

Ludlow Heritage News

Published twice a year by LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY

No.38 SUMMER 2003

FREE



The restored Horseshoe Weir, with heron, at Ludford Bridge. We congratulate the Ludlow Weirs Trust on the completion of this project, to which the Civic Society gave its full support. *Photo: Gareth B. Thomas F.R.P.S.*

SIX ENGLISH TOWNS, 5. STAMFORD: John Plumb, Chairman, Stamford Civic Society.

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

Stamford was the obvious choice for Alec Clifton-Taylor to include in his 'Six English Towns'. In 1978 it was a small market town with its town centre buildings, mainly before 1850, dominantly built of the local Jurassic Limestone. It was the first designated Town Centre Conservation Area and still sells itself to its visitors as 'the finest stone town in England'. Has it changed since 1978? Although native Stamfordians will claim it has grown considerably, in comparison with other nearby market towns, it has grown from 16,000 in 1978 to currently just under 20,000. But given its town centre pattern still based on the Saxon/Danish burgh, one can see why local people feel that it has grown more than they would have wished.

Alec Clifton-Taylor complained of the traffic. When he wrote, the A1 bypass had been opened some years, but traffic from the east and the west still came through the town and he looked forward to an east-west bypass. Nothing is that easy to achieve in Stamford and, in the twenty-first century, we can still find no acceptable solution to that problem. One possibility would involve infringement on Burghley Park, and to route traffic around the

north of the town would lead to significant housing development with its consequential effect on the narrow roads leading down to the town centre. He also complained of blackened buildings. Here, some progress has been made, ironically some by the BBC filming 'Middlemarch'.

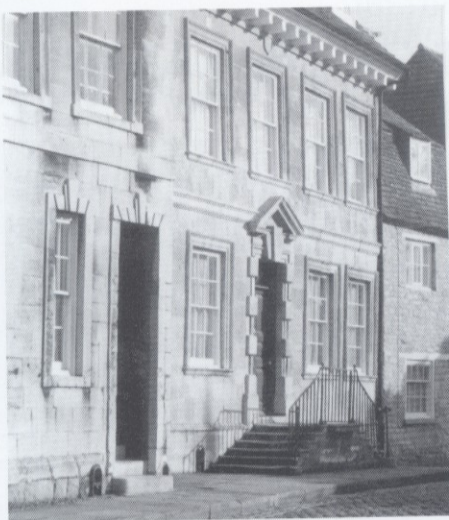
What would strike Alec Clifton-Taylor if he came back in 2003? As elsewhere he would see changes in the retail outlets: established family businesses in trades, now encompassed within supermarkets and DIY stores, have gone. Some have been replaced by quality speciality shops, but inevitably in the High Street by small chain stores and by charity shops. But Stamford has been relatively lucky in one other respect. Shops and offices in the town centre have declined in number. What has taken their place? There are a considerable number of eating establishments which have opened up in recent years, many of quality, and offering an excellent choice of café/teashops in the daytime for visitors, and an excellent choice, for a small town, of restaurants offering cuisine from all round the world. Stamford is no longer dead after six o'clock; one can eat well.

The other change that has affected town centre commercial property has been the conversion back to housing of property which has been either shops or offices. The effect of this is that there are not the empty shop units which afflict many small towns, and, secondly,

we do not have a town centre devoid of residents. Many fine properties have been well restored as residences and it has again become fashionable to live in the town centre. That has given rise to a problem with parked cars, but commuters and those who are retired, together with younger people living above many of the shops, constitute a new community in the Conservation Area.

Stamford's economy is now dependent on tourism, the functions of a market town (less a cattle market as such) and on being a dormitory for commuters to Peterborough and further afield. Traditional manufacturing industries have closed down or shrunk considerably in size. Any sites in the town centre used for such purposes have been cleared and used for housing. The land with both rail stations (one long since closed) has again been used for housing. One station is now private housing with a large sheltered housing complex behind it. The station still open has been cleaned, part of it used for a specialist bookshop and the former goods and coal yard developed for housing. The density of this is universally decried as excessive, and, sadly, it obliterates the view of the fine station frontage and, for the rail passenger, stands in the way of the fine view of Stamford across the meadows.

