

Ludlow Heritage News

Published twice a year by LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY

No.42 WINTER 2005/6

www.ludlowcivicsociety.org

FREE



New and old. The restored bargeboards next to the originals.

BARGEBOARDS AT 2 DINHAM

Dick Caithness

Newly built in 1656 after burning in the Civil War, the house was one of the last in Ludlow to be reconstructed using an oak timber frame and elaborate carving from a long-established school of local woodcarvers. A mixture of bird, animal and human forms embellish the vertical beams, whilst the bressummer beams and bargeboards are decorated with a pattern of plant forms. They have survived for 350 years.

We have been permanent residents at the house since the summer of 1998. The previous owners had carried out extensive restoration work, mainly to the interior. Considerable weather erosion had taken place to the relief carvings and part of the fascia to the lower bressummer had been recarved a few years earlier. It was evident that the structural condition of the bargeboards, as well as the decorative carving, would require attention before long.

The high winds of Spring 2004 left a ragged gap in the lower edge of one board, signalling that action had to be taken to prevent a safety hazard to pedestrians and cars parked directly below. It was clear that the boards were beyond repair and would need to be replaced.

The first step taken was to contact Colin Richards, SSDC Conservation Officer, requesting a visit to inspect the building and give recommendations for procedure. This was to include finding suitably qualified crafts people to carry out the work and discovering whether any funding assistance might be available.

A number of conservation trusts were approached but none was able to give financial assistance to a privately owned residence. Only 'public projects' are supported. Naturally we were disappointed as the building is of historic interest, attracts much attention from tourists and is continually photographed. However, this could not be an obstacle to using the highest quality materials and workmanship to restore such a significant part of the building's frontage.



Andy Pearson at work.

A key to this would be a woodcarver who not only had proven skills but would also be sympathetic to the period of the original work and able to make an authentic interpretation from the badly eroded design. A local man, Andy Pearson, was highly recommended. An important part of Andy's experience had been work on the restoration of the woodwork and carvings at Windsor Castle after destruction in the fire. He was invited to assist Ron Heston of Clun, the renowned woodcarver, who had been appointed as a subcontractor for the work. Subsequently, Andy has established a growing business with clients who are looking for quality in both restoration and original work.

We asked Andy to make a preliminary survey to see whether he would be interested in undertaking the project. With four boards to prepare and carve to exact dimensions (each over three metres in length), this was going to be demanding on time as well as skills. Andy was immediately enthusiastic, although cautious about how long the project would take. We agreed that it could progress in parallel with other commitments he had undertaken, with a speculative period of about three months to complete.

It was also essential to appoint a building contractor who would establish all the installation requirements, working in close liaison with Andy from the start of the project and advising on critical dimensions and angles to fit the adjacent roof structure. He would also need to be experienced in restoration of buildings of this age. We had no hesitation in appointing Alan Middleton who had carried out other work on our property and has many outstanding examples of conservation work in Ludlow.

Naturally-seasoned oak was procured to minimise warping of the boards, a frequent problem with kiln-dried timber. The length and width allowed plenty of spare for final trimming of the completed boards, measuring 320 x 22.5 x 3.5 cm. Using photographic enlargements from the best of the existing boards, a design was developed and drawn to full size to be used as a working guide. As the boards varied by several centimetres in length,

each board was individually drawn with the design adapted to occupy the length exactly.

Carving the first board was something of an exploration, establishing the depth of the relief and the amount of detail necessary in the plant forms, considering the distance at which they would be viewed. This had to be informed guesswork as it was not possible to try it in position without a scaffold assembly. This process took several weeks but when we were satisfied with the result, Andy was to use this as the prototype for the other three boards, which could be completed in less time.

Another consideration was how to tone in the new, yellow oak with the aged grey timbers of the rest of the building. We were recommended to consult Paul Williams of 'Precious Earth' in Corve Street. He stocks various ranges of specialist stains and paints for conservation applications, using plant oils as a base, that allow timbers to breathe naturally. Taking along some off-cut pieces of the boards, we tried several variations of grey wiped onto the surface until we found one that gave the ideal result. This stain was applied to the boards in the workshop.

Eventually, and much later than first anticipated, the boards were ready, and Alan Middleton arranged a date for a scaffolding tower to be erected. The plan was to install the boards on the first gable from one position, then move the tower and complete the second gable. However, the work provided more problems than expected, and a full day was needed for each gable. Amazingly, the original boards had each been held in position by just two heavy iron nails. They were still in such good condition that Alan was able to re-use them! Whether they, and the

new bargeboards, will survive another few hundred years will remain to be seen – by future generations.

