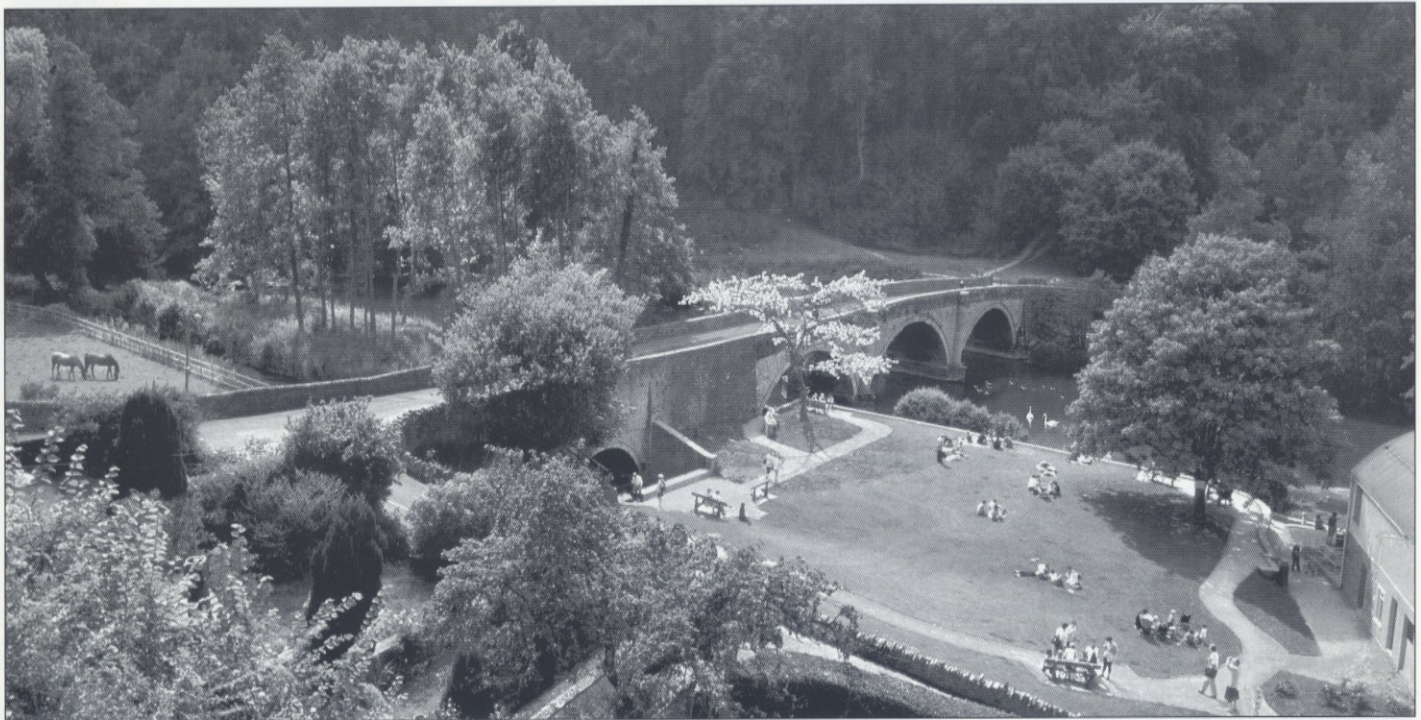


Ludlow Heritage News

Published twice a year by LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY

No.36 SPRING 2002

FREE



Spring in Ludlow: the Millennium Green at Dinham Bridge. Donations are still needed to re-open the Mill Race in time for the Jubilee, and eventually to restore the Mill itself. Photo: Gareth B. Thomas F.R.P.S.

SIX ENGLISH TOWNS, 3. CHICHESTER: David Goodman, Chairman of the Chichester Society

We continue our series on the towns chosen by Alec Clifton-Taylor for his first television series and the book published in 1978.

Chichester has long been regarded as a Georgian city, and indeed it does contain a rich inheritance of fine 18th Century buildings, some large and imposing, others forming terraced streets of great beauty, mostly medieval but with Georgian frontages. Yet this is far from being the whole picture, for the city is really an harmonious amalgam of distinctive periods and styles, spanning the centuries. The Roman wall still encloses most of its historic core, and the medieval legacy of a great Gothic Cathedral with its uniquely separate Bell Tower commands the scene. Nearby, stands the 16th Century Market cross, the focal point of all four main streets, this year celebrating its 500th birthday. The 19th Century is extremely well represented too, with a variety of charming early and late Victorian terraces, churches (now mostly converted for commercial or social usage), schoolhouses, parklands that any town would envy, majestic trees, and, until the late 50s many inner-city gardens.

Altogether, Chichester is a prime exemplar of sensitive organic growth, responding slowly and gracefully to changing needs, thus creating an urban environment described by Dr

Thomas Sharp in the 1940s as 'a very special city, that is very specially favoured'. And so it was. Even during the 30s, when modernisation and increasing traffic problems had begun to change the face of many towns and cities throughout Britain, Chichester hardly changed at all. A few uninspired new buildings, a cinema, a big pub and not very much else to disrupt the status quo. After the last war, however, this happy condition could no longer be sustained. Mounting pressures, especially of traffic, and the demands of trade and industry, leisure activities, tourism and so on, could no longer be ignored. Chichester was obliged to enter a new era of town planning, just like everywhere else in the country.