Land in the town centre for building purposes is in short supply and, by Midland standards, expensive. Land overall within the



No. 3 All Saints Place



Melbourne's Brewery



Barn Hill

town is also scarce for new housing as the present housing boundaries are hemmed in by Burghley Park, the Welland Valley, which can flood, and the County of Rutland. The demand for housing, both affordable and executive, greatly exceeds supply and, consequently, the density of new housing in the town is undesirably high, and the right balance of planted areas and adequate parking is not achievable. One problem of any Conservation Area is that housing design today is either poor pastiche or, worse, on the outskirts of the town, housing which could be anywhere in England.

There is today a curious contrast between the buildings of the town and their setting. We have seen excellent repair and restoration work, usually undertaken by local craftsmen, to stonework, Collyweston roofs and decorative ironwork, together with sensitive internal refurbishment of property. A tour encompassing Burghley House itself, many Burghley properties within the core of the Park, town houses and the excellently renovated Melbourne Brewery would well illustrate the progress made. Yet in much of the town centre roads are standard tarmac, paving stones no longer York stone but mass-produced ones, and the public square, street furniture and lamp-

posts are of poor quality and reflective of many post-war fashions. Something has gone wrong. Without a locally-based Council for essential services, it must be that those responsible do not share a sense of the importance and uniqueness of Stamford. No longer does the Borough Engineer see the broken paving slab on his way to work, nor the person in charge of street cleaning or weed control when arriving daily in his office in the town, get someone to deal with a problem he has just seen. Well-maintained buildings need well-maintained settings, and they too demand high standards of design. Imaginary contemporary architecture and design of the public realm are an essential component of a vibrant market town. How to achieve this is something needing urgent attention.

The 1978 photographs of Stamford may show superficially how little the town has changed, but that would be wrong. A great deal has changed, much of it for the better, but major challenges of traffic congestion, pedestrian safety and an ambience worthy of its fine stone buildings remain urgent in the twenty-first century.

In the Winter issue this year the last of the Six English Towns will be Ludlow itself.

**'ZED': ZERO FOSSIL
ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS IN
ARCHITECTURE: James Harris.**

The Civic Society's Ludlow Festival Architecture Lecture will be presented this summer by Bill Dunster RIBA of Bill Dunster Architects. He is one of the foremost designers in the UK who are adopting a revolutionary approach to the design of living and working communities.

Underlying the approach of the 'ZED' development team is the idea that the complete exhaustion of fossil fuel is inevitable in the long term, whilst the safe storage of nuclear waste continues to be an insoluble problem. Quite simply, 'sustainability' has become the new architectural morality as the 'energy crisis' affects our lives. Building design for a sustainable future is now a central architectural theme in direct relation to innovative building technology and affordable economics. Designers are having to understand how to integrate solar energy, natural ventilation, and renewable and recyclable material; there are now components, constructions and systems which can continue into an indefinite future - and when a Sainsbury's supermarket and the

**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**

email: ludlow@nockdeighton.co.uk

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*

Big Brother house are fuelled by solar energy, it's time to pay attention!

Bill Dunster's 'ZED' concept is one of the most visionary and comprehensive of current ideas. Zero energy developments aim to be as energy-efficient as possible, to add no carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, and to show that high quality, high density, adaptable homes can be comfortable, attractive - and affordable. Bill Dunster's achievement has been to turn the 'ZED' concept, a theoretically sustainable prototype, into 'BedZED', a recently completed development in Beddington, South London.

The 'BedZED' community consists of 82 town houses, flats and maisonettes, with 20 related work units, a sports club and football pitch, a nursery, health centre, organic café and shop. The project has a high enough density for an urban site and sufficient green space for a garden suburb atmosphere; every home has either a garden or a roof terrace. The design uses solar energy for heat, and wind power for ventilation; a green transport plan includes an on-site electric car pool, bicycle storage - and farmers' markets and allotments are being organised.