We would be interested to hear from anyone else who has been engaged in a restoration project and would be willing to write about it.

We are also hoping to run a series of articles on aspects of architectural detail in and around Ludlow, such as windows, doors and porches, summerhouses, dovecots, bargeboards, cellar gates, railings etc. If anyone has a particular interest in any of these and could write about them for us, please get in touch with the Editor.

SHEDDING TIERS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Nick Holcombe

The genesis for this article lies in differences of opinion on planning issues between, on the one hand, Ludlow Civic Society and the Ludlow Town Council and, on the other, the South Shropshire District Council.

I have examined the various tiers of local government in Shropshire and considered whether it would be possible or desirable for Ludlow Town Council to regain the powers it had as a Borough Council before its abolition in 1967.

COUNCILS AND TAXES

Ludlow householders pay their Council taxes (£1,352 p.a. for a Band D house) to South Shropshire District Council, but the first tier



The Mayor and Corporation of Ludlow Borough Council walk in procession to church for the last time.

RICKARDS & SON LTD GENERAL IRONMONGERS

Home ■ Centre

Stockists of

Chub, Union, Yale Security Products,
Tiled Surrounds, Rayburn Cookers and Spares
Eley Cartridges, Domestic Electrical
Appliances, Prestex and Yorkshire Fittings
Copper and Polythene Tube, Boiler Flue Sets,
Roof Insulation, Fisons Garden Products
Antique and Brass Door Furniture

**APPROVED CHUBB CENTRE
LUDLOW 872934**

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

**APPROVED
AGA & RAYBURN SHOP**

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

**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

of local government is Ludlow Town Council. Although the Council lost its Borough Council status in 1967, it retains its Mayor, its market, the Guildhall, the Buttercross and the town cemetery – and 550 lamp-posts! Recently, the Town Council has taken back ownership of various recreational areas including the Linney. In all respects, however, its powers are no more than those of any Parish Council. It has 15 Town Councillors, (including the Mayor), all unpaid. Its activities currently cost each Band D household £63 p.a. It receives no central government support.

The next tier of local government is the South Shropshire District Council which was created in 1974. The SSDC is responsible for planning, street cleaning, refuse disposal and housing, though its entire municipal housing stock was sold to a housing association in 1993, and street cleaning and refuse disposal have been contracted out to a private company. The SSDC also has responsibility for sports and leisure services, food safety and licensing. Its activities currently cost each Ludlow Band D household £186.49 p.a. directly. However, central government grants and business rates produce a further £3 million towards the SSDC net budget requisite of £6,706,000. The SSDC has 34 District Councillors, of whom 8 are elected by Ludlow citizens. District Councillors receive attendance allowances and expenses.

The next tier up is Shropshire County Council which has responsibility for education, social services and transport, including buses, and most roads. The big money goes on social services and education (nearly half the council spend on its own). Ludlow Band D householders each pay £890 p.a. to the County Council. However, general and specific grants from central government, and business rates far outweigh the Council tax contribution towards this Council's expenditure. (Council tax produces approximately 30% of the total).

The County Council has 48 elected Councillors including two elected by Ludlow citizens. All Councillors receive attendance allowances and expenses. Amounts vary according to responsibilities. The Council has within its geographical boundary no fewer

than five District Councils: Oswestry, North Shropshire, Bridgnorth, Shrewsbury and South Shropshire. The 'new city' of Telford and its surrounding area has its own unitary authority, Wrekin Council.

All these authorities have their own elected councillors drawing substantial allowances and expenses. Each has its own Chief Executive, Departmental Directors and senior staff drawing comfortable salaries which in recent years have exceeded inflation rates.

Recent data shows that there has been a national increase of 121% in Council tax since April 1993, four times the 36% rise in the retail price index and more than double the 49% increase in the price of services. It is true that national government has constantly required more of local government (particularly in education) but there is a *prima facie* case for efficiency savings through a merger of authorities in Shropshire.

It can be argued that the cost and complexity of this system is the price of local democracy. This is not the case in two other areas partly funded by our Council tax: the West Mercia Police Authority to which each household pays £143 p.a. (roughly one third of the total police budget) and the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority (60% of the budget). The lack of democratic control over the policing of our area is a subject on its own.

