacon factory

gave way to a supermarket. Fortunately, this was along a stretch of the river which was not an important part of the townscape of Totnes, thus minimising the visual damage. And, as a ransom, the supermarket contributed to the restoration of the old Town Mill, which now houses a Tourist Information Centre, Image Bank and computer learning centre. The supermarket has also given a more recent display of commitment to the community by reversing a decision to build a mobile telephone mast in its car park, adjacent to the Community Hospital and many houses. Admittedly, this enlightenment dawned only under pressure from the Town Council, the Totnes Society and local groups.

On balance, the important river front of the town has benefited visually from the developments of the last twenty years. And the Conservation Area has not suffered any great losses. Clifton-Taylor wrote: 'I would not claim that Totnes is quite one of the most beautiful of our small towns. But it is certainly one of the most distinctive. And the preservation of that individuality is vital.'

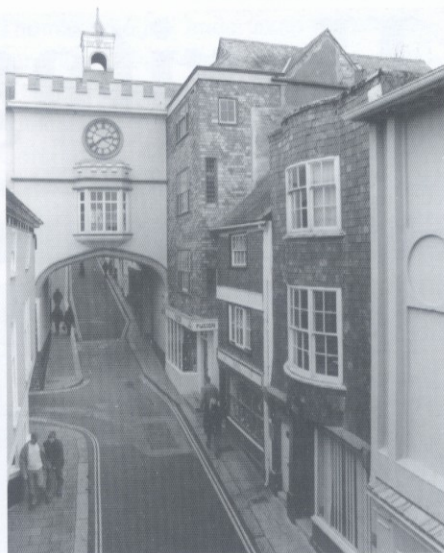
This has been attained. The landmark buildings and the street scene which



Clifton-Taylor celebrated are still there. He would have been pleased to see that a long-standing controversy has been settled in favour of removing the froth of ivy from the front of 'The Mansion', to reveal a handsome late-18th-century brick facade which he felt able only to guess at. He might, however, also have registered the negative effect of the increasing trend for accommodation above shops in the High Street to be rented rather than lived in by proprietors. The windows of the old merchants' houses present a somewhat bedraggled appearance compared with the smartness which owner-occupiers prided themselves on. The pavements, too, are in sad disrepair, because, no doubt, of the tightness of local authority funds. But as we go to press, there is promise of improvement, in response to persistent lobbying.

Traffic problems are, of course, universal. And Totnes, like other towns with steep and narrow old streets, suffers from congestion, pollution and the ever-increasing size of delivery lorries. Undeterred by earlier controversies and failures, a Community Appraisal Group is trying to find a solution which might command broad backing. In the meantime, the construction of a new second bridge connecting with the bypass roads, including a bypass to the south of the town centre, has hardly kept pace with the relentless increase in local and tourist traffic. But it must at least be admitted that, without these measures, traffic congestion would be even worse.

Like other amenity societies, the Totnes and District Society scrutinises planning applications and is vigilant for developments which would threaten historic buildings or the distinctive character of the town.



*Totnes: The building across the East Gate was badly damaged by fire in recent years but has been meticulously reinstated.*

© Totnes Image Bank

In addition to these broadly conservationist interests, the Society also seeks to influence development in the interest of retaining a mixed community which needs local employment and housing which local people can afford. The Society cannot create employment, but it has fought a rearguard action against the conversion of industrial locations for other uses. Unfortunately, some thirty small industrial sites within the town have been lost, mainly to residential development. Where there is no conflict of priorities, the Society also favours the development of social housing or low-cost starter homes. Both of these priorities aim to foster the economic conditions in which coming generations of Totnes-born people will be able to afford to make their lives here.

The Totnes Society is not alone in these

concerns. It is right to mention that we contribute to a planning process which is served by a Planning Department which is broadly enlightened on conservation. And there are other Societies and Trusts working in the same direction. The Totnes Development Trust seeks to create opportunities for local craftsmen and small businesses. The Totnes Preservation Trust and its private precursor have taken three of the town's landmark buildings into ownership and restored them for community activities and rented flats.