Thus we had a spate of bureaucratic dictates and schemes, virtually all of which tended to do more harm than good, especially those dealing with transport and the provision of new, disruptive roads. We had a 'Town Map' that attempted to divide the city with zones of activities and development areas - a crazy notion that was finally discarded, though not before some considerable damage had been done.

We had a 'slum clearance' policy, which managed to destroy a whole community of terraced cottages, shops, pubs and of course residents, who had to be housed elsewhere. Even Laurence Olivier, then Director of the theatre

opposite the site, protested vigorously and publicly. All those little houses could have been restored to modern standards. Indeed, the few remaining streets in the neighbouring area have been thoroughly modernised without destroying their character, and are now very expensive, of course.

We had a huge expansion of administrative buildings for the County Council, which should have been sited nearer the centre of West Sussex, and to a lesser extent the District Council, formed in the early 70s. These consumed large areas of open space, as did the proliferation of car parks.

Much-cherished private gardens as well as a massive slice of Oaklands Park, the gently undulating sweeps of grassland where stands the celebrated Festival Theatre, were lost. Only yards away from that great car park is a section of the Roman Wall, itself bordering a particularly pretty Victorian expanse of grass and flowerbeds, with a stunning boulevard of arching chestnut trees. Thankfully, all these last were saved from a disastrous ring-road scheme by our own and public pressures. So was the now thriving community centre, housed there in a very fine Victorian school-house.

By 1973 the continuing threats to Chichester's future had aroused widespread alarm, resulting in the birth of our Society, passionately



The City Cross

dedicated to stemming the tide of destruction. At first, although our membership exceeded any other of its kind in Britain after only a short period of existence, we were arrogantly dismissed as a 'vociferous minority'. But after a public meeting in the Cathedral, attended by some 1,500 citizens and addressed by the great and the good, respect for us and our views grew, while the early confrontations diminished.

Nevertheless during the following quarter-century it cannot be said that the problems diminished too. Self-interest, private and public, ill-conceived schemes, especially for traffic movement, dismal architectural standards and piecemeal developments, took their toll. We organised and led several campaigns on major issues during this period, with varying success. Most notable were four. First a successful bid to prevent the building of a supermarket almost next door to the Cathedral. Second, a sadly less successful attempt to stop a hideous road scheme in the eastern quadrant, which involved the demolition of a valuable section of terraced houses. This one even included a 'sit-in', with clergymen's wives sit-

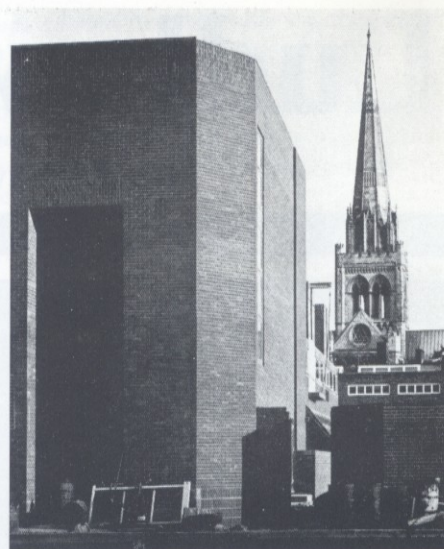
ting on bulldozers and knitting in a condemned barn! Happy days.

Third, the long-awaited pedestrianisation scheme for the main shopping streets. Here, we organised a large 'umbrella' group to present our case to a public enquiry. In the end the planners had their way, though we did manage to modify the proposals somewhat. We are still counting the cost of that far too drastic scheme, in terms of the city's historic character and integrity. Fourth and last on a similar scale, was our battle to save the cattle market, a great open space in the heart of the city. The proposal in the late 80s to build on it a huge shopping complex was abhorrent and totally alien to Chichester. The battle was long - nearly two years - and fierce too, but in the end, although the cattle auction element was lost, we saved the site and defeated the whole concept.

Now, more than a decade later, we are faced with another alarming threat. This has its origin in central government's requirement for building thousands of houses in the county to cope with the constantly rising demand in the south east. The new County Structure Plan proposes 46,000 of them during the next two decades, 8,000 in the Chichester district alone of which some 2,500 would be sited in or near the city itself. The programme is scheduled to begin before 2006 and would include green as well as brown field sites.

Such a horrendous prospect has aroused wide-spread hostility, for it would hugely increase the already too great burden on the city's infrastructure, and finally destroy the once enviable quality of life for which Chichester was also renowned. Even today the pedestrianised precinct can resemble a disorganised holiday camp, with hordes of people strolling about more or less aimlessly it would seem, buskers and bands blaring competitively and litter scattered everywhere.

Furthermore, a proper balance between buildings and open space is a guiding principle for any good urban environment. What with the holy ritual of making way for vehicles and parking lots at almost any cost, and big com-



The monstrous extension to the Post Office, only yards from the Cathedral, built in the 70s and now totally redundant.

mercial development at the city's boundaries, this balance is fragile to say the least. Chichester needs to gain space, not lose more of it. It is time that the organic nature of the city, its historic integrity and character were fully respected, not abused by exploitation. We shall fight these proposals hard.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? Jean Brown

We are very aware in our childhood that we are called by a certain name and to this we respond. Only later do we start to question whether we like that name; where it came from; and how it was chosen by our family. Many people use the second of their Christian or forenames, and some are always called by nicknames. My own mother was given three baptismal names, and not until she was sixty did she rid herself of the family nickname which had always been used and which she hated. Choice of Christian names is very much a matter of fashion as we shall see from our studies in Ludlow.