UNELECTED BODIES

I have so far looked at the services which are funded, at least partly, by Council tax payers. I have not touched on the vast range of services which are funded directly by central government: health, social security etc. Instead, I shall enter the shadowy world of the non-elected but very powerful regional and supra-national authorities. By the latter I mean the European Commission which hands out large chunks of our own money in mysterious ways, sometimes in conjunction with the Regional Development Board. This latter institution, which here goes by the name of Advantage West Midlands, is centrally financed and appointed, but, through an amazing range of subsidiary bodies and institutions, has direct

influence on our lives and the actions of our elected councils. It is 'responsible' to the West Midlands Assembly, a regional body which no-one appears to know about or to want. Indeed, when given the chance in a referendum to vote on the introduction of a similar institution in the North East, the electors rejected the idea out of hand.

Advantage West Midlands may appear to be a 'good thing'. It has a whole number of wheezes, e.g. market towns initiatives, and rural regeneration schemes, which may or may not be beneficial to local people. They are certainly beneficial to their staff and the consultants employed to gain access to and administer the funds. The point is this – if central government has surplus funds to dole out (a doubtful proposition given that this year's budget deficit is likely to be £15 billion) it should be given to the elected authorities. I simply do not see the point of a regional authority which includes such disparate areas as the West Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire and Herefordshire.

A further unelected body of particular relevance to land use and planning in South Shropshire is the Highways Agency which has responsibility for the A49 (a trunk road). The Agency insisted on an unnecessary roundabout at Craven Arms which earlier this year disrupted traffic for four months. Yet it resists proposals to reconfigure the Sheet Road/A49 roundabout to allow access to the new petrol station (just about the only matter on which everybody else agrees!) It has also resisted (for over 20 years) all proposals to allow a northern access point for traffic going south on the A49 from Ludlow.

CONCLUSIONS

I have looked at the various operations of local government from the point of view of a co-opted Town Councillor who is bemused by its bizarre procedures and high cost. I do not see the need for five District Councils in a sparsely populated county with few real problems susceptible to government intervention. I have observed that at every level of local government there are some

CASTLE BOOKSHOP

5 Castle Street

Ludlow, SY8 1AS

Tel: 01584 872562

Fax: 01584 876366

Proprietor - Stanton Stephens

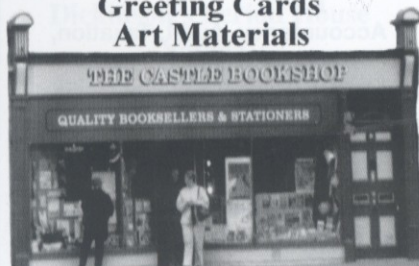
Books and Maps

Books of Local Interest

Stationery and Gifts

Greeting Cards

Art Materials



MORGANS SOLICITORS

- ****
- PROPERTY
- FAMILY
- BUSINESS

Local knowledge
Local connections
Local commitment

7 MILL STREET, LUDLOW
SHROPSHIRE SY8 1BA

Tel: 01584 872333

Fax: 01584 876459



think: graphic design

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

excellent paid officers and some far-sighted and effective councillors. Unfortunately they are in a minority. We need fewer councillors, far fewer senior officers, and a determination to minimise the range and cost of activities carried out by government.

Supporters of elected regional governments have suggested that the district councils (perhaps after some mergers) should stay and the county councils go – but the benefits are hard to see. More radically, given that most 'local government' expenditure is already provided by central government, why not replace all councils with local offices staffed by civil servants? This would certainly remove the problem of low turnout at local elections, and we do not vote for our social security managers and NHS authorities. This argument can only get stronger with a continuing lack of effective local democracy.

However, if we accept the case both for local democracy and more efficient local government, it is the district councils which are in the firing line. They should be abolished and the services they provide transferred to smaller local councils or the county council. Should, perhaps, Ludlow regain the powers it had as a Borough in 1967 (with a much smaller population)? Regretfully, I do not believe so. The world has moved on. Local authorities have to be large enough to encompass a wide range of skills and benefit from economies of scale.

I suggest that all local government functions should be concentrated at county level. Likewise, the strong planning powers and financial resources currently in the hands of regional government should be handed over to the County Council. The number of County Councillors should be reduced substantially and they should be paid.

Already, the County Council has a number of committees, working groups etc. which are aiming at putting forward a county perspective. There are plans to amalgamate the various housing associations and district housing departments within the county, (A county-wide housing association would still be much smaller than others in the region). The County Council's current legal authority dates from the late nineteenth century, but

Shropshire's administrative status goes back to the Anglo-Saxon era, albeit with different boundaries.