The 'BedZED' project is a collaboration between Bill Dunster Architects, 'Bioregional', an environmental charity specialising in sustainable developments using local resources, and the Peabody Trust, a housing association which funded the project as developer and client. Arup's engineers provided expertise in building-physics and servicing strategies; structural engineers and quantity surveyors completed the design team. A World Wild Life Fund grant funded a project manager - and there are many other innovative ideas and achievements too numerous to mention here.

Bill Dunster spent fourteen years with the award-winning architects Michael Hopkins and Partners, working on basic sustainability research for the Nottingham University campus and the new parliamentary building in Westminster. He established his own practice in 1999, living and working from his own ecologically sound house at East Molesey,

Surrey, designed as a prototype to test the 'ZED' principles suggested by his own research.

'BedZED' is a third-generation project, and the design team is already working on a fourth, with other ideas to be implemented. Don't miss hearing about them all during the last week of the Festival - on Friday 11th July, remember!

**LIGHT IN ST LAURENCE'S:
THE SIXTEENTH-CENTURY
CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS:**

Dr Margaret Clark



Religious procession from the Palmers' Guild window in St. Laurence's Church, with acolytes carrying candles.

A version of one of the papers given by the Ludlow Historical Research Group at a recent Civic Society meeting.

The Ludlow churchwardens' accounts of the sixteenth century are proving a mine of information on the lay tradespeople of the town, without whose enthusiastic co-operation the church, then as now, could not function. Beginning in 1540, at the close of Henry VIII's great decade of religious upheaval, they reflect the acceleration of change under Edward, reversal of policy under Mary, and the establishment of the Elizabethan settlement in 1559. In recording the payments made to those involved in all the changes of the Reformation, they illustrate the effects of change on everyday lives.

Three individuals, mentioned frequently between 1540 and 1560, illuminate the changes: literally so, in the case of Widow Troyte. In 1540 her husband had been the chief candlemaker to the church, and in 1542 she inherited his responsibility, continuing to provide candles until her death in June 1560. In the 1540s they are usually 'links', at 7d each. By the late 1550s, she usually provides 'syses', apparently like a standard modern household candle, sold by the pound at 2d or 3d. Her major annual production was of good quality wax, perhaps 12lb or so, for the paschal candle, a custom largely discontinued under Edward VI. Thus in 1548 she is paid 'for 16lb of wax to make the paschal, after 5d every lb', 6s 8d, and shares with William Powis 2s 6d for the actual making of it. In 1551-3 she seems to have had wax in hand, unused in Protestant services. Under Mary, however, she was able in 1555 to supply wax for the holy candle at Candlemas as well as the Easter candle: it was her finest hour.

The Troytes had property in College Street and around the churchyard in 1529, and in 1558 the Burgage Rentals show Joan Troyte, widow, occupying substantially the same tenements. One imagines her keeping beehives in the churchyard. She must certainly have been keeping bees on a major scale in the orchards of Ludlow, perhaps down Linney, to produce the necessary wax.

One certain beneficiary of her candlemaking was Thomas Rushbury, so well



TREASURE
— & SON LTD — *Estd. 1717*

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

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

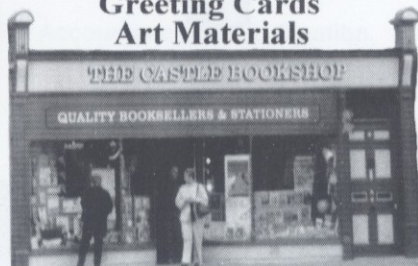
CASTLE BOOKSHOP
5 Castle Street
Ludlow, SY8 1AS

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

Ludlows' most contemporary
restaurant for excellent coffees,
teas, fine wines & beers.

Live Jazz on Sunday afternoons.