It is perhaps good to end on a couple of uncomplicated early triumphs. The founders of these Trusts and Societies secured the planting of appropriate trees alongside the river walk from Totnes to Dartington, screening the new supermarket and the (much-needed) Industrial Estate. And their influence secured for the community a stretch of river bank which now offers a well-planted walk within easy reach of the town. They had needed to persuade the authorities to rescue the river bank from tidal erosion, and to head off proposals to use it temporarily as a rubbish tip.

As to future prospects, the building of 'Team Phillips' has generated great excitement and a loyal following in the town. One of the high hopes for the future is the regeneration of the old Baltic Wharf as a centre of boat-building. If Totnes has in recent years acquired a reputation for being at the forefront of opposition to experimentation with GM crops, it has also staked a claim to fame as a leading centre of high-technology boat-building.

**With acknowledgement to Councillor W.C. Bennett, M.B.E., honoured citizen and sometime Mayor of Totnes.**

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## DESIGNS ON LUDLOW: Bob Fowles (Project Co-ordinator)

Ludlow provided the venue for the three Autumn Semester projects for Second Year students at the Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University, in the current academic session. The projects comprised a Town Study, Housing Design and a Space and Structure project in which proposals for a market building and a performance space were made.

Ludlow was selected as it is an outstanding example of the essential qualities and characteristics of an 'English market town', and is a rare example of a planned medieval settlement. This is the first time we had moved into England following a period of study of most of the Welsh towns within a convenient distance of Cardiff.

The sequence of projects was developed in collaboration with South Shropshire District Council and the Ludlow Civic Society, whose joint support has allowed an exhibition of the work to be compiled for display in the Assembly Rooms, July 20th to August 9th 2001.

### THE TOWN STUDY

It is essential that students of architecture gain an understanding of the current structure, qualities and dynamics of the settlements within which they will operate, to relate these to the historical and geographical context and to identify emerging trends which could influence future ways of designing.

The Town Study was in two parts. A Townscape Study took place within the boundary of the Conservation Area, with eleven teams of five students each focusing on a street and its immediate sur-

roundings. The study utilised and developed skills of analysis, recording and presentation. It was a 'visual' study, concentrating on the physical components of the architectural vocabulary, which were selected by the students for the contribution they make to the essential 'character' and 'sense of place'.

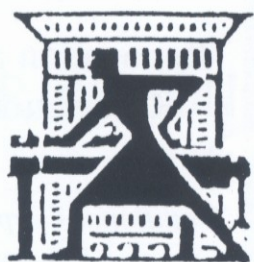
Alec Clifton-Taylor's TV programme on Ludlow from the series 'Six English Towns', gave an introduction, with the initial analytical framework being provided by G.Cullen **The Concise Townscape** (The Architectural Press 1966, reprinted 1994). Within Cullen's basic taxonomy of Serial Vision, Place, Content, and the Functional Tradition, students took forward a number of concepts to help analyse and describe their area. For example, Place is examined by 'enclosure', 'focal point', 'indoor landscape and outdoor room', 'looking out of enclosure', 'change of level', 'closed vista', 'anticipation' etc.. Collectively, the work of the students as a whole, using sketches, annotated diagrams and photographs, conveys the 'Spirit of Ludlow'.

Ludlow is not alone in displaying some very quirky incidents, which take place during the reconstruction or adaptation of buildings, often incorporating an ingenious detail to overcome a difficult design problem. So this year we introduced the Bizarre Detail Competition for which each student was asked to produce an A4 drawing of his or her find. It introduced a lighthearted touch to the study, and a selection will be included in the exhibition.