The concentration of responsibilities and resources at county level has the virtues of simplicity and efficiency. It does not allow for the restoration of powers (particularly planning) to Ludlow, or indeed the use of planning powers by larger towns such as Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth. Instead, the County Council should be required to take account of the views of planning advisory committees to represent the various market towns and their hinterlands on important or contentious issues. As at present, most decisions would be taken by professional planning staff, locally based.

Now what of Ludlow, Bridgnorth, Shrewsbury etc.? These are ancient towns with a tradition of local democracy and civic pride. For Ludlow I would retain an elected Town Council of perhaps seven unpaid Councillors, to be elected by the total electorate, not on a ward basis. I would allow for the co-option of up to six Aldermen, with specific abilities and enthusiasms. The Council would continue to employ a Town Clerk and a small administrative staff. Groundsmen and street cleaners should be employed at local level. Similar arrangements could be introduced, on an appropriate scale, for Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, Oswestry and Whitchurch. Finally, I would seriously consider the employment of a directly elected and paid Mayor. This works well on the Continent and in the USA, and would give the town a much needed focus.

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

CORRECTION

In our last edition, p.3, among the list of buildings in which the Civic Society has taken an interest, 'Ludford Mill' should be followed by: 'restored and turned into a private residence later by Neil Aikens'. A full account of his restoration of the building can be read in Ludlow Heritage News No.21, Spring 1994.

THE TEME SELECTED AS A BARRIER TO GERMAN INVASION

Bryan Heatley

Churchill suggested as early as October 1939 that an organisation of half a million men and similar to the eventual Home Guard, be set up to release Regular Army units from some routine operational duties. The day after the Prime Minister's "blood, toil, tears and sweat" speech in April 1940, Anthony Eden announced the formation of a Local Defence Volunteer Force (LDV) which later became the Home Guard. By the end of the first day some 250,000 men had volunteered. The official age range of the new force was from 15 to 65 but it was common for a blind eye to be turned to this rule. By mid-1943 Home Guard strength was 1.75 million, comprising 1100 Battalions.

In July 1940, only a few weeks after the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk, the LDV Zone Commanding Officer for Shropshire wrote: "LDV should man main defensive posts and road blocks, and should defend own villages. Enemy cannot manoeuvre mechanised transport in Shropshire area except on roads. LDV should prevent coming together of enemy groups. Every defended hamlet, even if defended by only one shotgun, will delay enemy. Petrol bomb storage to be small and boy-proof."

At this time certain code words were in use by the Home Guard. They included: WOLF – genuine landings to be expected; YPRES – existing state; CROMWELL – imminent invasion by paratroops; and OLIVER – invasion has occurred within range, day and night manning of all posts.

In January 1941 guards were being provided at Ludlow Railway Tunnel, at Whitcliffe (probably the Elan Valley aqueduct) and at a local transformer station. On 20th July that year there was a major exercise known as the Battle of Clun. The scenario was that the Germans had landed on the Welsh coast. The 'enemy' was represented by E Company of 7 Battalion Shropshire Home Guard based at Bishop's Castle, and I Company from Bucknell.

COUNTY TILES
LUDLOW



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

Zani lady
french decorative
antique and linen
40's 50's kitchenalia
15 Corve Street
Ludlow
Shropshire

telephone: 01584 877200

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 major perceived threat at this time seems to have been the dropping of parachutists. In August 1940 it had been reported that several parachute harnesses had been found in the Western Command area. The role of the enemy parachutists was interpreted as the cutting of vital communications – road, rail and telecom, sabotage of aircraft and the killing of fighter pilots, wearing down of defences and the blocking of roads to prevent reinforcement. The Plowden Hall based Home Guard detachment was tasked to provide protection against saboteurs and parachutists, render potential landing grounds unsafe, impede and destroy enemy troops and block roads, but not to impede own troops.

An instruction dated December 1941 to members of 7 Battalion indicated the seriousness of the situation. It called for Church Stretton, Craven Arms and Ludlow (it specifically mentions the telephone exchange) to be held to the last man. A Stop Line was to be formed along the Teme. The philosophy of such a line was that each crossing along the river be defended or demolished in order to halt a German advance from the south or west.