RICKARDS & SON LTD **GENERAL IRONMONGERS**

Home ■ Centre

Stockists of

Chubb, Union, Yale Security Products,
Tiled surrounds, Rayburn Cookers and
spares, Eley Cartridges, Domestic Electrical
appliances, Prestex fittings, Boiler flue sets,
roof insulation, Fisons Garden products,
Antique and Brass door furniture

APPROVED CHUBB CENTRE
APPROVED
AGA & RAYBURN SHOP
LUDLOW 872934

6-7 BULL RING, LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE SY8 1AE

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

Reg Martin & Sons **FAMILY BUTCHERS**

**1 Market Street
Ludlow SY8 1BP
Tel: 01584 872008**



SPECIALISTS

Free-range rare breed pork, venison

Free-range ducks & chickens

Veal & calves liver

Home-made pork pies

Prize winning speciality sausages

My mother, with strong links with Denmark, wanted to call me Kirsten, Karen or Ingrid, not usual choices in 1936. She was told firmly by her mother-in-law that this was not acceptable, and going on her own experience, gave me one simple name only. Now any of those names would not seem unusual. Teachers will know of the fashion in names that appear more regularly in a particular age group. In fact, to give your child a less common name it would be most appropriate to choose one that was popular in your own childhood.

In the Ludlow Historical Group we have been working on data from the nineteenth century censuses. The first national census as we would recognise it was held in 1841 although there had been earlier ones of which little record now exists. Held every ten years, the census asked questions which were gradually refined and broadened. Under David Lloyd's leadership, a working group had taken the whole of the 1841 census for St Laurence's Parish and put the data onto cards for individuals and households. Using this as a starting point, we decided to take a sample from the 1861 and 1881 censuses to compare results. We chose streets which would give a broad coverage of the parish - Broad Street, Lower Broad Street, Corve Street, Upper and Lower Galdeford and Frog Lane (now St John's Road). For these we also prepared cards for each individual and household. Now our data is complete, we can start looking at the picture that these censuses give us of Ludlow.

My first task was to look at Christian and surnames. What was immediately obvious was the number of names represented in these three censuses, with 217 different Christian names in 1881, and nearly one thousand surnames in the sixty year period. Almost seven thousand individuals are recorded in our sample, but of course many of these will have appeared in more than one census.

It was interesting to note the most commonly occurring names and to see how our Ludlow names compared with national studies. For a wider comparison I also looked at the baptismal registers for St Laurence's Parish

for the years 1600, 1700, 1800 and 1900.

The choice of names in the earlier baptismal registers is remarkably consistent, although Margaret and Richard were more popular in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries than later. The pattern of family names was repeated in each generation, and sometimes when a child had died, that same name was given to the next child born. All this can make real confusion for family historians, but this tradition began to change in the latter half of the nineteenth century. During the nineteenth century the same names still appear regularly, with Mary, Elizabeth, Sarah, Ann(e) and Jane as the top five choices for girls, and William, John, Thomas, James and George for boys. These choices also reflect the national pattern.

In 1800 59 baptisms were recorded for girls with 20 names noted, but by 1900 the number of different names had increased by more than double. Although the number of different boys' names increased during the same period, it was not to the same extent, and choices appeared to stay more conservative than for girls. Names that had not been used before began to appear as popular choices, with Elsie, Ethel, Hilda, Lilian and Violet, and the reappearance of Margaret. For boys, Charles, Albert and Frederick move further up the list. We were surprised to find there were no Victorias in our sample of Ludlow, and yet Florence was appearing by the end of the century, with 9 in the 1881 census and 5 in the 1900 baptismal register, second only to Annie in that year. These results fit with the national picture, and it is interesting to speculate on why the family traditions were gradually broken in favour of a wider variety of names given at birth. A personal chord was struck for me when I discovered that a child born in 1900 in Ludlow had been baptised Ida Pretoria, presumably in connection with the Boer War. My grand-daughter in Cardiff, born in 1992, was named Sasha Pretoria after her great-grandmother, Margaret Pretoria Palfrey, born in 1900. Historical references such as these are of continual interest.

Many Christian names appear only once in our

sample of seven thousand people, including several Biblical names such as Aaron and Noah, Deborah and Ruth. Some boys were given names that would appear to originate from family surnames such as Archer, Ellis, Judge and Mansell. Names that are familiar to us today can also be found amongst these uncommon choices, such as Anthony, Harold, Patrick and Mark for boys, and Phyllis, Bridget, Edwina, Flora, Janet and Linda for girls. Again there are more uncommon names for girls than there are for boys.

The number of surnames found in Ludlow between 1841 and 1881 proved of equal interest, and these can also be compared with the national picture. In 1853 the Registrar General issued a list of the fifty most common surnames in England and Wales. Nationally, Smith, Jones, Williams, Taylor and Davies were the five most common surnames. In Ludlow, Jones, Price, Williams, Evans and Davies were the top five and remained so over the sixty years, although occasionally changing in order. As might be expected, the influence of earlier migration from Wales appears to be a major influence. Some names not found in the top fifty nationally in 1853 but common in Ludlow were Pearce, Powell and Watkins.

