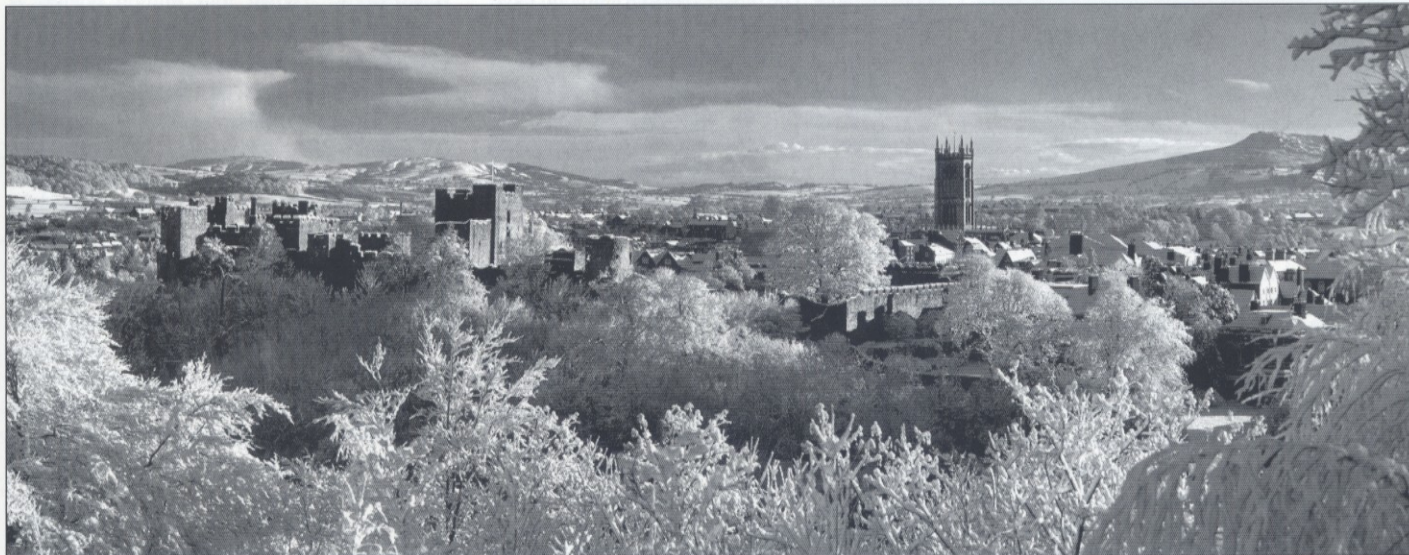


Ludlow Heritage News

Published twice a year by LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY

No.37 WINTER 2002

FREE



Winter in Ludlow.

Photo: Gareth B. Thomas F.R.P.S.

SIX ENGLISH TOWNS, 3. RICHMOND: Harold R. Dick, Hon. Consultant Architect to Richmond and District Civic Society.

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

Richmond Town originated as a servicing community around the Castle which in the eleventh century was the administrative and military base for the north of England. Therefore, during the following ten centuries it was essentially a garrison town with all the advantages and disadvantages that ensued as a result of the historic events that occurred from time to time.

The town's topographical location, chosen initially for defence, with steep hills and the River Swale on its south and west, deterred development and limited its communications to such an extent that it has remained a small town, with its architectural character based on local stone and a traditional style of building. Little wonder that it was chosen by Alec Clifton-Taylor to be one of the six towns for his BBC programme and subsequent book, for the whole object of the exercise was to record the historic charm and flavour of such towns as had not been destroyed by modern development, with out-of-scale buildings and roads that cut through and divided communities into isolated areas with no visual identity - something which has been occurring alarmingly to too many English towns over the length and breadth of the country.

The BBC programme was made shortly after the introduction of the Civic Amenities Act of 1967 which established the long-awaited conservation areas and listing of historic and rare buildings to preserve and maintain them. Such was the general enthusiasm at the time, but thirty or so years further on and with another generation in power with different attitudes, although with good intentions, have matters really improved or just remained static?

Several changes occurred in Richmond during the 1970s which were to have a great impact upon the town, many of them good but some disastrous. The Town Borough Council lost its identity as a unitary authority and became part of the Richmondshire District Council. Public sewers and drainage, along with water supplies were taken over by a regional authority, and street lighting came under the control of the North Yorkshire County Council. Whilst these changes were taking place and everyone was trying to reorganise, Richmond lost its status as a Garrison Town because the MOD commenced improvement and development to nearby Catterick Garrison which is to become the largest military garrison in Europe.