7 Battalion appears to have been given the task of enforcing the Stop Line from Lingen to Easton Court at Little Hereford. I Company was to be responsible for Lingen Bridge, F Company for two bridges at Bromfield as well as Dinham Bridge, Ludford Bridge and the Great Western Railway (GWR) bridge at Little Hereford, while H Company looked after Little Hereford road bridge, the Elan Valley Aqueduct crossing and the road and rail bridges at Ashford. There is no doubt that these points were to some extent fortified and that the local volunteers were at times assisted by the GWR's own Home Guard.

To ease the task of 7 Battalion it was proposed that five of the smaller crossings of the Teme be demolished. These were: 1. a footbridge (SW of Bucknell) on a path from Heartsease to the minor road from Bucknell to Knighton; 2. another footbridge on a path which existed at that time from The Poles to Stead Vallets some three miles SW of Bromfield; 3. a footbridge near Bromfield Mill; 4. the old Leominster Canal Aqueduct at Gosford, Little Hereford; and 5. the footbridge just south of Little Hereford Church. The Poles

path no longer exists, which may indicate that demolition did take place, and this certainly was the case in respect of the Aqueduct. The current Little Hereford Church bridge appears to be a new construction but it is not clear if this replaced a demolished or time-expired predecessor.

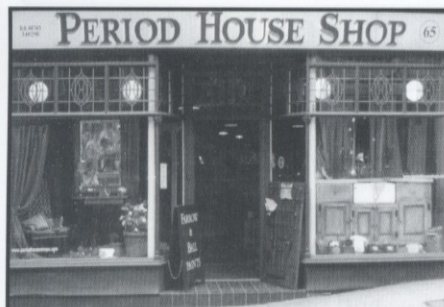
The Aqueduct demolition has become something of a local legend. However, the commonly told story of its being blown up as a Home Guard exercise does not appear to be correct, indeed demolition was at this time a very serious business. Removal of the other four crossings may have been within 7 Battalion's capability, but the Aqueduct was a massive structure of stone and brick and would have surely called for the attention of a specialist unit of Royal Engineers. Unconfirmed reports mention Canadian Engineers involved in the demolition and American troops deployed to clear the debris from the Teme. The massive construction remains today but without its central arch. It is accessible from footpaths on both banks. What appear to be World War II defensive positions exist south of the Aqueduct indicating that it appears to have been defended before the decision to demolish was implemented.

One of the defensive positions on the south bank at Gosford could have been a Spigot Mortar site. This weapon, also known as the Black Bombard, was a favourite of the Home Guard. It fired a 14lb anti-personnel round or a 28lb anti-tank projectile. In Home Guard service its primary role was as a defensive anti-tank weapon but it was not ideal. It relied heavily on good camouflage and first shot success as the quantity of black smoke produced on firing would have given away its location. It could be effective against stationary armour. The mortar was usually mounted on a concrete 'thimble' with a stainless steel apex; examples of such mountings can be seen today in a garden overlooking Dinham Bridge, Ludlow, at View Edge Quarry near Onibury and at Kinver.

The December 1941 instruction describes the role of the Battalion as: A. to stop small enemy forces crossing the Stop Line; B.



The Aqueduct over the Teme at Little Hereford



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, GENTLEMEN & CHILDREN'S OUTFITTERS

F.J. BODENHORN LTD

BROAD STREET, LUDLOW

01584 872786

G & D GINGER Antique Dealers



5 Corve Street
Ludlow
Shropshire
SY8 1DA

Tel:
01584 876939

to enable own troops to move freely up to and across the Stop Line; C. to provide guides for field force formations moving up to defend or to cross the Stop Line; D. Officers Commanding F, H and I Companies to reconnaissance and mark out on large scale maps positions for outer defences on south and west sides of the Teme; E. in case of general attack, formations (Regular Army) will occupy the Stop Line; and F. to destroy wooden bridges. The particular mention in F. above of the wooden bridges would, perhaps, confirm the Aqueduct demolition to have been too large a task for the Home Guard.

Home Guard Reserves were tasked by the same instruction to harass enemy airborne forces/parachutists, round up isolated parties of enemy troops, occupy/reinforce secondary defences, tank-hunting, and to operate against attacking enemy. In view of previous comments on the Spigot Mortar, which was the Home Guard's primary antitank weapon, it would seem that 'tank-hunting' was somewhat unlikely.