The study of surnames is of considerable interest to family and local historians because patterns of migration and settlement can be studied. Certainly I intend to look further into the clusters of particular names which we have found in certain streets. Some names, although uncommon, are local, such as Yapp which was very much a Herefordshire name, but from further afield a Landucci was born in London, a Tallady was born in St Ives, Huntingdonshire, and a Baltrick came from Wareham in Dorset.

Place names are reflected in many of our English surnames although it might not always be easy to locate a family precisely when there are many geographical instances of that name, Norton being a good example. In our sample, however, there were names that seem distinctly local such as Bodenham,



Fine Furniture Restoration

KENNETH M. MACKENZIE

**Unit 5, 7 Corve Street
Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1DB
Telephone 01584 875522**

**SYKES
COMPANY**

**REGISTERED AUDITORS
AND ACCOUNTANTS**

**Accountancy, Audit, Taxation,
Paybook & VAT Services**

**Tel: LUDLOW (01584) 874707
Fax: LUDLOW (01584) 874706
email: post@sykesandco.co.uk**

**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.**

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

Brampton, Clee, Dorington and Lingen. There is still a great deal of interesting research to follow up and I am grateful to Audrey Youngman and Caroline Franklin who worked on this data with me. Anyone wishing to pursue the study of names would find the following books of interest:

David Hey *'Family Names and Family History'* (Hambledon and London 2000); Stephen Wilson *'The Means of Naming'* (UCL Press 1998).

PUTTING THE RATEPAYER FIRST?

Derek Williams

The latest in a series of articles about public life in Ludlow 100 years ago. This one deals with the period January to June 1902.

In February 1902 the Town Council was on the point of implementing a proposal that would bring substantial benefits to the people of Ludlow. The Council's Electric Lighting committee, after some adventures mentioned in the previous article in this series, had prepared a scheme that would kill two birds with one stone. First, it would bring electric light to the main streets of the town. Second, it would provide Ludlow with a 'refuse destructor' that could tackle the problem of the Smithfield tip, which the Medical Officer of Health had described as a serious and growing threat to the well-being of the borough. The scheme would be directly managed by the Council as a self-financing venture, rather than by a private contractor. The aim was to achieve a surplus of £150 in the first year and thereafter to make no claims on the rates.

The local political climate seemed receptive to the scheme. The Council elections in November 1901 had been contested largely on the electricity issue, and had returned a clear majority of Councillors known to favour the proposals, which had been in circulation for nearly a year. So when the scheme was presented to the Council at its February meeting, with a recommendation that the Local



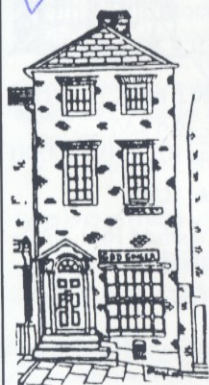
The Butter Cross in the early years of the 20th century. In 1902 a proposal to establish a town library in the Butter Cross failed through lack of support.

Government Board should be asked to grant the Council powers to borrow £7,500 to pay for its installation, no serious difficulties were anticipated. But some Councillors had changed their minds. Eight voted for the proposals and eight against. The Mayor refused to use his casting vote on such an important issue and so the meeting ended in deadlock, with the electricity scheme in limbo.

No Councillor had argued against the proposals, either at or before the February meeting, so why were they lost? Some of the votes against were from Councillors who claimed that they had not yet fully studied the scheme. Others were thought to be sympathetic to the interests of the Gas Company. But many Councillors may simply have felt uneasy about borrowing such a large sum. A month earlier, the Council had agreed to borrow £1,284 to cover the rising cost of the sewerage disposal works begun in the Autumn of 1900. Early in 1902 the Council was in dispute with the contractors about some aspects of this

work that, although originally expected to cost less than £9,000, would now probably exceed that figure by about £4,000. This experience may have undermined the confidence of some Councillors in the ability of their technical and financial advisors to forecast accurately the costs of major capital projects. When, therefore, they faced a proposal to borrow even more money they balked at adding to a municipal debt already approaching £20,000. After the deadlock in February, the Council played for time by applying to the Board of Trade for an extension of its provisional order to proceed with the scheme. One of the immediate consequences of the impasse was the increased likelihood that Ludlow's electricity would eventually be provided by a private supplier rather than as a municipal undertaking. Within days of the February vote, two companies had already declared an interest in supplying electricity to the town. Concern about the rates also underlay the Council's response to another issue on its

G & D GINGER Antique Dealers



5 Corve Street
Ludlow
Shropshire
SY8 1DA

Tel:
01584 876939

Established 1860

LADIES, GENTLEMENS & CHILDREN'S OUTFITTERS
BARBOUR STOCKISTS
BESPOKE TAILORING

F.J. BODENHAM LTD

BROAD STREET,
LUDLOW

01584 872786

The Courtyard

NEW Home service NEW

This is no ordinary take-away. As fans of the Courtyard's famous dishes will already know - what is on offer here is very special. The same high standard of freshly prepared food is now available to take home and enjoy. Whether you heat following the clear instructions or freeze for later, you can now take the strain out of that dinner party or cosy meal for two. Call into The Courtyard for more information.