Open seven days for lunch,
evening meals & Sunday brunch

QUALITY SQUARE
LUDLOW
01584 878000

known around the church that he is usually referred to as 'Rushbury'. A deacon of the Palmers' Guild, he seems never to have taken major orders, but specialised in some of the routine tasks around the church such as ringing daybell or curfew. His preference for curfew over early rising becomes in the mid 1550s quite marked. He needed the widow's candles to go up the dark tower of an unlit church. He was provided with a pound or two at a time, 5d or 6d worth, probably a fortnight's supply. Mercifully in 1555 we find also 'to Rushbury, to burn in the vestry on Christmas Day in the morning, a bushel of charcoals'. He also used the widow's 'links': in the same year occurs 'to Troyte's wife for a link, that Rushbury set to go a-visiting'. Latterly he seems to have shown some culinary talents. In 1559 they 'paid Rushbury for a breakfast to the ringers upon Black Monday [Easter Monday] 12d'. A substantial meal costing half a week's wages for some: not just a panful of bacon and eggs. Where was it served: in the Deacon's Chamber?

Rushbury helped with other tasks, with ropes, for example, as bells were rehung or beams replaced. Under Mary he is busy repairing the vestments which had been concealed rather than destroyed under Protestant Edward: 'to Rushbury, for the mending of the Weavers' vestment and for two copes of red velvet' in 1556.

These copes among others had emerged from storage with Thomas Season. Mary's reign opens with 'to Thomas Season in part of 26s 8d due to him for four copes bought of him and restored to the church'. His loyalty to the old ways is evident. He was principally, though, the man with the ladders, who attended to bells, roof leads, or the rood beam. Barely had he renovated it at the close of Henry's reign when it was taken down. He replaced the rood beam for Mary and once more removed it for Elizabeth. His not to reason why, and his opinions he kept to himself. His speciality was glazing, and the destruction of images in Edward's reign kept him busy. Iconoclasm tended to become habitual vandalism, and the windows of St Margaret's and St Catherine's

chapels, on the route home from the pub, suffered badly. The weather contributed; in 1550 he went 'into the steeple on two windy nights to save the glass in the windows', with a well-earned 5d per night recompense for a dark and difficult job, where the widow's candles were of no avail. How, before electric flashlights, did he manage? Reglazing tower and chapels became, alas, a lucrative job: in 1548, 36s 9d; in 1560, 60s 2d. Little trace has yet been found of him in the civil record - he was presumably a kinsman of John Season of the Feathers - but to the church he was that priceless commodity, the man who can be relied on to tackle the difficult job.

Thus Ludlow lives interlinked around St Laurence's. Paid to illuminate, enhance and maintain; paid to repair, remove or restore; pragmatically obedient, the parishioners of the mid-sixteenth century, into whose souls Elizabeth would make no windows, can be glimpsed in the richness of the records which Ludlow still enjoys.

A DECISION ON LIGHTING: Derek Williams

The last in a series of articles about public life in Ludlow 100 years ago.

A common sight in the streets of Edwardian Ludlow was that of tramps making their way to and from the workhouse at Gravel Hill. About four thousand tramps passed through the Ludlow workhouse in 1903. They were a constant source of worry for the Board of Guardians - fighting, breaking windows, and seducing the female inmates - and the Guardians were always looking for ways of making Ludlow less attractive to these itinerant 'vagrants'.

In April 1903 the Chairman of the Guardians instructed the Master to search all tramps on arrival at the workhouse to see if they were carrying enough money - 4d or more - to pay for a night's lodging. If they had, they were to be refused admission. (One Guardian suggested that this would be unlikely to be effective as most would hide their money



William Marston, Mayor 1895-6, who led the efforts to bring electric lighting to Ludlow.
Photo by permission of Mrs Joyce Marston

before arriving.) It was also widely believed that smallpox was spread by tramps walking from one workhouse to another. The Local Government Board had urged the Ludlow Guardians to encourage tramps to be vaccinated in return for extra food and by remitting the labour task - normally stone-breaking for men - expected of all itinerants. The Clerk to the Guardians said that a weakness of this idea was that tramps would simply take the extra food and special treatment, move on to the next workhouse and, in return for similar concessions, allow themselves to be vaccinated again. It was finally agreed that, in Ludlow, vaccination and re-vaccination would only be offered to those who, in the opinion of the Medical Officer, were in need of it.