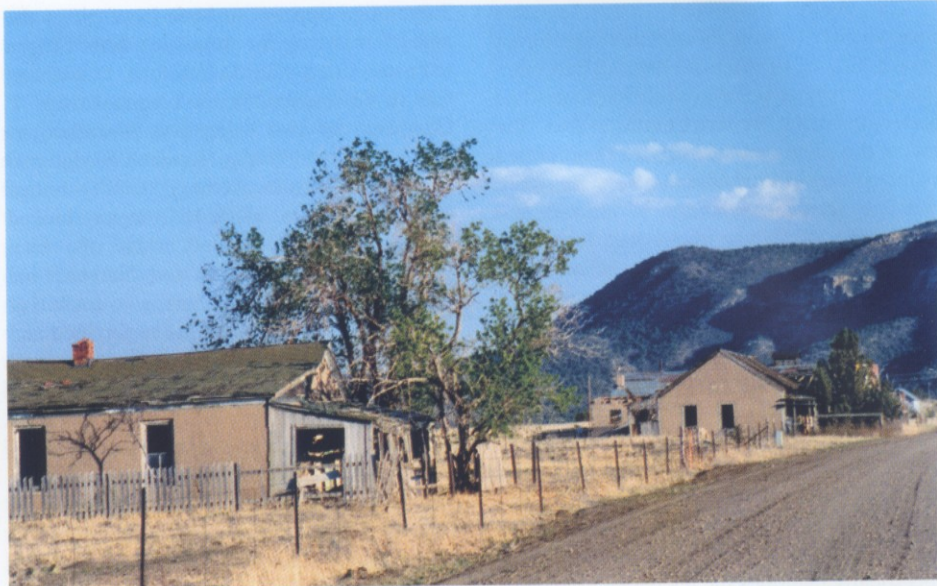
By January 1942 the force was becoming much more professional thanks to continuous training. Many of 7 Battalion's members had attended courses at dedicated training schools at Stokesay Court at Onibury, Draycott near Claverley, and Peover Hall near Knutsford which later became the HQ of General Patten. The Dad's Army image which had once been valid was no longer the norm, the determination of these amateur soldiers was very real. Many of the LDV and Home Guard members must have had a very exciting war.

(I am indebted to my friend Bernard Lowry, a Shropshire Military Historian and author, for access to some of his considerable research on this subject.)

LUDLOW COLORADO USA

Jim Gosling

In a previous issue of Heritage News Janet Verasanso wrote of the infamous 'Ludlow Massacre' involving the death by suffocation of two adults and eleven children in a temporary shelter below the wooden floor of



Ludlow Colorado today

a tent in a colony set up by striking miners. The strike, held over the winter of 1913/14, covered the whole of the Southern Colorado Coalfield, but this one incident broadcast the miners' complaints to the nation and led to the designation of the site as a national monument. It still remains in the news. The monument raised in 1919 was vandalised last year when the heads of the miner and his wife were removed; it has now been restored.

But the massacre relates to a temporary site in a farmer's field on the edge of Ludlow. The inhabitants were not 'Ludlovians', they were miners evicted from the adjacent mining towns. So what of Ludlow Colorado itself? It was given birth in 1896 as a railroad depot on the Colorado and Southern Railroad, a line built up to tap the coal resources found in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Almost certainly named after a rail road employee, the Ludlow depot served two neighbouring mining canyons: to the north the Del Agua Canyon and the mines of the Victor-American Fuel company at Hastings and Del Agua; to the south the Berwind Canyon with its two company towns, Berwind and Tabasco, owned by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company.

Ludlow was therefore not a mining town but a railroad and supply centre servicing the mines and also the newly-settled homestead ranches in the area.

The 1913/14 listing of businesses shows a mix of saloons and stores:

Colorado Business Directory Entries for Ludlow, 1913/1914

Susan Hollearin	Post Mistress
Joe Cox	Justice of Peace
A.E.Woodward	Notary
S.C.Clarke	Physician
Peter Adams	Bakery
Peter Ray	Dairy
Woodward Brothers	General Merchandise
Luigi Bracco	Meat
B.Mascharana	Meat
Lou Valentine	Brewery
A Nicol	Saloon
D.Valotti	Saloon
B.Vegher	Saloon
C.Odorozzi	Saloon
Derr & Co.	Saloon

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
- Staub now in store

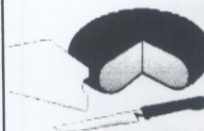
Find us at:
6A PEPPER LANE, LUDLOW,
SHROPSHIRE SY8 1PX
Tel/Fax: 01584 877747