A Study of Sustainability Issues formed

the second part of the Town Study, and here students could extend their study beyond the Conservation Area. Each team of students was encouraged to seek an innovative and imaginative response to the issue of sustainability which had been allocated to them, whilst focusing upon the architectural and townscape aspects of the issue. They were asked to anticipate or propose how their issue would or should evolve in the future, and what the implications might be for the town, and the impact any changes might have on the built environment. The issues were: 1. The Street Elevation - not designed, but the product of incremental additions; 2. The Economy - agriculture, industry and commerce; 3. Mobility - foot, car and public transport, the reasons for and the experience of moving about; 4. Historical Development - growth of town plan, architectural styles, military, market and residential; 5. Cultural Heritage the built environment as memory, significant events and people recalled; 6. Materials, Surfaces, Colours and Textures - diversity and variety, but perhaps a unifying continuity; 7. Change - from what (military vantage point) to what (tourist attraction)? 8. Spatial Character and Quality - the places and spaces in between the buildings; 9. Food and Drink - from organic Farmers' Market to the Michelin Guide cuisine; 10. Social Dialogue - the scales of gathering and places where people meet; 11. Land and Ecology - the interdependence of humankind with nature and the land. The reader will appreciate that our objective was to set up a wide-ranging study and to engage with

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a holistic definition of sustainability. Each team produced a series of display panels, a selection of which will be included in the exhibition.

## HOUSING DESIGN

In the five-week Housing Project students were asked to carry out research including study of precedent; to compile a 'social housing' design brief of their choice by selecting from a) Work-from-home, b) TASPAP (town apartments for single people at affordable rents), c) Independent elderly mobile, d) Single parent, e) flat-sharing; to develop a strategic proposal for infill design which is inventive and innovative; to respond to the site-specific aspects of the climatic, cultural and built form context; to address issues of designing for sustainability and flexibility; to incorporate design issues of vertical access, repetitive units and cross-wall construction; to create comfortable, modern, human-scale living spaces; and to incorporate related public and private domains. Where appropriate, they were to include 'over-the-shop' accommodation to utilise the commercial location of a site. For this project a number of hypothetical sites were selected for the design challenge they presented. These were located in the Conservation Area adjacent to St Laurence Church wall, Fish Street, Old Street, Lower Broad Street, Bell Lane and Raven Lane.

The financial contribution from the Ludlow Civic Society to the programme also assisted a number of students to enter their schemes for the UK Eric Lyons Memorial Fund Architectural student competition. We are pleased to announce that Ade Scholefield achieved a commendation and a prize of £250. The judges commented: 'Ludlow is a challenge to

innovation. Here is a scheme that endeavours to push the frontier forward. Quirky and clever.' Six of the schemes were included in the travelling exhibition which toured the UK in March and April. These will also be on display in the Ludlow exhibition.

## SPACE AND STRUCTURE

Starting with this quotation from Nervi: 'Future architects, even if they can entrust the final calculation of a structure to a specialist, must themselves be first be able to invent it and give it correct proportions. Only then will a structure be born healthy, vital and possibly beautiful', students were asked to carry out a three-staged project incorporating Group Research into a wide range of structural forms and ideas; Experimental Modelling to understand basic structural principles; and an Individual Design Project for either a permanent town market building or a temporary performance space within the castle grounds.

## OUR THANKS

Many people in Ludlow have contributed throughout the programme as a whole, and the staff and students of the Welsh School of Architecture are extremely grateful to all participants. In the streets, the shops and the pubs people will have been approached by students for their opinions in carrying out the Town Study. David Francis and Colin Richards of South Shropshire District Council provided useful documentation and background information at the beginning. Colin's introductory talk at Cardiff provided a comprehensive introduction to the key issues facing the future of Ludlow and the important work of the District Council in building conservation and sustainable

development. We are particularly grateful for the interest shown by the Ludlow Civic Society and the support they have given, including the participation of Megan Dawson and Dennis Bryant in a discussion forum with students and members of the District Council. From our first enquiries, followed by numerous telephone conversations through to the organisation of the forthcoming exhibition, David Francis and Dennis Bryant have played pivotal roles. We hope that the exhibition will give something back to Ludlow and contribute to the debate about its future.