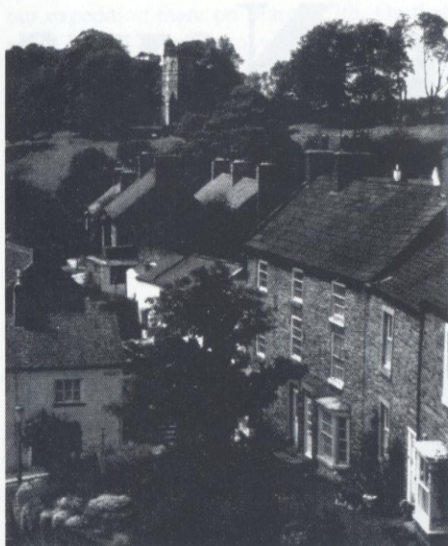
This situation greatly affects the economy of the area as many people rely upon the income generated. It did not happen overnight but was a long, slow change that started during the

1970s, gathering impetus as the years went by, culminating today in multi-million pound projects and developments. The District Council Offices are also going to move, leaving at least six large buildings in the centre of Richmond Town empty.

The falling of the local economy, accelerated by shop closures, general lack of interest by its population in supporting the town, bureaucracy, regulations and restrictions, has raised the cost of living, making recovery a very difficult and slow process indeed.

Tourism has been the saving grace for the town. It has built up over the years and become one of the major industries, together with other small service businesses set up by individuals wishing to make a living in a small and delightful community away from the large, bustling conurbations. For the town has quite a lot to offer for those who like to see the quaint old streets and buildings which still remain intact from the Georgian period when most of the structures were built or reconstructed at a time when the area was most influential.

English Heritage, who are now responsible for the Castle, have recently made some improvements to its entrance and created a small information centre. In forming these new facilities with an imposing gateway, archaeological excavations were carried out around the old moat and drawbridge with



*Cornforth Hill and Culloden Tower.
Richmond District Council*

interesting results. Investigations are currently being made in the Cockpit which contained an early garden adjacent to the Great Hall (Scolland's Hall). The Great Court is also used for several public events which successfully supplement the tourist trade.

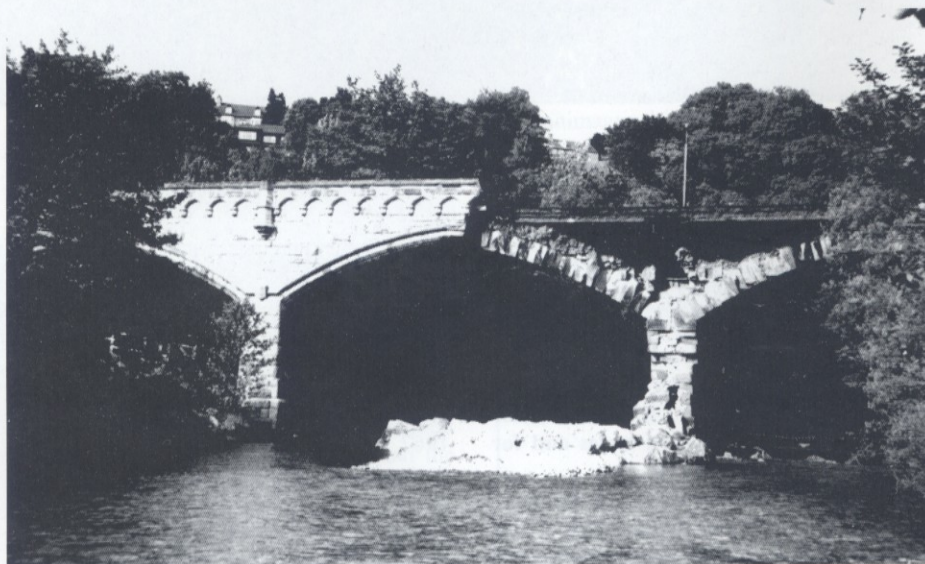
Saint Agatha's Abbey ruins, also looked after by English Heritage, have remained much the same since 1970, but have been an attraction to vandals as there is no caretaker residing on the site. Some damage has also been done to old frescoes on the walls of the Easby Parish Church which lies within the Abbey precinct, a building which predates the Abbey.

Being designated an Outstanding Conservation Area, and many of the buildings within the boundary of the town being listed, a system of grant aid became available to house owners for repairs to their property on condition that original, natural and traditional materials were used. This whole operation was supervised under the County Council who contributed to the grant monies. It did not take long for unscrupulous builders and devious house owners to find loopholes in the system that eventually caused the scheme to be abandoned.

Furthermore, the County was looking for ways to cut expenditure. Many of the buildings repaired under this project have since needed further major repairs.

Similar happenings must have taken place elsewhere in the country, for Central Government also withdrew the grant system, replacing it with much more stringent conditions. These, together with modified building regulations and health and safety requirements, have increased building costs considerably. The businesses in Richmond have been affected in this way; the shops, especially the small traditional retail type of buildings, do not easily convert into the large modern type of shop that is preferred today. Rents and rateable values also deter these traders, resulting in a fall in the number of shops and an increase in charity shops. This situation has been exacerbated by the introduction of supermarkets on out-of-town-centre sites. Woolworth's, however, did stay in the Market Place, purchasing a large empty property and demolishing it except for the front façade. The new structure behind does blend in with the surrounding properties as the architectural scale is designed to be compatible.