The Courtyard Restaurant
Quality Square, Ludlow, Shropshire
Telephone 01584 878080

AA Rosette • Good Food Guide • Michelin Listed

agenda early in 1902: how should Ludlow celebrate the coronation of Edward VII? The Council quickly decided that all the children in the borough should be given a commemoration mug and a tea party. It was also felt that there should be some more permanent memorial, but there was no agreement on the form that this might take. Some Councillors supported a proposal to convert the Butter Cross into a Free Library and Reading Room, but others found this idea 'inopportune'. (This was the word that had been used to defeat the same proposal in the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.) It was estimated that it would take £250-£300 to establish the library, but the Mayor pointed out that the Leominster library and reading room also cost £160 a year to maintain, and in Ludlow 1d rate raised only £80. A Coronation Celebration Committee was set up, charged with deciding what permanent memorial would be appropriate.

At its first meeting, and despite their terms of reference requiring them to propose something permanent, most members of the committee favoured providing a free meal for 'the deserving poor'. The proposal to establish a library in the Butter Cross - the only 'permanent' proposal on the table - was defeated by two votes. (Some Councillors said that they would support the idea at a later date.) A public meeting to discuss the Free Library proposal was held in April but fewer than 100 ratepayers turned up (from a burgess roll of 1300) and fewer than thirty of those voted in favour of the Library. So the idea was abandoned. The Coronation did not take place, as intended, on 26th June.

The King had appendicitis.

RESULTS OF LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY'S SURVEY OF MEMBERS' VIEWS (2001)

INTRODUCTION

This is a summary Of the Interim Report which was tabled to and discussed by the Committee in January 2002. A Final Report is now being produced and copies will be avail-

able to members of the Society on request from the Secretary.

69 forms were returned, on behalf of 80 members. This represents 19.5% of the membership, which is good for this kind of survey. Only 7 of the 69 forms came back without a name on them. Of those who identified themselves, 57 were 'local' members, within a 25 mile radius of Ludlow, and 5 from further away.

1. REASON FOR JOINING THE SOCIETY

Only 3 'reasons' attracted more than 10 supporters: 22 joined to conserve the unique architecture of Ludlow; 17 to 'learn' about Ludlow; and 12 through an interest in historic fabric/architecture. A wide range of reasons was covered in the less widely quoted views.

2. MAIN PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

A number of responses gave more than one purpose. However, the clear winner, with 41 responses was: to conserve the unique heritage of Ludlow, with another 5 in favour of supporting the vernacular evolution of the town. Others wished the society to support appropriate modernisation of Ludlow (19); to oppose undesirable modern developments (13); to keep Ludlow 'as it is' (4); to support architectural excellence (5). Two other themes were: to develop and promote the welfare of the town/community/environment/heritage (19); and to educate members in, and publish details of, the history of the town (12). Various other suggestions were put forward including frequent allusions to the need to take account of environmental pressures.

3. THREE MAJOR ISSUES IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

By far the most common issue was TRAFFIC with 34 respondents citing traffic through the town centre as a specific issue. Some offered solutions, some did not, but 14 respondents suggested a multi-storey car park (with 1 specifically against this), and 16 the provision

of Park-and-Ride. Very few suggested both.

The second most pressing issue was DEVELOPMENT, i.e. pressure for new housing etc. This arose in 27 responses. There were no specific suggestions as to how the problem could be addressed other than to put pressure on both central and local government to halt development, or at least to ensure that funding was available to provide services for an enlarged population.

The third issue to attract a significant level of comment could be called SITUATION (i. e. green space in and around the town). This was mentioned in 26 responses as erosion of surrounding countryside, spoiling the southern approaches to the town or loss of green spaces within the town. Again, there was little in the way of suggested solutions. A number of responses connected loss of situation with development.

Less prominent issues included CIVIC PRIDE (20) which was related by most to the whole of the town, not just the centre. By some it was mentioned specifically, by others in relation to crime of one form or another, or litter. Apart from the one suggestion to 'convert a parking warden to a toilet attendant', there were few proposals as to how the Society should deliver on this issue. Another lesser issue, based on the level of responses, was COMMERCIAL where there was concern to protect the small traders and the market, and proposals to develop 'balanced tourism' or create local jobs to help the town survive. Overall, there appeared to be concern that the town should not become 'fossilised'.

In general there were a number of comments which all addressed 'heritage' issues in one way or another, expressing a wide variety of views. There were those for and against 'modernisation' and points made in support of the 'charming chaos' which some saw as being the very essence of Ludlow. Specific, detailed issues which were raised are being followed up by the Committee.

4. VISIBILITY OF THE SOCIETY

24 thought the Society was sufficiently visi-



TELEPHONE
LUDLOW 872088

R. WALTON LTD.

BAKERS and CONFECTIONERS

Bakery, Shop and Office
7 and 8 Market Street
Ludlow
Shropshire





The Country Kitchen

YES! There is a
Cookware Shop in Ludlow

'For all your cookware requirements at
competitive prices'

- Wedding List Service now available
- Stockists of Staub, Salter, Meyer
Prestige, Victorinox & Berndes

Find us at:
6A PEPPER LANE, LUDLOW,
SHROPSHIRE SY8 1PX
Tel/Fax: 01584 877747

MARK THE
CHEESE MAN

Where ^{else} / would you find
a greater variety of cheeses, eggs,
home-made farm butter
and pickles 
(some produced organically)?

at
134 CORVE STREET and
LUDLOW MARKET
CHEESE STALL

 of course

ble, 36 thought not, and 9 left this blank.