## READERS' LETTERS

From Mr J.A.Fielden

Sir,

Ludlow Heritage News No.33

In Mr Caird's article on current planning issues, he comments on his understanding of the meaning of SUSTAINABILITY.

I would be most interested to know if his understanding is that of the majority, as to my mind PRESERVATION would be a more appropriate meaning.

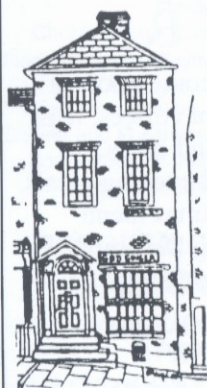
My dictionary has not yet got round to including the word SUSTAINABILITY.

Yours truly, JOHN FIELDEN  
Court of Hill, Ludlow, Shropshire  
SY8 3AL

*(I hope Mr Fielden will find more helpful uses of the word in this issue.Ed.)*

**Any queries, suggestions or responses to articles will be gratefully received. Please address your letters to:**  
**The Editor, Ludlow Heritage News,**  
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## 'GREEN ARCHITECTURE' AT THE LUDLOW FESTIVAL: James Harris

In the 1980s, a single photograph prompted a re-assessment of our world: the astronaut's view of the earth, seen against the inky blackness of outer space, revealed our planet as isolated, irreplaceable - and vulnerable. It was a timely reminder that we've only one world and we'd better look after it; we're not just here for the weekend!

For human life to continue, there are two essential conditions: first, the envelope of atmosphere must be protected and, second, the resources of the planet must be conserved; but it's now uncomfortably clear that these conditions are far from being met. We know that the depletion of resources, the exhaustion of fossil fuels, and problems of population, pollution and waste disposal are pushing the developed world to the point of no return - whilst putting all other human and animal habitats under threat of destruction.

To use the basic key word, our present patterns of consumption are simply not 'sustainable', that is, they are not repeatable into the indefinite future. An environmental crisis has developed in our own lifetime.

This crisis has enormous implications for architectural design, and for building technology and economics. Sustainable design is no longer the sole concern of 'the Greens'; it is one of the main themes of today's architectural

thought and action. Designers are having to learn to exploit solar energy, natural ventilation, recycled and renewable materials - and to minimise the use of energy everywhere from fossil fuels to the manufacture and transport of building materials.

However, today's designers have plenty of back-up: the RIBA has a published manifesto commitment to sustainable projects, and sustainability has been set at the centre of architectural education. There are Masters' courses in sustainable architecture at nine UK universities, and Sustainable Housing Awards were made last year for the first time. There is a range of built exemplars across a spectrum of building types from offices, theatres and a supermarket to the 'House of the Future' at St Fagans near Cardiff.

It is in this context that the Civic Society has invited Professor Susan Roaf of the School of Architecture at Oxford Brookes University, to present this year's Architecture Lecture at the Ludlow Festival. Dr Roaf researches, writes and lectures widely on 'Green Architecture' with both theoretical and practical authority. In 1994-95 she designed and built her own Oxford Eco House, the first solar-powered, low energy electric house in Britain. She avoided complex computer simulations by adopting the basic principles of solar energy design drawn from master

builders (ancient and modern) from Europe and the Middle East, and by using materials carefully chosen for minimal energy use in their manufacture and transport. The principles involved are of general application, and the house shows that design for minimal energy use is a viable financial option.

What constitutes a 'green' building is still an open debate - and we have some way to go to match the best achievements of continental Europe. However, a new generation of sustainable, low-energy buildings is in prospect; the challenge to architects will be to design such structures which are not only technically and economically viable, but also aesthetically acceptable. We shall need to understand how the unexpected, unconventional forms and features of the 'Green Architecture' have come about so as to inform our own visual appreciation.

This summer's Festival Architecture Lecture, sponsored by the Civic Society, should help us to do that. Don't miss it!