Richmond Grammar School, established in the sixteenth century, became a comprehensive school in 1971 and amalgamated with the County Modern Secondary School. The Friary building with large playing fields, which acted as a dormitory for grammar school children, automatically came into the hands of the North Yorkshire County Education Authority, who proceeded to close it. Twenty years later they put the playing fields up for sale and against a vast number of objections, sold the site for a supermarket. When four million pounds is gained by a unitary authority it is difficult to oppose such developments on grounds of amenity, especially when the scheme includes two-hour free parking for the town. Such pressures to develop open areas within the town centre are increasing and not many are left. Scores of small infill sites have been utilized for houses, and constraining influences will soon be placed on surrounding areas for us to resist. Traffic has increased considerably in the town and the County Highway Surveyor has carried out many changes over the years, all minor ones, but taken collectively they have become controversial: one-way traffic systems in and out of the Market Place; parking places



The bridge in its collapsed state.

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

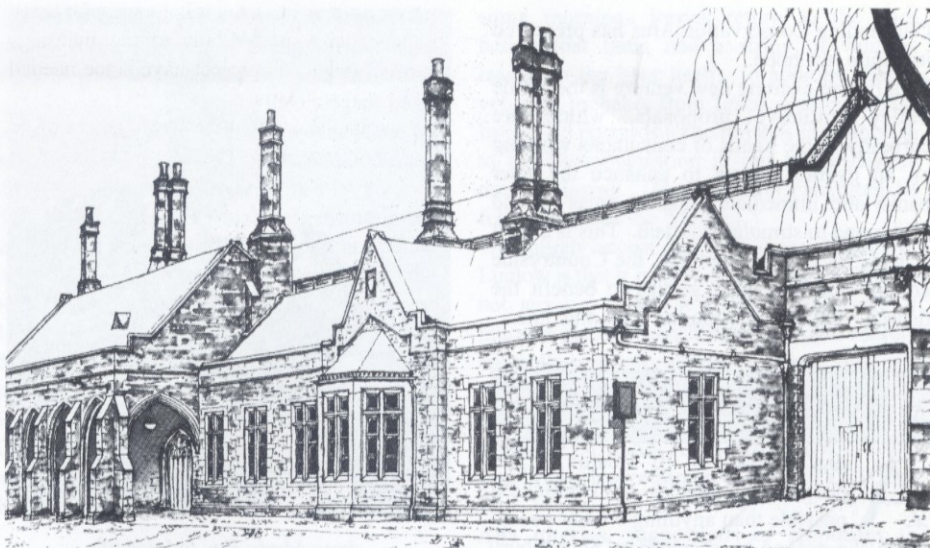
Prize winning speciality sausages

catering for taxis and the disabled; yellow and white painted lines all over the Cobbled Market area - which, incidentally, is a 'listed structure'. Other items of dispute are the pavements which never seem to be without patched tarmac areas or damaged pavers from heavy lorries trying to park. The Council has resisted putting Yorkstone slabs down because of cost or because in winter they would be slippery if frost occurred on the steep gradients. It is, however, interesting to read Sarah Sands's article in the Daily Telegraph which concluded: 'But since the town relies so much on heritage-hungry tourists, why, in this stone rich shire, has the Council relaid pavements with slabs made of cement?'

Finkle Street has been pedestrianised, and the paving here is better, but there were problems at first, and whether or not it was a direct result, several shops closed. Things have slowly started to resolve themselves, and our Post Office, now too small for the town, moved here. The old, large premises in Queen's Road has become a Weatherspoon's Public House.

Two very good events have taken place that deserve a merit from our Society. The first was the purchase of the Culloden Tower which had been in private ownership and had been badly vandalised. This Tower was bought by the Landmark Trust, completely restored and made into very desirable holiday accommodation. Temple Lodge and its grounds containing the Tower have since changed hands, and the gardens, which were originally part of John York's house (now demolished) near The Green, are being restored to their original state as far as possible.

The second event is more recent and is currently under construction. The Georgian Theatre Royal, the oldest eighteenth century theatre in its original condition in Europe, is having a new extension with a more appropriate main entrance and staircase with lift facilities, toilets and coffee bar etc. The original building, undergoing repairs, will remain and be linked to the new updated facility building with a fully glazed entrance and balcony to restore the visual appearance



Richmond Station. The Last train left in 1969

of the old theatre, yet providing modern accommodation for the public that will not detract from the overall concept of this valuable asset to the town.

Equally there have been two happenings that do not deserve any merit at all. The Bridge, a Grade II listed structure, which connects the old Railway Station from the town over the River Swale collapsed because of erosion below the centre pier. This was caused by a storm water outfall constructed adjacent to the bridge some fifteen years earlier which under storm conditions caused a circular eddy in the river. This eventually eroded the river bed to a depth of three metres below the pier footings. It is now fully repaired with stone tooled and ornately carved to match the original, but ironically it cost the County almost the same amount as they received from the sale of the Friary sports field.

