

Ludlow Heritage News

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FREE



The Market Square in Ludlow. When the Town Hall was demolished in March 1986, members of the Civic Society were asked if they wanted to see a building in its place. The overwhelming majority voted to keep the open space, and that is the view of your present Committee. There are now plans to erect a permanent market building which would affect the whole character and appearance of the Square. If you still feel that the space should be kept open and the view of the Castle and the houses in the Square should be unimpeded, please write to the Town Council.

CHALLENGE AND CHANGE

Jean Brown

Buildings must change to meet the needs of their occupants, a fact which is supported by the architecture of Ludlow. As timber framing went out of fashion in the eighteenth century, prosperous residents of houses in the town created new facades, making the symmetry of contemporary architecture fit the rather more awkward shape of their medieval interiors. In Shropshire Archives are lodged the records of Ludlow Methodists which show that the churches have also accepted the challenge to change. Within two hundred years of Methodism in Ludlow, either Primitive or Wesleyan, there have been six chapels, and although all six buildings still exist, only Broad Street remains as a place of worship. What links the present to the past is the process by which the church congregations have had to face the challenge of renewing and refurbishing their buildings, with the ever-pressing problem of raising the necessary funds to complete the work.

When Broad Street chapel was built in 1879 it replaced a large house which had originally belonged to the Salwey family and which had then become the Crown Inn, graced by a visit from the young Princess Victoria in 1832. James Jones, a local veterinary surgeon had made it his home and practice, selling it to the Methodists for £2,200. The earlier place of worship in Lower Broad Street had been built in 1800 and had been refurbished in 1832 with the creation of galleries. But by

the 1870s the building was too small and a new church was planned. The architect was William Ranger of Finsbury Pavement in London, and the builder appointed was Nivetts of Ironbridge. The Trustees then had over a decade of responsibility for various properties, having bought at least two in Old Street, including a large house for the Manse. An appeal leaflet from 1884 has survived, when the debt on Broad Street remained at £3,417 out of the original cost of £4,650. The list of donors contains some interesting local names, including Mr Bodenham who gave one guinea. Other chapels in the District contributed over £400 which had been raised through bazaars, lectures and local church organisations. Finally, in 1896, the Manse was sold as a site for the new British School at a price of £800, and in 1897 the Lower Broad Street chapel was sold.

All through this period the Trustees were aware of the need to maintain and develop the building. In 1889 it was 'resolved that two pews be taken away in the front of the Chapel downstairs, and four cross pews made for the choir, in order that they may for the future come downstairs. Cost set at £2.0.0d'. So the choir had been sitting in the gallery until this date. In 1893 it was decided that the final debt should be paid and the chapel renovated within two years. Both of these aims were achieved under the ministry of Thomas Riley. The changes made in that year created the chapel furnishings that lasted until 2005,



As we remember ...a Flower Festival with pews, panelled pulpit, choir stalls and pipe organ.

with the platform for the organ, choir seats and pulpit. So in the process of removing all these, the worship area is actually closer in size and appearance to the original 1879 building.

Mention of the organ is a reminder of the important part that music has played in Methodist worship. A harmonium was purchased for Lower Broad Street chapel in 1861, at a cost of £43.6s.3d. It is interesting to note that Lord Clive and Beriah Botfield, the Ludlow M.P., had each given £5 towards this new organ. In 1893 a Mr John Pearson of 'Kennets' in Sheet Road had promised a two manual organ for Broad Street, and the offer had been gratefully accepted. However, in February 1896 the organ was still awaited. He was given a further six months, but in October patience ran out and it was agreed that the 'Trustees now take steps to erect an organ themselves'. This was supplied by Alexander Young of Manchester for £155. To complete the organ story, in January 1898

it was agreed that organ recitals should be held to celebrate the new instrument, and Mr Clift was appointed as organist with an honorarium of £5 per year. Also it was minuted that 'an organ blower be engaged at £1 a year and Edward Tomlinson be asked to fill the post'. It is interesting to wonder what Mr Clift and Edward Tomlinson would think of the digital technology of the latest organ.