THE LITTLE BIG CHEESE SHOP

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

**LUDLOW MARKET
CHEESE STALL**

of course



The population probably never rose above a few hundred and the community was never organised as a town. Very few photographs survive and those that do show Ludlow as a collection of timber buildings set in a 'Main Street' paralleling the railway line, with a few railroad workers' houses located between the tracks. Ludlow continued to prosper for some ten to fifteen years after the 'massacre' but the mining towns closed in turn during the 1920/30s as the horizontal shafts were driven ever deeper into the foothills. One last mine, the privately owned Bear Canyon Mine located at the very end of Berwind Canyon, remained open until the 1950s. Paradoxically, the mine was closed in 1954 due to excessive union demands. Post Office closure quickly followed and that was the end of Ludlow Colorado as the need to support a mining community had disappeared for good.

Today it is a ghost town, but a double dichotomy exists. The Ludlow Massacre occurred because of the mine owner's refusal to meet the valid demands of the Union of Mine Workers of America, but the last mine closed because of union pressures for more than could be given. Secondly, today Ludlow may be a ghost town but the railroad is busy, particularly so with the continuous passing of 100-wagon coal trains from the Montana and Wyoming coalfields destined for the power stations of Texas. 'And this with scab labour,' says John Fatur, the man paid by the UMWA to keep the monument site tidy, and a man whose father died from silicosis.

But Ludlow is more than a ghost town. It has its own ghosts and I challenge anyone to enter the still-preserved pit where the eleven children died. And these are not the only ghosts. Of the many mining accidents occurring in the coalfield, the worst happened at Hastings shortly after the massacre in 1917. One hundred and twenty one miners died.

LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY

2005-2006 Officers & Committee Members

President:	Sir Keith Thomas
Vice-Presidents:	Dr Martin Speight Dick Stephens Matthew Green
Chairman:	James McFarlane CBE
Vice Chairman:	Nick Holcombe
Hon. Treasurer:	Nick Holcombe
Hon. Secretary:	Valerie Thomas

Committee Members:

Prue Bellak, Andrew Byrne, Michael Coleman-Smith, Bill Eastwell, Mike Evans, John Farley, Jim Gosling, Daniel McDowell, Maeve Murphy, Stanton Stephens.

LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY COMMITTEE NEWS

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES WINTER 2005/6

When I wrote in Heritage News a year ago, our 50th anniversary was in prospect; now, of course, it is in the past. We have tried to leave some souvenirs. Perhaps the most important is the Society's support for the permanent record that has been made, at the initiative and under the guidance of Colin Richards (Conservation Officer for South Shropshire) of traditional methods of building construction and maintenance, to help inform future generations of architects, builders and conservationists. It was important that such skills were recorded while they were still available and practised. We are glad to have been a source of funds and encouragement for this very worthwhile project.

The Video (in VHS and DVD format) will soon be available for public sale. Having seen some parts of it (though not as yet the whole), I can vouch for the fact that it is full of interest – to a layman like me as well as to the specialist. It will make a splendid Christmas present for anyone interested in Ludlow, its buildings and craftsmen.

Another souvenir, less attractive and less permanent perhaps, will be the recollection

of our Garden Party on the Millennium Green on July 24th. Heaven knows, we had prayed, giving good notice and well in advance (**vide** our Newsletter of 11th April) for fine weather. Seldom have I seen a prayer so comprehensively ignored – no doubt the celestial spheres above were otherwise engaged. The rain was continuous and torrential throughout. Nevertheless, the band played on (Malvern Hills Brass earlier in the afternoon) and Bows String Quartet gallantly took up their fiddles in the evening. Having tightened the cat-gut, they added melody and harmony to the continuous lively percussion of raindrops on the top of the tent. Perversely, of course, the 80 or so brave souls who attended all said how much they had enjoyed it – probably more than they would have done on a conventional fine summer evening. I think the rueful British sense of humour came into play, more to the fore than is common nowadays – fortified, perhaps, by the plentiful wine so kindly provided by our President, Sir Keith Thomas. Those of our members who organised the event (John Farley and his team) are to be congratulated, and thanks are offered to many others, including the wine supplier John Villar, members of the Millennium Green Committee and even passers-by, who helped to clear the sodden site at the end of the event, unmindful of the storm.