We are currently awaiting new proposals for the Richmond Railway Station which was a terminal station put into disuse during the Beeching era. Alec Clifton-Taylor's book described the use of this building as a Garden Centre as a shining example of enterprise and imagination by the District Council in

purchasing the station and leasing it for this purpose, an excellent case that should be recognised throughout the country. Alas, as landlords the Council did not carry out repairs or improvements for years to this structure and the Garden Centre business carried on with plastic sheets to keep the rain off their wares, and also had to exist with electric lighting all day because of boarded up roof glazing, together with many other disadvantages. In the Millennium year a Heritage Grant permitted the improvements to be made. This was immediately followed by increasing the rent to such an amount that the Garden Centre tenants had no option but to give notice. Apparently the Council now wishes to sell or lease the building. What has happened to the imagination and enterprise over the last thirty years when making a quick buck seems to Councillors the best way forward? Richmondshire District Council is involved in many areas within their boundary. Wensleydale and Swaledale combined to form the District in 1974. The more influential area, Wensleydale, has dominated the limited funds available, to the detriment of the rest of the area. Only Richmond's status as an



TREASURE
— & SON LTD — Est. 1777

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

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

CASTLE BOOKSHOP
5 Castle Street
Ludlow, SY8 1AS

Tel: 01584 872562

Fax: 01584 876366

Proprietor - Stanton Stephens

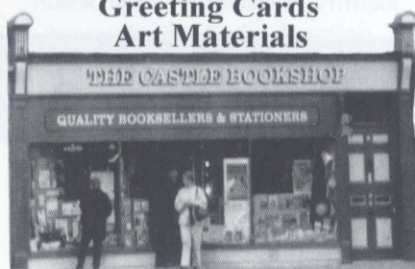
Books and Maps

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

Outstanding Conservation Area has preserved its future, we hope.

Finally, one exciting new venture is the Swale Valley Initiative proposals, which are currently in the hands of consultants working on an overall project to enhance the river banks and immediate adjacent areas around Richmond to stimulate tourism. This is a pilot scheme by English Heritage, the Countryside commission and other groups to benefit the district. We are awaiting the final outcome.

ANNA MARIA FAY: Julia Ionides

Anna Maria Fay of Boston, USA, described Ludlow as 'more antique if possible than anything we have seen' when she arrived by coach from Shrewsbury in November 1851. She had come to stay with her uncle, Richard Fay, at Moor Park. She remained in England for nearly a year and most of that time was spent in England. She was aged twenty-three and during her stay she wrote numerous letters home to her mother and brother and sisters. These vividly describe her life in Shropshire and the places she visited, which included Oakly Park, Henley Hall, Walcot Hall and Downton Hall and Castle. She lunched, dined, danced and sang with the occupants of these houses and all these events were relayed to her family back home. Anna Maria came from a large and distinguished family. She was born in Savannah, Georgia, then moved to New York and later to Boston where she spent the last forty years of her long life.

Sometimes Anna Maria and her cousin, Kitty, rode into Ludlow to attend the services at St. Laurence's Church. 'Nothing could exceed the solemnity of the scene, the antique roof, the vaulted arches above us, the stained-glass window of some chapel behind the organ, the noble organ, the rich screens dividing this portion of the church from the choir and chapels...', she wrote. She described every detail of the service as well as, on another occasion, the composition of the organ as she



Anna Maria Fay in later life

knew it would be of interest to her brother. She gives entertaining and perceptive pen portraits of local notables such as Lady Harriet Clive of Oakly Park: 'Lady Harriet is a great personage,' she wrote. 'Everyone stands in awe of her. She is tall and dignified and as frigid as the Arctic Ocean.' Sir William Rouse-Boughton did not fare much better as she remarked that he was 'evidently a domestic tyrant' and his daughters stood 'in awe of him, and his caprices are humoured in every way.' Despite these intimidating personages, Anna Maria enjoyed all sorts of pastimes during her stay - dancing, charades, sketching and painting, riding to hounds, going to both Leominster and Shrewsbury races and attending the celebrations for the coming of the railway to Ludlow. Anna Maria's letters were first published as Victorian Days in England, Letters of an American Girl, 1851-2, in 1923, the year after her death. Copies of these are scarce and it was her vivid descriptions of the area around Ludlow which encouraged the Dog Rose Press to reprint her book as a facsimile with pictures and additional material by Julia Ionides and Peter Howell. Further impetus came from the exhibition put on by the Richard's Castle Local History Group about Anna Maria.

On April 20th Anna Maria observed the crowds who flocked to Ludlow to see the opening of the new railroad.

Yesterday was a great day in the annals of Ludlow, the celebration of the opening of the railroad. Why the hills and valleys did not rise up against the modern monster introduced into secluded Shropshire surprises me, and why the wonderful echo in the Castle that once replied only to the din of arms and in later times gave answer to nothing less unusual than the call of the guide for the benefit of visitors - why this same echo will not expire of bronchitis, in having to give back whistle for whistle, is still more surprising.