5. IMAGE OF THE SOCIETY

24 thought the Society had a good image, 28 thought not, and 17 left this blank. Some members questioned the term 'image' and whether it was significant. On the negative side, the word 'elitist' was used on 14 occasions and 'middle-class incomers' on 13. Also, the lack of members who were long-term Ludlovians was commented on but there were few suggestions to address this perceived problem. Other comments related to the need to be more friendly (3) and lack of clarity or leadership from the Committee in some situations (8). Various suggestions were made to improve the Society's image and the Committee is now evaluating them.

6. SKILLS REGISTER

14 people offered their skills to be made available, but only 11 agreed to being included in a register.

7. OPEN FORUM DEBATES

52 would like some of these, 5 would not, and 12 expressed no opinion. 39 thought they should be open to the general public, 11 thought not; 45 thought guests should speak and 6 thought not. Various subjects were suggested for such debates and the Committee will take these into account in planning future meetings.

8. ORGANISED DAY TRIPS AND LONGER OUTINGS

30 members replied positively and 14 offered to be involved in some part of running such trips. In general, the consensus seemed to be in favour of day trips and the majority who expressed a view on the type of trip suggested 'similar towns' (to Ludlow). 14 members offered their services to host reciprocal visits from other societies.

9. FUNDING OF THE SOCIETY

43 responses favoured the Society maintaining funds at the current level, 6 suggested it should hold less and 12 that it should increase

the level. 18 expressed no opinion. Many members remarked on their ignorance of how the funds had been built up, how they were maintained, or what they were used for, and so could not comment. The biggest single use of the funds foreseen by members was for legal matters (including public enquiries). Other suggestions were: contributing to the conservation of 'at risk' properties (14); and small local projects in the town (7).

10. OTHER VIEWS

The only themes which ran consistently through the responses but which were not covered by particular questions were members' concerns for a 'better society' in terms of social inclusiveness and protection of the environment, both of which must have appeared on at least 20 forms.

CONCLUSION

The Committee has found the results of the Survey extremely valuable. It is using the returns to update the objectives of the Society and to follow up specific points of interest that were raised in them. Many thanks to all those members who took the time to respond.

John Farley - March 2002

READERS' LETTERS

RAILWAY TRAVEL IN 1900

From Mr John Robson

Sir,

We can do without the Heritage News adding its pennyworth to railway mythology. 'It was, of course, easier and quicker to get around England by train in 1901 than it is today.' What bosh!

You quote 20 trains/day between Ludlow and Shrewsbury, presumably 10 each way, with 49 minutes the fastest time. Now there are 21 departures a day from Ludlow to Shrewsbury, and the journey time is about 30 minutes. 13 hours 35 minutes was a good time for 1901 for the run from Shrewsbury to London. Today

there are 14 departures from Ludlow for London, changing at Newport, and the journey time is between 3 hours 15 and 3 hours 30 minutes. In addition, of course, there is the daily through train to Waterloo and the option of changing at Hereford and proceeding via Oxford. Of course, we should have improved more than we have, and the trains should be more reliable than they are, but on paper Ludlow, for a small town, has an amazingly good railway service, and much of the time actual performance does match the paper prescription.

Safety: can the figures quoted for 1900 really be correct? They depict nothing short of carnage. Of course the railway today is safer than it ever has been. Did you know that? Or are you among those who have been persuaded, contrary to the facts, that it is less safe now than it was before privatisation?

Yours etc. JOHN ROBSON

West Winds, Gravel Hill, Ludlow SY8 1QS

The railways today are, as Mr Robson says, safer than they were 100 years ago. It was to show this that I quoted such detailed figures on deaths in 1900 from railway trespassing, suicides and collisions. I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of these data: they come from the Board of Trade railway statistics for 1900. Perhaps, in another 100 years, it will be equally hard to believe that in our time so many people were killed annually on the roads - far more than died on the railways in 1900. Whether today's railway services are generally better than they were 100 years ago is a matter of opinion. I believe they were better than now, but I cannot prove it. I also think that the postal services were better in 1900, but I cannot prove that either.

DEREK WILLIAMS

Any queries, suggestions or responses to letters or articles will be gratefully received. Please address your letters to:

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

MORGANS SOLICITORS

- PROPERTY
- FAMILY
- BUSINESS

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

A GREAT ADVERT FOR THINK GRAPHIC DESIGN

"without doubt a most refreshing, creative & professional service"

Merlin Unwin Books

DESIGN FOR PRINT • CORPORATE IDENTITIES
ILLUSTRATION • FREELANCE SERVICES

Palmers House, Corve Street
Ludlow, Shropshire
Tel: 01584 878658 Fax: 01584 878659
email: mail@thinkgraphicdesign.co.uk



left: a preview of a forthcoming book with jacket designed by Think Graphic Design

FIRE WOOD

Seasoned
Hardwood
Regular deliveries
to all areas
Call Rose:
01584 874831

AS YOU WILL HAVE SEEN FROM ARTICLES ON OTHER HISTORIC TOWNS AND CITIES, SOME CIVIC SOCIETIES NOMINATE THEIR OWN CHOICE OF GOOD AND BAD BUILDING. WE THOUGHT WE MIGHT START THE BALL ROLLING IN LUDLOW BY ASKING OUR READERS TO NOMINATE THEIR MOST LOVED AND MOST HATED BUILDINGS IN THE TOWN. THIS IS OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS, INDEED TO ALL READERS OF 'HERITAGE NEWS'. PLEASE SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO THE EDITOR.