Articles on relevant subjects or suggestions for articles will be very welcome.  
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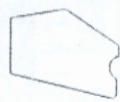
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## LUDLOW - JANUARY TO JUNE 1901: Derek Williams

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

On the evening of 22nd January 1901, rumours that Queen Victoria had died reached Ludlow. A crowd gathered in Castle Square to await a public announcement, but the Mayor, Councillor Chubb, felt unable to make one until the news had been confirmed. To this end, he sent a telegram to the Lord Mayor of London at the Mansion house, but received no reply. Eventually the Rector decided that the reports were correct, and at 8.40 pm the tenor bell of the Parish Church began to toll. The Queen had died about two hours earlier. On the following morning the town was in mourning. Blinds were drawn, shutters up and the flags on the Castle and the Buttercross at half mast. Many of those in the streets wore black. On Saturday 26th January, before a crowd of about 2000 in Castle Square, the Mayor read the proclamation of Edward VII from a special balcony built over the roof of the entrance to the Market Hall. In heavy rain he and the Corporation, with an escort of police, then moved to the Buttercross and repeated the ceremony in the presence of an even larger crowd. The hottest political issue in Ludlow in the early months of 1901 was 'incorporation': the attempt by the Town Council to extend the boundaries of Ludlow to take in the parish of Ludlow Castle, the urban parts of the parishes of Ludford and East Hamlet, and a small part of the parish of Bromfield. The aim of the bid was to enable the Council to complete the sewerage scheme on which it had recently embarked.

The strongest opposition came from a

### LONG LIVE the KING! EDWARD VII. PROCLAIMED AT LUDLOW. HISTORIC CEREMONY.



*Last Saturday's Scene at the Butter Cross.*

*From the Advertiser of February 2nd 1901*

group of rate-payers in East Hamlet who resorted to what some thought were unfair tactics in defence of their independence. They circulated handbills throughout the town which tried to depict Ludlow Town Council as an improvident body presiding over a near-bankrupt borough. Amongst other allegations, the handbills suggested that:

- if incorporation went ahead the rates in East Hamlet would rise from 3s3½d in the pound to 7s in the pound;
- the Town Hall was a white elephant that was worth half of what had been paid for it and was costing a fortune in repairs;
- the floods of 1886 and 1887 had cost Ludlow £1,550 and another could occur any day. 'KEEP OUT OF FLOODS!' cried the handbills;
- the borough debt had already reached

£17,680 and was rising towards £20,000. The Public Enquiry into Ludlow's application was held on 8th and 9th January, and chaired by one of the Local Government Board's most senior inspectors, Colonel Marsh. He had no need to be told of the urgent need to improve sanitation in Ludlow as he had heard the Council's earlier application for borrowing powers to complete the scheme. So many people wanted to attend the Inquiry that, originally fixed to take place in the Council Chamber, it had to be transferred to the large hall. All the main landowners and local authorities were officially and/or legally represented, and there was some early bickering about whether the opponents or the supporters of incorporation could claim to speak for the people of East Hamlet. The Ludford opposition was led, in rather more dignified fashion, by Captain Parkinson of Ludford House and the Trustees of the Ludford Almshouses, who were said to be the owners of most of the land on the south side of the river. The Local Government Board published its findings in March. Ludford Village was to remain outside the extended borough. Otherwise, the Town Council was given what it asked for: Ludlow Castle parish, Ludford north of the Teme and most of East Hamlet were to be merged with Ludlow. The Board made the implementation of these changes conditional upon Ludlow reaching an amicable agreement with its neighbours on the question of preferential rating for those Ludford and East Hamlet households now coming into Ludlow. The Town Council had already offered a discount of

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6d in the pound for five years, but this was considered ungenerous. Now, with the tacit support of the Local Government Board, Ludford and East Hamlet were able to negotiate better deals for their ratepayers before the end of March, and the way was open for the incorporation to proceed. The first elections to the enlarged Town Council would be held in November.