We got into town too late to see the train arrive, but we were told that all the fields around the station were a sea of people, most of whom were as innocent of having ever seen an engine as the English would say we Americans were of ever having seen the sea serpent. We went into town under a laurel arch. The Angel's Inn was decorated with greens and flowers and the Town Hall was resplendent with verdant trimmings. At the station was another arch upon which was lettered, "Welcome to Ludlow, Success to Brassy" (the Contractor). Before the Angel's Inn, for some distance up and down the street, stood every variety of carriage, the Angel being able to admit only the horses. All sorts of people thronged the street - tall women in flounces, little women in flounces, hogs-head-like proportions in flounces, pole-like proportions in flounces - as a general thing flounces being of the heaviest material - all sorts of colors, all sorts of mantles and shawls, all sorts of bonnets, without doubt the spring fashion when Mrs Noah had to change shop and retire from the Ark; this conglomeration of bonnets and shawls being interspersed with the masculine element in coats of every shade of gray and brown and black, and trousers no less various, smock frocks, hats and caps and wide-awakes, topping heads owning noses as red and purple as beer and port wine can make them - post-boys in yellow jackets, white ties and top

MORGANS SOLICITORS

- PROPERTY
- FAMILY
- BUSINESS

7 MILL STREET, LUDLOW
SHROPSHIRE SY8 1BA

Tel: 01584 872333

Fax: 01584 876459

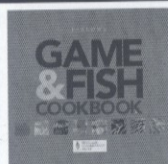
A GREAT ADVERT FOR THINK GRAPHIC DESIGN

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

Merlin Unwin Books

IDENTITY • MARKETING • BOOK DESIGN

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



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

COUNTY TILES LUDLOW



Purveyors of
Fine Ceramic Tiles

16 CORVE STREET, LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE, SY8 1DA
Tel: (01584) 879786 Fax: (01584) 879787

boots, coachmen in livery, recruiting sergeants, policemen, and every variety of the lesser species of the genus Man, made up the crowd that thronged Ludlow.

The amusements of the day were to consist of imprimis -dèjeuner, given by Mr.Brassy to a select three hundred or more, at two o'clock in the ballroom. Then, later in the afternoon, rustic sports in the castle green were to delight the riff-raff, and the day was to wind up with a ball....

The 'rustic sports' included 'six boys to eat treacle loaves' and races for married and single women.

....The Methodist minister issued his edict against them in another placard in which he denounced these sports as degrading and demoralizing, particularly the race on the part of the women. You can imagine it was no place for us, but Richard went and was disgusted. Only four married women ran and no single ones....

The hardback book is now available from the Dog Rose Press, 26, Bell Lane, Ludlow, SY8 1BN. Telephone number: 01584 874567; email dogrose.trust@virgin.net. Price £15 plus £2.50 postage.

READERS' LETTERS

HEAVY LORRIES IN THE STREETS OF LUDLOW

From Margaret Saunders

Sir,

In the Spring issue of Heritage news, you wrote about the increasing size of lorries, often making unnecessary and damaging journeys through the town. I share your anxiety. I have been horrified by the sight of these great vehicles charging up and down Corve Street by day and, I have to report, by night. A week or so ago, unable to sleep, I opened a west facing window for some air. Usually the scene beyond my garden is tranquil, a glint of the little River Corve, a meadow with ewes and their lambs, then, hardly visible, Coronation

Avenue. But this particular night I heard the roar of traffic and saw three big lorries racing along Coronation Avenue towards the town. Relating this to a friend, she then told me of an incident in the middle of the town, when an articulated lorry got stuck; she wondered if the driver had been misdirected.

This led us to consider the sign posting in the area. It has always seemed strange that Ludlow is not mentioned on the signpost at the roundabout on the A49 outside Shrewsbury. Leominster, yes, but not Ludlow, I think, until the Culmington turning, after which the sign points to Ludlow, in the direction of Bromfield Road. The sign does not even add 'Town Centre'. A driver unfamiliar with the town might well think that is the only way to proceed. Perhaps this is worth your consideration.

Yours etc. MARGARET SAUNDERS
The Tan House, 72 Corve Street,
Ludlow, SY8 1DU

From Julian and Rhona Watson

Sir,

My wife and I are relative newcomers to the delights of Ludlow, having built our house in Corve Street some three years ago. We are reluctant to complain but you do ask for views. During our stay in Corve Street we have been well aware of the noise and vibration caused by the heavy lorries from Lloyd's yard and other sources.

The Council Noise Abatement Officer investigated the problem of lorries leaving the Corve Street entrance to Lloyd's yard in the early hours some two years ago. In response to the complaints of others, she arranged for noise meters to be installed in our house and those of others nearby. She later visited the owner of the lorry yard with the evidence gained. Since that time there has been a curfew on lorries leaving the yard before six a.m. and an agreement that the lorries will use the exit in Station Drive on Mondays. The curfew is generally maintained, although on

some mornings lorries return to the yard before that hour, and a string of vehicles leaves on the hour itself. In addition, heavy vehicles, probably from Tesco, pass our house from 5.30 onwards. The noise is loud enough to drown conversation in our house despite double-glazing. The vibration can often be felt throughout the building.

We entirely accept that one of the delights of Ludlow is that it is still a working town. We are not anxious to see it become some sort of museum piece. Nevertheless, we would entirely and enthusiastically support a weight limit or a full curfew of lorries were that ever possible.