Meanwhile, at the other end of Ludlow, the Town Council was trying to decide what to do about electric lighting, having rejected all the proposals put forward by its Electric Lighting Committee in the previous two years. At first it decided to cut its losses by selling to a private firm, for £225, the 'Provisional Order' that the Council had first obtained in 1901 when it had

MORGANS SOLICITORS

- PROPERTY
- FAMILY
- BUSINESS

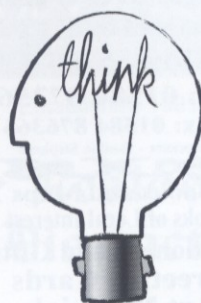
*Local knowledge
Local connections
Local commitment*

7 MILL STREET, LUDLOW
SHROPSHIRE SY8 1BA

Tel: 01584 872333

Fax: 01584 876459

email: info@morgans-solicitors.co.uk



think : graphic design

Palmer's House : 7 Corve Street
LUDLOW : Shropshire SY8 1DB
tel : 01584 878658 fax : 01584 878659
email : ideas@thinkgraphicdesign.co.uk
www.thinkgraphicdesign.co.uk

COUNTY TILES LUDLOW



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

been planning to supply electricity as a municipal undertaking. In January 1903 the Town Clerk and Councillor Marston, the Chairman of the Electric Lighting Committee, went to London to explain to the Board of Trade why it was thought necessary to sell the Order. There was a large and growing accumulation of refuse at the Cattle Market that the County Medical Officer had described as a 'public nuisance and a danger to the health of the town'. A private company had now offered to destroy this refuse as part of a deal to supply Ludlow's electricity.

The Board of Trade's response was unsympathetic. It not only refused to extend or allow the Council to sell the order, but also said that unless the Council was prepared to use its powers under that Order quickly, it would be revoked. This meant that, after years of research and planning by Councillor Marston and his colleagues, the Council would be back to where it started, and would have lost a great deal of money in the process.

Facing this disaster, it was decided to return to the Council in March with the municipal scheme prepared by the Electric Lighting Committee and rejected in October 1901. The Advertiser argued strongly in its favour, suggesting that there had been too much 'running away from knotty problems' like sewerage and electric lighting in the recent past, and hoping that at the eleventh hour the Council would stop short of 'handing over the community to the tender mercies of a dividend earning company'.

The crucial meeting began inauspiciously for the supporters of municipalisation. Councillor Harris described it as 'a risky and speculative undertaking' which he would oppose in the interests of ratepayers. Councillor Twiddy said that if it was a case of 'now or never' for municipalisation, he would vote for 'never': he thought that fewer than 40 people in his ward were in favour of electric lighting. Even the Mayor spoke against the scheme. Alderman Weale thought that it would make a loss, and wanted it deferred for further study.

The first vote was to postpone a decision: this was defeated by 9 votes to 3. The main proposal, to adopt a municipal lighting scheme, was then put to the meeting, and passed by the unexpectedly comfortable majority of 10 votes to 5 (most of the votes against coming from Councillors representing the recently added areas of East Hamlet and Ludford). After a long and sometimes acrimonious struggle, Councillor Marston and the Electric Lighting Committee had suddenly won the day. The Advertiser said that 'the spirit of progress, for so long dormant in the Council Chamber, asserted itself for once'.

Councillor Marston didn't rest on his laurels for long. He began his next crusade at the May Council Meeting, when he proposed that application should be made to the Postmaster General for Ludlow to be placed on the general telephone system. He was raising the matter, he said, because he had heard that Leominster was about to be connected to the trunk system, and felt that Ludlow should follow as soon as possible. The Mayor supported him, suggesting that a comment on the inadequacy of the Ludlow Post Office should be added to the letter. When he was last in the Post Office, said the Mayor, he had been in a queue of 30 people waiting to get to the counter. At its June Meeting, the decision to write to the Postmaster General along these lines was confirmed.

With progress being made by the Town Council on several fronts, this seems a good point at which to bring to a close these notes about what was happening in Ludlow 100 years ago. Can any conclusions be drawn from their admittedly superficial review of matters that were then thought to be important? One may be that the problems of concern to Ludlovians 100 years ago are remarkably similar to those of today. Health, housing and waste disposal; transport and traffic; behaviour in the town centre; the assembly rooms; a new library; crime; recreation and tourism - all these subjects were matters of public interest and concern at some time between 1898 and 1903. Our technical, social and economic

circumstances are different, but the points of tension and anxiety are similar.