LUDLOW MUSIC SOCIETY 2002-3 Season

Another interesting series of concerts has been planned for the new season by Ludlow Music Society. The first is on October 5th, given by the Martinu Quartet from the Czech Republic with Christopher Langdown (piano). The programme consists of Beethoven's String Quartet in F, Op.18 no.1, his first of a group of six quartets, an early work but fully mature. Then follows String Quartet no.7, 'Sonata da Camera', by the modern Czech composer, Bohuslav Martinu, a highly approachable work in a Neo—Classic vein. After the interval, Christopher Langdown joins the Martinu Quartet for a performance of Dvorak's A major Piano Quintet, a highly engaging work by this most popular of Czech composers.

Later concerts include a piano recital on the Music Society's fine Yamaha grand by Ian Fountain, playing works by Beethoven, Janacek and Rachmaninov (2nd Sonata), on October 26th.

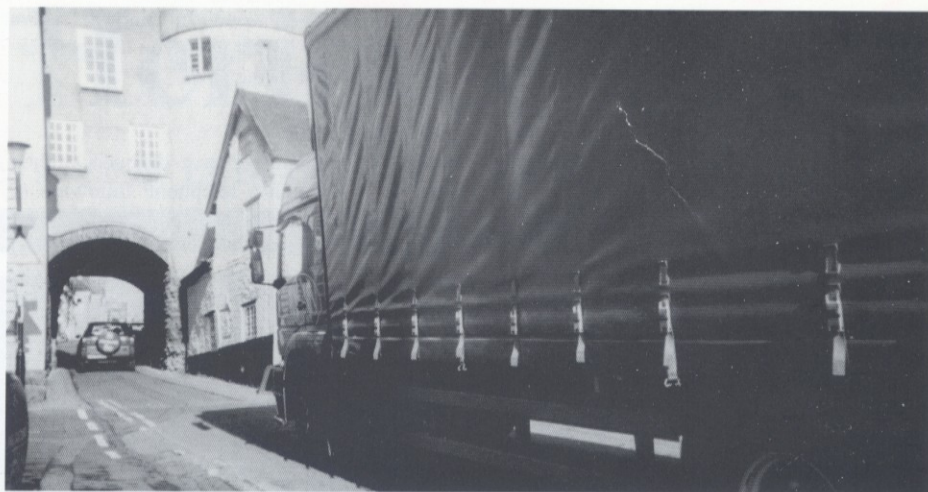
In 2003, the French oboe player, Francois Leloux, plays works by Schumann — both Robert and Clara - on February 15th, and on March 22nd, the Vienna Mozart Piano Trio plays trios by Mozart, Mendelssohn and Shostakovich. Four highly desirable concerts not to be missed, and available on subscription or tickets at the door (more expensive). Details from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs Rosalind Caird (01584 876141).



TREASURE
— & SON LTD — Estd. 1747

Working on private houses and historic buildings
with private individuals, national and public bodies

TEMESIDE, LUDLOW SY8 1JW
Tel: 01584 872161 Fax: 01584 874876



TALKING POINT

The increasing size of lorries and tourist buses is posing a threat to the fabric of the town and to its inhabitants. Instead of using the bypass, lorries often make unnecessary journeys through the town, damaging the roads, chipping away at the Broad Gate and the Butter cross, and knocking into houses on the corners of Bell Lane, Brand Lane and Camp Lane. They produce unacceptable noise and pollution in Old Street and Corve Street, and cause danger and inconvenience to other road users by having to back down Lower Broad Street and manoeuvring over Ludford Bridge. One lorry recently mounted the pavement in Corve Street, when the street was busy with shoppers. Other towns have weight limits. Should Ludlow? Let us know your views.

LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY COMMITTEE NEWS

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN. NOVEMBER TO APRIL 2002

Your Committee is dealing with a number of important tasks at the moment. At the top of our list is the need to prepare a response and decide our strategy to deal

with the draft South Shropshire Local Plan (1996-2011) which was finally published recently. The Plan is based on a number of assumptions about the expected demand for housing in the area. For Ludlow town, the Government's figures mean that 1018 more houses are required to be built in this period. In the last two years alone 214 houses have been built and so it seems likely that the 1018 target may be exceeded. Your Committee feels that this is entirely inappropriate for Ludlow, as it will change the town's character irrevocably and will stretch its limited resources and infrastructure to breaking point. There is also a feeling that, without much thought being put into the provision of recreation and social amenities, such large growth in population may lead to an increase in anti-social behaviour. In addition, we have responded to the Government's Green Paper on 'Planning: Delivering a Fundamental Change', which will totally alter the planning mechanisms to what, in my opinion, is a much more lax system.

You can read the paper yourself at <http://www.planning.dti.gov.uk/consult/green/Pap/greenind.htm>.

Concerning the various initiatives we have introduced, we have had some small successes. The Dinham water meadows area seems likely to remain unspoilt as the owner of the

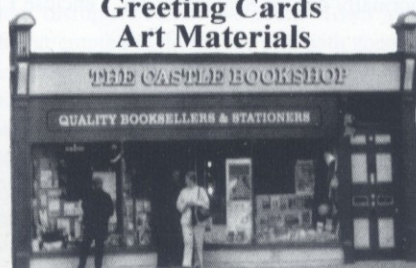
CASTLE BOOKSHOP 5 Castle Street Ludlow, SY8 1AS

Tel: 01584 872562

Fax: 01584 876366

Proprietor - Stanton Stephens

Books and Maps
Books of Local Interest
Stationery and Gifts
Greeting Cards
Art Materials



EGO CAFE BAR

Ludlow's most contemporary
venue for excellent coffees, teas,
fine wines and beers.