Yours etc. JULIAN AND RHONA WATSON
The Friary, Corve Street, Ludlow, SY8 1DL

Any queries, suggestions or responses to letters or articles will be gratefully received. Please address your letters to:
The Editor, Ludlow Heritage News, The Broad Gate, Ludlow SY8 1NJ

AFTER THE BALL WAS OVER: Derek Williams

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

In the summer of 1902 Ludlow celebrated the coronation of Edward VII. One of the first events was a tea party for 2000 Ludlow children: girls had their teas in the Town Hall, boys in the Assembly Rooms and toddlers in the Market Hall. Each child was given a Coronation Cup paid for half by the Mayoress and half by the Ludlow Rejoicings Committee. On 6th August the Mayor and Mayoress gave a ball in honour of the King and Queen. It was a grand affair, with sumptuous refreshments in the Market Hall for 370 guests and dancing in the Assembly Rooms and the Town Hall from 9.00p.m. until 4.00a.m. To provide guests with a direct, level and dry route between the two ballrooms, a footbridge was built over



Zani lady

Broc
Anglais
44 Broad Street
Leominster
Herefordshire
01568 614382

Corve Street
Interiors
15 Corve Street
Ludlow
Shropshire
01584 877200

Country Furniture, Gilt Mirrors,
Lighting, Linen Sheets, Textiles,
Indoor garden area selling French
Painted Armoires, French Café
Tables and Chairs

OPEN
10am - 5pm
Monday to Saturday
Ludlow closed Tuesdays

Holiday Experience Nr. St. Malo

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

Ludlow Heritage News

Advertise here for only £25
and reach over 1000 readers
in the Ludlow area.

Contact the Civic Society for
more information in writing
to The Editor, Ludlow
Heritage News, The Broad
Gate, Ludlow, Shropshire
SY8 1NJ.

Castle Street, from the window of the Council Chamber to the Assembly Rooms.

On Coronation Day itself the streets, shops and private houses of the town were lavishly decorated with flags and portraits of the King and Queen. At 11.00a.m. there was a procession of members of the Corporation, the Police and the Fire Brigade from Castle Square to a Coronation Service in the Parish Church. In the evening, the Volunteer Band led a torch-lit procession from Castle Green, down Broad Street, over Ludford Bridge and up to the Bowling Green, opposite which stood a huge bonfire. The band took up its position on the Bowling Green and accompanied dancing to the light of the bonfire and the torches of onlookers. Rockets were fired at intervals. At about 10.30p.m. the band, torchbearers and all marched back to Castle Square where the playing of the National Anthem marked the end of the entertainment.

After the Coronation, the Ludlow Town Council had to return to some of the awkward issues with which it had been struggling earlier in the year. The most vexatious of these was electric lighting. All over the country, towns were introducing electric lighting, and having

to choose between public or 'municipal' schemes, the profits from which could be set against the rates, and 'private' schemes in which the profits would accrue to the company supplying the electricity. A Board of Trade Report in July 1902 showed that most municipalities were adopting public schemes, and that once in place, they yielded handsome returns to the local authorities concerned. A disadvantage of public schemes was their heavy installation costs.

In February, after years of careful preparation, which included evaluating the schemes already in place in comparable towns and briefing other Ludlow councillors, the Electric Lighting Committee had presented its proposal for a municipal scheme to the full Council. To general surprise this was rejected (see the previous article in this series). The proposal envisaged borrowing £7,500 to cover these costs, and some councillors felt that this would take the municipal debt to intolerable heights. (The Corporation Year Book for 1902 showed that the Council already had outstanding loans of more than £20,000, mainly because of recent investments in water supply, sewerage and

sewage disposal: a much higher debt than was usual for a town of Ludlow's size.)

After this unexpected setback, the Committee did little for several months and its members became resigned to the loss of their scheme. They then began to negotiate with a private supplier. Plans were prepared to sell to the Silvertown Company for £150 the 'Provisional Order' that had empowered the Ludlow corporation to generate electricity. There was some delay in putting this proposal to the Council but it was generally assumed that it would be passed before the end of the year. In November, an editorial in *The Advertiser* commented that 'it seems clear that there soon will be electric lighting in Ludlow, that the profits will be considerable and that the ratepayers will get no benefit.'

The proposal to engage the Silvertown Company came before the Council in December, but met with unexpected opposition. Some of those who had previously favoured engaging a private supplier now wondered whether this approach would be beneficial to Ludlow in the long run. A decision was postponed until the New Year; one councillor called for a public meeting to resolve the issue but this was refused. At the end of 1902 the Council was, therefore, in a difficult position. Within the previous ten months it had considered both methods of obtaining electricity and failed to approve either. When would electric lighting come to the streets of Ludlow?

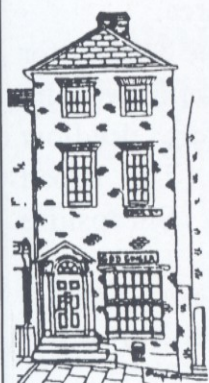


The elegant ballroom of the Ludlow Town Hall, where the Coronation of Edward VII was celebrated in August 1902. Photo: Howard Cheese

LUDLOW HERITAGE NEWS - BACK COPIES

We have a nearly full set of the issues of *Heritage News* apart from the very first two, Nos 1 and 2, April and December 1984, and No.16, Autumn/Winter 1991. If anyone has a copy of any of these, would they please allow us to photocopy and return them. It would be very satisfying to have them all in one place.