Another impression from these brief case studies of civic affairs 100 years ago is that government of towns like Ludlow is harder than it looks. Different interests within the town, and citizens in different parts of the town, inevitably have different needs, aims and expectations. (As we have just seen, the Councillors from East Hamlet and other outlying areas could not be persuaded to support the expenditure of 'their' rates on better lighting for the town centre.) Few policies please everyone. Moreover there are few reliable and visible measures of good performance. It was easier in 1903, as it is today, to see the defects and delays in Ludlow's administration than to recognise and applaud the achievements. Even the ablest and most dedicated men and women may take a long time to sort out the complex problems of local government and may not always get it right first time. We should be thankful that there are still people willing to take on such arduous responsibilities.

LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY COMMITTEE NEWS

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES Spring 2003

Does the Committee need to be more responsive to the views of the Society's members? The year's business has to be conducted by the Committee, but we had thought that the survey of member opinion in 2001 and the Open Forum on 11th December 2002, together with Heritage News and occasional Newsletters, were valid attempts to consult in a thoroughly democratic way. This year, we are intending, at the AGM on 21st May, to deal with the formal business as quickly as is proper; and then to invite comment and suggestions from members. I do hope you will come and give voice. Please also consider standing for office or as a Committee member. New blood is always welcome.

You will probably know that the County



Zani lady

french decorative
antique and linen
40's 50's kitchenalia

15 Corve Street
Ludlow
Shropshire

telephone: 01584 877200



SYKES & CO.

REGISTERED AUDITORS
AND ACCOUNTANTS

Accountancy, Audit, Taxation,
Paybook & VAT Services

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

NICKI LEWIS-SMITH

'Ludlow's Caring Gardener'

EXPERIENCED &
INDIVIDUAL HELP FOR
YOUR GARDEN

01584 874533
07812 168312

ludlows_gardener@yahoo.co.uk

Fully Insured
References Available

Biscuits supplied for
Resident Robins



Council, having vacated the old Museum Resource Centre in Old Street, is now intending to modify and extend the building and use it as an Adult Training Centre and Pupil Referral Unit (for children who, for a variety of reasons, may need special attention before resuming mainstream schooling). Estimable as these activities are, there seems no compelling reason why they should be carried out on a prime site in the centre of Ludlow, to the exclusion of other possible uses. Though it is now too late, it seems clear that the site could have accommodated a worthy library at much less cost and disruption than the new building, spacious and interesting as it is. This may be the wisdom of hindsight, but, with foresight, there remain other possibilities. Chief amongst these is a proposal for a line of affordable housing where the site adjoins Old Street. This would enable the site area to be used more fully (which is surely important in the middle of Ludlow), while still accommodating the proposed educational activities in the old school building behind. Given suitable design, it would also improve the streetscape. We have put this proposal and others to the County Council and have asked for a meeting to discuss them. As I write, there has been no response and the outcome is still uncertain.

Elsewhere in Ludlow - but particularly in the centre - construction work is widespread. The new flats in Castle Street are nearing completion, the cobbled area of Quality Square is being relaid, the roadway and drains of Market Street have been renovated and the entrance to the Castle is being improved. Your Society has offered comment at an early stage on all these schemes and it is pleasing that some, if not all, of our suggestions have been embodied.

However, we have not yet succeeded in getting the damaged and missing coping stones on the parapet of Ludford Bridge replaced. The wilful damage is an insult to Ludlow and the delay in repairing is a standing invitation to further vandalism. As no-one local is empowered to act, even on a minor matter like this, any repairs to the bridge (which is an

Ancient Monument) involve not only the County Council but also English Heritage and the rather clumsily-named Monuments and Sites Division of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. We have suggested that some responsible local person might be allowed a budget for immediate minor repairs, but this has not so far met with approbation. Progress, if any, will be reported in our next issue. Meanwhile, we have succeeded in replacing many of the damaged, dirtied or defaced litter bins around the centre of the town with what we hope is a rather smarter version, bearing a discreet mention of the Ludlow Civic Society. We are trying to keep the fly-posters at bay.