All these excitements have not distracted us from our more usual activities and we have criticised, deplored, applauded and supported various local initiatives as seemed appropriate – such issues as gypsy sites, a proposed affordable housing estate on the far side of the A49, new plans for Foldgate Lane, changes to the Licensing Laws due to be implemented on November 24th, plans for new dwellings here and there in Ludlow, the draft Town Design Statement – and a good many other matters.

Looking back over the 50 years of the Society's existence prompts a look ahead. Ludlow now, though bigger than the Ludlow of 50 years ago, is not so very different in its essentials. I hope the same will be true in 50 years' time. We are fortunate to live in one of the most interesting, compact and

Ross' Books & Music

New books
large stock at low
prices.
Any title ordered.
Audio books,
video, DVD

Classical music
including
Naxos,
Folk music,
Jazz & nostalgia
on CD

9 Church St. Ludlow.
01584 878119

BOOKSHOP FLAT

- Self catering accommodation in a furnished apartment
- Overlooks Castle Square
- Sleeps up to 6

Visit us on virtualshropshire.com
Telephone 01584 872562 or
email bookshopflat@aol.com

Dragon's

**When you know,
it's where you go.**

Licensed restaurant / café.
Open from 8am serving a
fantastic range of own made
meals, drinks and snacks all day

5, Church St, Ludlow SY8 1AP
01584 873282

beautiful towns in England. There may be room for some improvement or restoration, but, I suggest, not much. Ludlow is not far, I believe, from the ideal township. The main danger to it will come from the pursuit of passing fads and fashions which have already spoiled many another town, even though with the best of intentions. I should hate to see Ludlow's charm spoilt by accident, but I believe it could happen if we do not do as our predecessors advised at the start of the Society 50 years ago, - practise constant vigilance.

James McFarlane

MEMBERSHIP

The 50th anniversary edition of Heritage News, published this time last year, has proved extremely popular with the Tourist Information Centre, disposing of 100 per month all this year. Supplies are still available and it will continue to be distributed in parallel with this edition.

The Society's year starts on September 1st and by the end of the month the number of paid up members had reached 233 (260 in May 2005), a record number for so early in our year. Members were, no doubt, inspired to renew early by a glance at the blue programme slip detailing the year's events, issued with renewal notices for the first time.

When you have finished with your copy of this edition please pass it on to anyone you think may be interested in joining the Society. There is an application form at the bottom of this page.

Michael Coleman-Smith

EVENTS

The season began with a brilliant lecture by Thomas Pakenham, historian and tree specialist. It was entitled 'Remarkable Trees' and was extremely popular and very well attended.

We continued with a fascinating talk on the National Trust by John Farley, himself a member of the Council of the National Trust. This will be followed in November by Henry Sandon, the ceramics expert well-known from the Antiques Roadshow. Members may, at their own risk, bring one article of pottery or porcelain for Mr Sandon's comments, which he will be pleased to offer so far as time allows. Items should be labelled with the owner's name. In December we will have the usual Christmas Party with wine and mince pies and a question and answer session.

We start the New Year with a talk on Middle Eastern rugs by Bill Lloyd-Kitchen who is an amateur collector and enthusiast. In February Julia Ionides, well-known local author and architectural historian, will talk about Mrs Stackhouse Acton, artist, historian and conservationist. She is followed in March by Janie Burford, a landscape architect, who will talk about the restoration of Painshill Park, Surrey. Finally, in April, Sir Leslie Fielding, retired diplomat, will give a lecture on the controversial subject of global warming.

Prue Bellak

LUDLOW MUSIC SOCIETY

The series of concerts provided by Ludlow Music society at Moor Park School near Ludlow, shows considerable imagination and expertise in planning for the forthcoming season.

The first concert in October was given by Natalie Clein (cello) and Charles Owen (piano), the highlight being an impassioned performance of the seldom-heard Rachmaninov Cello Sonata. The Young Artist's concert later in the month featured the young Mexican classical guitarist, Morgan Szymanski.

The pianist this year will be Stephen Osborne playing music by Beethoven ('Waldstein' Sonata), Debussy, Poulenc and Sir Michael Tippett's 2nd sonata, on 12th November.

2006 sees an appearance by the mixed ensemble Configure 8, whose programme includes two octets (by Schubert and Francaix) on February 11th.

The season ends with a string quartet, the Dominant from Russia, on March 18th. Their programme includes Haydn (Op.76 No.76), Shostakovich (No.8) and Beethoven ('Rasoumovsky' No.2).

Full details can be had from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs Alma Cogswell (01588 660535), e-mail: alma@inextenso.com.

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