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 TAYLORING

F.J. BODENHAM LTD

BROAD STREET,
LUDLOW

01584 872786



Interesting and imaginative menu,
created in our open plan kitchen,
using local produce and served in
a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Opening Times

Monday to Saturday: 10am-4.30pm
Morning coffee and homemade cakes
served from 10am.
Lunch served 12-3pm

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

AA Rosette • Good Food Guide • Michelin Listed

**LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY
COMMITTEE NEWS**

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN MAY
TO OCTOBER 2002**

Any visitor to Ludlow will certainly be impressed with its history, its buildings and the charm and beauty of its surroundings. Any unperceptive visitor might, however, think it was a small country town where nothing much ever happened. He (and the lack of perception defines the sex) couldn't be more mistaken.

It seems to me that I can hardly turn round before I hear of some new worthwhile initiative to which the Civic Society can contribute, or from which it can learn or derive benefit.

Thus, in the six months or so since I was privileged to become the Society's Chairman, we have seen, or heard of, or shared in, developments on Whitcliffe, the Millennium Green, the Horseshoe Weir, the Assembly Rooms, the inception of the Ludlow Town Plan, the first moves towards the possible birth of Ludlow as Britain's first 'Slow Town', the establishment of the Ludlow Town Centre Residents' Association...and so on. And all of this in addition to Ludlow's regular major events - the Ludlow Festival and the Food and Drink Festival.

And in all of these activities it is voluntary effort and voluntary initiatives that are paramount. Ludlow is the right size of town for volunteers to make a perceptible impact. Smaller places may not have the necessary numbers or resources to do much. Larger towns can be impersonal and the temptation is to leave things to somebody else.

This is one reason why the Civic Society, in responding to various informal or official proposals (such as the First Deposit Draft of the Local Plan) has generally been cool towards those who seem to envisage the continuous or unlimited expansion of Ludlow. There seems little merit in enlargement for its own sake. Those who think that it would automatically lead to more facilities, greater

prosperity or lower council taxes, might like to consider whether this has been the outcome in places like Telford, Redditch or Kidderminster. Whatever the reasons, Ludlow has been spared much of the unthinking expansion and modernisation (most of which now looks a bit tawdry and dated) that took place in other Midland towns during the last few decades. It would be a pity to spoil it now. Members will know that there has been much discussion recently, within the South Shropshire District Council and elsewhere of the need for a proper balance between land allocated to housing and land for commercial/industrial use that gives rise to employment. The Society's Committee has been concerned for some time that the approach to Ludlow via Overton Road (the 'Southern Approaches') might be vulnerable to piecemeal development, leading eventually to the destruction of this most attractive entry to the town. Already the sewage works, cattle market and the Lower Barns Road Business Park have made inroads into what was previously an entirely rural access route to within half-a-mile of the town centre. In common with the Ludford Parish Council, the Richard's Castle Parish Council and the CPRE, the Society is aiming to restrain further development in this area. It has formed a sub-committee (John Farley is the Chairman) which will devote itself to this objective and to liaison with the CPRE and the two Parish Councils.

More generally, we shall continue to make our contribution to the development of a Town Plan (Ludlow), Local Plan (South Shropshire) and Structure Plan (Shropshire). We shall continue to monitor the weekly list of planning applications made to the SSDC and to offer an input to the Ludlow Conservation Area Advisory Committee. All this takes time and effort, willingly given by members of the Committee and others, in the belief that we shall thereby help to preserve and improve the unique town in which we have the good fortune to live.

In writing this Chairman's Report (my first), I

think of all those (not only Chairmen) who have contributed to the success of the Society since it was founded in 1954. And I think particularly of my immediate predecessor, Patrick Beauteament, who was elected at a difficult time in the Society's history but who succeeded in bringing together divergent views on how the future of Ludlow should best be nurtured. It was a great loss to us, and to the town, when his professional life required him to move to Malvern, after only a year in office as Chairman. I am glad to report that he and his wife have settled down well; those who remember Patrick's talk to the Society on the restoration of Old Gate House will not be surprised to hear that builders in Malvern are enjoying a minor boom. Patrick and Judy are still members and so will receive this issue of Heritage News - so I use it to send them a message of good wishes and our thanks for their great contribution to the Society.

EVENTS

The Ludlow Civic Society lecture season started with a flourish, with a talk by the well-known journalist and broadcaster, Anthony Howard, who entertained us with a description of his six years as Obituary Editor of the Times. He was followed by Dr. Timothy Mowl, the architectural historian, who gave an erudite and stimulating account of the different influences on country house gardens. He will be followed by Sir Roy Strong whose lecture is now entitled 'Splendour at Table'. Sir Roy's latest book: *Feast: a History of Grand Eating* has just been published. At Christmas we are holding a Question and Answer session, when everyone can have their say, followed by wine.