Before the dust had settled on this contentious issue, and with Ludlow still suffering from the excavations to lay the new sewage pipes and from the noise, traffic and egregious drunkenness resulting from the laying of the pipetrack, the Council launched yet another major development: the installation of electric lighting in the main streets of the town. In March, the Council decided to seek powers to act itself rather than to contract for the provision of electricity by a private supplier. It chose a scheme prepared by John Parker, a consulting engineer from Hereford, which would take two years to install and would then, it was hoped, yield a profit of £150 in its first year of working. The Borough Surveyor also visited about eighty homes in the town centre to see how many residents would be prepared to adopt electricity if supplied at the same price as gas: sixty-four were disposed to do so.

*(to be continued)*



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## LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY - COMMITTEE NEWS

### REPORT FROM THE CHAIR 2000-2001

In February members of the Society were fascinated by a lecture given by Stephen Treasure whose firm contributes, in a very direct way, to the overall quality of our built environment. The Society's role is, perhaps, less immediately apparent, but, we would argue, no less important. Our concern is to watch over the fabric of the town - the new developments as well as the historic core. We work by persuasion, we seek to influence, to arouse opinion. This can only be done if we represent a strong membership. I am pleased to note that this year 49 new members have been enrolled (a 100% increase over those enrolled last year). This is no doubt due in part to our new recruitment leaflet and to the hard work of members who distributed it so diligently. Thanks to another of your committee members, Patrick Beaument, the Society's own web-site is now under development.

We continue to survey planning applications and are ably represented on the Conservation Area Advisory Committee of the local Planning Authority by Bill Lloyd-Kitchen. Our Committee meetings have been rescheduled so that we are now able to discuss most applications before the C.A.A.C. deliberates. The Overton Road approach to town continues to give cause for concern - despite our representations, permission has been given for barns on Lower Barns Road to be used for industrial purposes - development which represents further erosion of this last unspoilt approach into Ludlow. The pro-

posal to locate a new Waste Transfer Site there has been rejected, but it is likely that this area will remain under constant threat. Members will recall that a fund has been established to enable us to obtain legal backing should it be necessary, when the status of this site as a Conservation Area eventually comes up for discussion at the Public Enquiry into the next Local Plan.

More lights, extended delivery hours and larger signs have all been requested by Tesco. We successfully contested the latter.

A more recent application has been made for a new building to fill the gap at No. 18 Castle Square. Whilst the committee did not wholly reject the concept of a modern solution for this site, it did not feel that the plan as presented was appropriate. As I write this the matter is still under consideration.

The Society has been invited to serve on a number of bodies associated with the town. David Milner has represented us on the group charged with the very difficult problem of providing lavatory facilities at St Laurence's Church (mandatory if it is to continue as a concert venue). Prue Bellak has joined the Council of the Assembly Rooms and I have taken part in the discussions leading to the provision of C.C.T.V. cameras in the town centre.

Like the rest of the town, we have been much exercised by the traffic management problems and a small sub-committee has spent time formulating guiding principles which we hope will assist in future deliberations. At the recent 'Traffic Forum' so many differing ideas were

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thrown up that the result was merely further confusion. Dennis Bryant sits on the Local Authority group which is working towards de-criminalisation of parking which paves the way for the effective enforcement of parking regulations. Members have also attended the public examinations of the Shropshire Draft Deposit Plan at Shire Hall.

Throughout the year we have had a most stimulating and instructive series of lectures and Sally Harvey has plans well in hand for next season's programme. Last September, Heritage Open Day, which was jointly organised with the Ludlow Historical Research Group, was most successful and attracted a great deal of interest. In June we are once again sponsoring an architectural lecture during the Ludlow Festival given by Professor Susan Roaf about whom Dr Harris writes elsewhere in this newsletter. We have also been pleased to have been involved with a group of architectural students from Cardiff University who, as an exercise, have been studying the dynamics of the town and making theoretical housing plans for specific areas. It is hoped that it will be possible to exhibit some of these in the near future. Solutions proposed by their generation should be fascinating.