Our Chairman, James McFarlane, setting a good example. Photo: Derek Foster

A major commitment in March/April is for us to study, and comment upon, the just-published Revised Deposit Draft Replacement Plan 2003 of the South Shropshire Local Plan 1996-2011. This is an important document for the future of Ludlow and the District of South Shropshire. It can be inspected at all the libraries in the District or at Stone House. If you feel like buying a copy, it costs £10. Comments are due by 25th April at the latest.

The Ludlow Festival will soon be with us

(20th June - 13th July). The Society is again sponsoring an Architecture Lecture. This year it is on the final Friday, 11th July, and will be presented by Bill Dunster RIBA. The subject is 'ZED: the lifestyle and workstyle of the future - today!' (One in the eye perhaps for those who think the Civic Society is always looking backwards when it should be looking ahead.) More information appears in James Harris's article in this issue.

Next year, we shall be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Society. We hope to mark the occasion with some form of contribution to the life or appearance of the town. Members' ideas and suggestions would be most welcome (to the Secretary, please).

James McFarlane

MEMBERSHIP

Membership numbers have again declined slightly to just over the 250 mark, having been over 300 at one point a year or two ago.

Once again a telephone canvass of those who had not renewed did not reveal any overriding problem, with hardly anyone mentioning the increase in subscription from September 1st 2002.

However, it is clearly of critical importance that this trend be reversed. To this end copies of *Heritage News* have been delivered to every address on both Friars Garden and Friars Field developments and later in the summer a programme of further leaflet drops will be organised in central Ludlow to include details of the 2003/2004 programme.

At the same time supplies of *Heritage News* and leaflets (with the 2003/2004 programme when available) will as usual be maintained at the Assembly Rooms, the Tourist Information Centre, St Laurence's church and the Library.

Any other ideas readers may have as to how best to attract new members will always be very welcome.

When you have finished with your copy of either, please pass it on to anyone you think might be interested in joining the Society.

Michael Coleman-Smith



Dickinson's Period House Shops:
Accurate rare and unusual artefacts
for the renovation of period homes,
gardens and furniture.

www.periodhousesshops.com
141 Corve Street, LUDLOW
telephone 01584 877276

Established 1860

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

F.J. BODEMANN LTD

BROAD STREET,
LUDLOW

01584 872786

BROAD STREET BOOKS

AN ABUNDANCE OF
SECONDHAND BOOKS
TO SUIT ALL TASTES
DISPLAYED IN AN
ELEGANT GEORGIAN
TOWNHOUSE SETTING

18 BROAD STREET
TEL: 01584 877502

EVENTS

It is a pity that more people did not take advantage of the chance to visit the Gladstone Museum and the Spode Factory on March 27th. It was a highly interesting and enjoyable trip.

This year there is an extra lecture on May 7th. It is being given by Helen Glanville, art historian and lecturer, and is about the discovery and restoration of a major Tintoretto at Agen. Also in May, there is the AGM on 21st, which will be followed by a discussion of various topics of interest in the town at the moment. Everyone is welcome to speak.

Next year's programme has yet to be confirmed, but it will include lectures by David Lloyd (who needs no introduction), David Howard, world expert on Chinese porcelain, Sean Hill, Colin Richards, Morag Jones (on First World War poets), Andrew Byrne (on the restoration of Spitalfields and 137 Corve Street, Ludlow), and Sir Neil Cossons, Chairman of English Heritage.

Prue Bellak

RECENT PROJECTS IN WHICH THE CIVIC SOCIETY IS INVOLVED:

- The Society gave £500 to the Millennium Trust to assist in the remarkable transformation of the old swimming pool site, and will consider a further contribution to the renovation of the mill.

- Our Chairman's long-running battle against unsightly litter bins has resulted at last in the replacement of about two dozen in the centre of the town.

- The Society continues to sponsor the Architecture Lecture at the Ludlow Festival. See James Harris's article in this issue.