The year 2003 will start with three papers given by the Historical Research Group, followed by the Rev. Richard Hayes who will be talking about Hawkstone Hall and the Hill family. Then Robert Copeland will give a lecture on Blue and White Transfer-printed Pottery. Robert Copeland is the Historical Consultant to Spode, and we hope that he will join us at the Spode Factory, when we have

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'

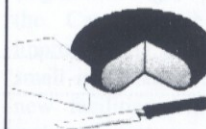
- Wedding List Service now available
- Stockists of Staub, Salter, Meyer
Prestige, Victorinox & Berndes

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

our expedition there on March 27th. On that occasion we propose to visit the Gladstone Pottery Museum which tells the story of the Pottery towns and their inhabitants, as well as having a wonderful collection of Victorian loos and tiles. We are having lunch there before going to the Spode Factory where the tour covers every aspect of pottery from raw clay to finished tableware, ending with the Blue Room (a museum of blue and white pottery) and a variety of factory shops and tea. The final lectures for the season will be given by Sir Patrick Cormack who will talk about the Palace of Westminster, and Helen Glanville, Fine Art lecturer and picture restorer, who will tell the story of the Tintoretto in Agen.

MEMBERSHIP

As agreed at the AGM in May, the Society's annual subscription has been increased from £6 to £10 per person with effect from September 1st 2002.

Although this may seem a steep increase, it should be borne in mind that the Society has undertaken to hold the subscription at this level for five years i.e. until August 31st 2007. Our leaflet has been reprinted to include a Gift Aid declaration form, and supplies are in place at four key locations throughout the town at the Assembly Rooms, the Tourist Information Centre, St. Laurence's Church and the Library. Included with each leaflet is a separate sheet summarising the Society's public meetings for 2002/2003.

Supplies of this edition of Heritage News will also be maintained at the same four locations from December: it will still be free of charge. When you have finished with your copy of either, please pass it on to anyone you think may be interested in joining the Society.

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.

LUDLOW MUSIC SOCIETY

Ludlow Music Society has embarked on yet another season of concerts. These feature professional musicians of the highest calibre, and are held in the main Hall of Moor Park School, near Ludlow. The season opened with a concert by the Martinu String Quartet from the Czech Republic with Christopher Langdown (piano), playing works by Beethoven, Martinu and Dvorak. This was followed by a piano recital by the young British pianist, Ian Fountain who played Brahms, Beethoven, Janacek and Rachmaninov.

In the New Year (2003), the French oboist, François Leleux, accompanied by Emmanuel Strosser will play works by Beethoven (an arrangement of a trio), Schumann (Adagio and Allegro in A flat, op.70) as well as other works by the Schumann family, both Robert and Clara, ending with the Introduction, Theme and Variations from Donizetti's La Favorita by Antonio Pasculli - a real showpiece to end this interesting concert.

The final concert of the season features the Vienna Mozart Piano Trio, playing works by Mozart (Piano Trio no.5 in E, K.542), Mendelssohn (Piano Trio no.1 in D minor, op.49) and ending with the highly intense Piano Trio no.2 in E minor, op.67 by Dmitri Shostakovich, a work written in 1944, dedicated to his friend Ivan Sollertinsky, and including, in the finale, an example of Jewish music which so fascinated the composer in his later years.

A subscription ticket to these concerts provides a considerable advantage over single tickets (which can be had at the door, price £10, students £3). Further details from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs Rosalind Caird, Glebe House, Caynham, Ludlow SY8 3BN, tel. 01584 876141.

LOVED AND HATED BUILDINGS

There was not a huge response to this request but enough to put the Butter Cross and the Reader's House ahead as clear favourites. Other suggestions were the range of buildings with the arcade by the Angel, and 72 Corve Street. No prizes for guessing the most hated building - the new Library and Museum Resource Building, though one reader nominated Tesco. Please continue to write in if you wish to suggest other buildings for either category.

Extracts from two letters sent to our Membership Secretary are perhaps relevant here:

...I continue to feel in harmony with the philosophy of the Civic Society but have a strong sense of how limited its power is to effect the less than gradual erosion of Ludlow's unique character...I hate the decisions made by the local authorities to allow the building of four massively ugly structures in this beautiful town - Tesco at the foot of the Georgian gem of Corve street, the Leisure Centre spoiling one of the perfect approaches to the town, the Cattle Market and other industrial buildings on green belt land south of Ludlow, and most recently the Museum Resource centre, a building uniquely disfiguring..

...I'd have thought the first consideration of an architect would be to design a building that is sympathetic to the surrounding landscape. I must say I preferred the car park. At least one could view the countryside round about. Now that's been obliterated by a building that lacks any charm whatsoever. I can hardly bear to walk past it now, it offends me so deeply. We are always called obscurantist old fogeys when we criticise new buildings. But it's not that I'm against modern architecture; it's just that so much of it is so brutally commonplace and unimaginative. The argument that is always trotted out is the one about how Georgian buildings exist cheek by jowl with Jacobean buildings - why shouldn't modern buildings do the same? The difference is that they had natural good taste in those days...

2002-2003 Officers & Committee Members

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

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 £10 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