~~Open for lunch and evening meals.~~

~~Special Christmas menu
available during December.~~

~~New Years Eve Celebration.~~

QUALITY SQUARE
LUDLOW
01584 878000

land is staunchly against any development, SSDC have assured us that the local plan will protect the site, and the Lower Mill Street car park plan has been withdrawn. On another front, we have been enquiring about whether there is any possibility of Ludlow's being nominated a World Heritage Site. Our MP supports us, but it seems that it would be years before Ludlow could be added to the so-called 'tentative list' which the UK would put forward to UNESCO - and then many years more after that before the nomination might be approved. However, I feel we should start this process.

You can read more at

<http://www.unesco.org/whc/onquoc.htm>.

There has been controversy about the Ludlow Library and Resource Centre (strongly opposed by your Committee at the time but forced through by Shropshire County Council), and there are new plans available for 18 Castle Street. Although the facade is traditional, there are too many windows (because the plan is for sixteen dwellings) and the Committee feels that the number of flats (and hence the windows) should be reduced. The rear of the building is modern. Pressure on Ludlow continues with applications submitted to SSDC for over a hundred new houses in January alone, and there has been interest from McDonald's as apparently, once the town's population rises over 10,000, a 'fast-food' shop of this type would be viable.

In this copy of Heritage News you will find a short summary of the results of the Membership Survey which we sent to you all. The full survey results will be published soon and will also be made available on our web site: www.ludlowcivicsociety.org on the Internet where you can also find out more information about such things as the initiatives and forthcoming events, and obtain back copies of Heritage News.

Finally, I'd like to notify you that I will be standing down at the AGM on 22nd May. Please accept my thanks for your support during the year - especially from those who have passed on 'useful snippets' and advice. I would particularly like to thank all the members of the Committee who have worked very hard for the Society during the year. Their unfailing loyalty, enthusiasm and good

humour has been wonderful and so I leave with regret. I'd like to wish you all good fortune for the rest of the year.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership numbers have dropped slightly this year although a telephone follow-up of those who have not renewed did not reveal any particular reason.

It is obviously important for the Society to maintain a high profile in the town to attract new members. Our existing leaflet and supplies of Heritage News distributed at key locations in town are a vital factor in this.

But, in addition, you will have noticed the new blue plastic plaques which have appeared in recent months displayed by many of our advertisers in their shop windows and doors. We are very grateful to our loyal advertisers for their ready agreement to help in this way.

When passing on your copy to anyone who might be interested in joining, please draw to their attention the application form at the bottom of this page (which now includes a Gift Aid declaration).

EVENTS

The lectures for next year should, we hope, appeal to a wide variety of tastes. The first, on September 11th, will be given by Anthony Howard, one of our most popular speakers. The title is unsettled as yet, but, from previous experience, whatever his subject, he succeeds in making it fascinating. This is followed, on October 9th, by a talk from Timothy Mowl, the distinguished architectural historian.

On November 6th (the first, not the second Wednesday in the month) the Fred Reeves lecture will be given by Sir Roy Strong, who needs no introduction. His subject will be 'The Renaissance Banquet'. On December 11th, we plan to have an Open Forum when everyone can pose questions (and produce answers), followed by a Christmas party.

2003 starts with three talks given by members of the Ludlow History Group. This is followed, on February 12th by a lecture on Hawkstone Hall by Richard Hayes which ties in with this year's talk on the restoration of the park and gardens at Hawkstone. On March 12th, Robert Copeland, a world expert on Spode, willow-pattern, and all pottery, will be giving a lecture on blue and white pottery. We

hope to follow this with a visit to the Potteries, to the Spode factory and perhaps another, or the Gladstone Pottery Museum. Details to be arranged. On April 12th (a Friday) we hope that Sir Patrick Cormack will be free to give us a talk on the Palace of Westminster and its treasures.

Finally, an extra, on May 8th, Helen Glanville, art historian and expert restorer, has promised to give us a lecture on the restoration of the Tintoretto of Agen.

2001-2002 Officers & Committee Members

President:	Sir Keith Thomas
Vice-Presidents:	Dr Martin Speight Dick Stephens Matthew Green MP
Chairman:	Patrick Beauteament
Vice Chairman:	Prue Bellak
Hon. Treasurer:	Nick Holcombe
Hon. Secretary:	Valerie Thomas
Committee:	Michael Coleman-Smith, Bill Eastwell, Mike Evans, Stephen Evans, John Farley, Beatrice Hely-Hutchinson, Bill Lloyd-Kitchen, Daniel McDowell, James McFarlane, Gareth Williams, .

The publication of Heritage News is made possible by 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 you next visit them. Thank you.

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 £6¹⁰ per person - normally due on September 1st. I enclose £..... to cover.

Cheques payable to 'Ludlow Civic Society' please.

Please treat all my subscriptions and/or donations to the Ludlow Civic Society from 6 April and until further notice as GIFT AID.

I am currently a UK taxpayer.

Signed:.....Date:.....

NAME: (MR/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

ADDRESS

POSTCODE