During the year we have been sad to lose the benefit of the experience and practical advice of Jon Lansdell who has recently resigned after serving on the committee for many years. His contributions have been highly appreciated. Pressure of work together with his now living near Shrewsbury have made attending meetings increasingly difficult for him.

Apart from those already mentioned, I must thank other members of your hard-working Committee - Brian Atwood, not only for sterling work as Treasurer, but for his ever-helpful guiding hand; Michael Coleman-Smith, who as Membership Secretary has energetically spearheaded our recent publicity drive; our Minute Secretary, Sue Coleman-Smith; Mike Evans, whose perceptive and incisive contributions to our meetings are so valuable; and lastly, Valerie

Thomas who has undertaken not only the burden of the Secretaryship, but is, too, Editor of Heritage News.

Attached to this year's A.G.M. notice is a Committee Member Proposal Form. Please do consider joining us - the Society is only as strong as its members' enthusiasm and interest allows.

#### FUTURE EVENTS

For the 10th October meeting the Society is fortunate to be able to hear a leading expert on Watermills, Mr Alan Stoyel, who has rescued his own mill in Oxfordshire from which he produces flour. He is a member, and former chairman, of the Committee for Mills of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). He has photographed, measured and studied watermills in England, Spain, Portugal and Belgium. Mr Alan Stoyel B.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.M.M. used to record buildings for the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England and is now working for English Heritage. In view of the pending restoration of the weir at Ludlow, it will be of topical interest to hear his lecture on Watermills, which will include some description of their functioning and of the millraces and weirs associated with them.

The Fred Reeves Memorial Lecture, to be held in the main auditorium of the Assembly Rooms on 14th November, is to be addressed by Dr Martin Speight, a Vice-president of the Society and a prominent local historian.

Fred Reeves was History Master at the Grammar School from 1928-1965 and inspired the love of history in generations of Ludlovians. He was very active in the town: chairman of the Ludlow Civic Society for many years and co-founder of the Ludlow Historical Research Group, giving it much support in its early days. He was also very active with the Ludlow Library and Ludlow Museum.

Martin Speight knew Fred Reeves well. He too taught history at Ludlow Grammar School and later became Head

of History at Ludlow college until his recent retirement. He has lately published a work on Some Diddlebury Houses and their History. Dr Speight's lecture will be on Ludford - the Church and the Charltons: the lively and colourful family who lived for generations at Ludford house and after whom the Charlton Arms is named.

For the 12th December meeting, the Society is to hear from one of its own members about the Old Gate House Restoration with slides of his discoveries and new theories on the early history of the building. Mr Patrick Beauteament, who has family associations in the district, came to the Old Gate House two years ago after a career in the Royal Air Force. He has renovated houses in Malvern Wells, Herefordshire, Lincolnshire and Warwickshire, from Victorian to Tudor, and has been fascinated to be closely involved in the restoration of a building that goes back to the Middle Ages.

The appropriate venue is the Old Schoolroom, part of the old Ludlow Grammar School, in Mill Street. It will be an opportunity to see its thick stone walls, narrow trefoiled windows, and oak panelling inscribed by generations of school-boys.

*All lectures will be held at 7:30 pm.*

#### 2000-2001 Officers & Committee Members

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President:       | Sir Keith Thomas                                                                                                                                                          |
| Vice-Presidents: | Dr Martin Speight<br>Dick Stephens                                                                                                                                        |
| Chairman:        | Megan Dawson                                                                                                                                                              |
| Vice Chairman:   | Dennis Bryant                                                                                                                                                             |
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| Secretary:       | Valerie Thomas                                                                                                                                                            |
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## BECOME A MEMBER - JOIN NOW

If you care about Ludlow and its surroundings please complete the application form (or a copy) below and send it in now.

To: The Membership Secretary, Ludlow Civic Society, 75 Old Street, Ludlow SY8 1NS

Please accept my application to join the society as an annual member.

Annual membership subscription is £6 per person - normally due on September 1st. I enclose £..... to cover.

Cheques payable to 'Ludlow Civic Society' please.

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