- Last November the Society's annual History Prize at Ludlow College was won by Tom Baker.

- We protested at the possible closure of the direct train service to Waterloo.

- We continue to keep an eye on any threat to the river bank and to the southern approaches to the town.

If there are any issues connected with planning or the quality of life in the town which are of particular interest to you, please let the Committee know so that we can support you or act on your behalf. It is essential, as well, that members make individual objections and representations on matters that concern them.

TALKING POINT: LAMP-POSTS

As most of the articles in this edition seem to be concerned with lighting and lamp-posts, you might like to consider the appearance of those

in Ludlow. Some of the older lamps at the top end of the town (on the wall in College Street, for example) are in keeping with their surroundings, but many of the lamp-posts in the main streets of the town are not worthy of the historic buildings they illuminate. Like the litter bins, they belong to an era when little thought was given to appropriateness in street furniture. However, some of the recent additions to the smaller lanes and alleys (the responsibility of the Town Council rather than the County Council) are even worse. Do you have views on this? If so, let us know.



Old-style lamp-post in College Street



New-style lamp-post in St. Thomas' Lane

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'*

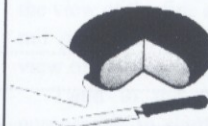
- Wedding List Service now available
- Stockists of Staub, Salter, Meyer Prestige, Victorinox & Berndes

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

**MARK THE
CHEESE MAN**

Where ^{e/36} would you find
a greater variety of cheeses, eggs,
home-made farm butter
and pickles
(some produced organically)?

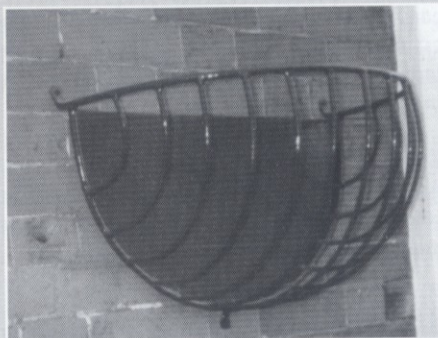
at
**134 CORVE STREET and
LUDLOW MARKET**
CHEESE STALL



of course

**USE YOUR EYES:
A NEW COMPETITION**

Do you recognise these details from buildings in Ludlow? The sender of the first correct solution will receive a book token for £10.



READERS' LETTERS

There are no letters for this edition. Any queries, suggestions or responses to articles will be gratefully received.

Please address your letters to:

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

**LUDLOW HERITAGE NEWS:
BACK NUMBERS**

Thanks to the kindness of two of our members, we now have a full set of issues from 1984 to the present. If anyone would like a copy of any back number, would they please write to the editor.

LUDLOW MUSIC SOCIETY

Season 2003/4

Ludlow Music Society's new season promises to be both adventurous and wide-ranging, with artists of the highest calibre, and programmes that are both interesting and enjoyable. The season begins on September 27th with a concert by the London Mozart Trio, whose programme includes trios by Beethoven and Tchaikovsky and a piece entitled 'Melancholia' by the contemporary composer Cheryl Frances Hoad. The Callino String Quartet from Ireland appear on October 18th, featuring another contemporary piece - the String Quartet No.6 by Ian Wilson. Quartets by Janacek (No.2) and Beethoven (Op. 74 'The Harp') will also be performed. A concert of early music will take place on 15th November given by the young group Abendmusik (sponsored by the Countess of Munster Trust). The Russian pianist Alexander Slobodyanik will appear on February 21st 2004, and the season ends with a concert by the Paris Bastille Wind Ensemble on March 27th, whose programme includes excerpts from Mozart operas plus the Serenade in C minor, a piece entitled 'Octamphonie' by the French composer Eugene Bozza, the world première of a piece by the contemporary composer Nicolas Bacri, and an Octuor by Schultz.

All concerts are held at Moor Park School near Ludlow. Further details concerning membership application, subscriptions etc. can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs Rosalind Caird, Glebe House, Caynham, Ludlow SY8 3BN (01584 876141).

LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY

2002-2003 Officers & Committee Members

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