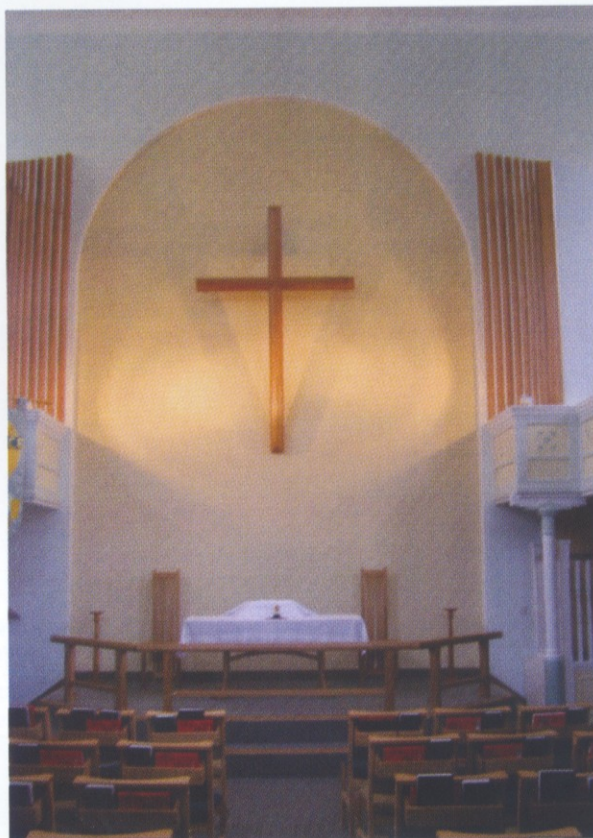
With the refurbishments complete, the next challenge presented itself. The existing Sunday School premises at the back of the Chapel, a converted hayloft, had been condemned as unsatisfactory, so it was agreed to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee with a new building. It was also an opportunity to deal with other problems that had persisted since the Chapel had been built in 1879. Throughout the period there had been problems with the

drains at the back of the building. A new heating system had been installed in the basement area. In heavy rain, the seepage from the stables of a nearby property came into the basement. The stables were at the home of Henry Weyman, a prominent Ludlow lawyer and historian. He was even served with an injunction to remove this 'nuisance'!

The ceremony to mark the start of the new building work was performed a week after the official celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee in June 1897, and two stones were laid. One was for the Queen's Jubilee and the second was a memorial to Mr Putnam who had been Sunday School Superintendent. Children were encouraged to collect at least a guinea to have their initials carved on one of the bricks. It was noted in the official report in 'The Methodist Recorder' that a bottle with its

contents had been 'buried'. This bottle was found when the latest redevelopment of Broad Street Chapel was carried out in 2005/6. It contained contemporary magazines and documents which have been donated to Shropshire Archives, copies of which will be reburied with those from our own period. The position of Ludlow Methodist Church in the centre of the town has provided an ideal opportunity to bring the building in line with modern requirements, to create within the Victorian framework a flexible and attractive facility, and, in a true spirit of ecumenicity by Ludlow churches, to offer those facilities to the wider community.

Adapted from 'To Serve the Present Age' – Souvenir booklet to commemorate the redevelopment of Ludlow Methodist Church 2005/6.



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GLOBAL WARMING

Sir Leslie Fielding

The text of a lecture given to the Civic Society in April this year.

The industrial expansion which took place in the Northern hemisphere in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the mirror of that expansion which we now see taking place in developing countries like China, India or Brazil, has given rise both to a measure of global warming, and to recent fears of a runaway 'greenhouse effect'.

About half the man-made warming is due to the build-up of CO₂ in the upper atmosphere, mainly through the burning of coal. Methane, nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxide account for most of the rest. The extrusion of these man-made gases and compounds has a screening effect. Infra-red heat from the sun which is not absorbed by the earth's surface, but is normally reflected out into space, is trapped in the atmosphere by the 'greenhouse' gases, thereby raising the earth's temperature.

This, in turn, is liable to affect weather patterns, ocean flows, and the polar ice caps, with potential consequences for vegetation, marine life and sea levels. The more the ice caps melt, the less heat is bounced back into space. The warmer it gets, the more methane and other gases get released from existing 'sinks' below ground (in the frozen Siberian and Alaskan peat bogs, for example) and in the beds of the world's oceans, into the atmosphere. The acidity of the oceans increases to a point disastrous for algal growth and the chain of marine eco-systems. Tropical rain forests are destabilised and get replaced by sand and desert. In the worst scenario, a 'sudden discontinuity' or 'tipping point' is reached, in which the warming becomes self-feeding, and a runaway process is initiated which cannot be controlled and will cause billions of deaths.

In the very early stages of the debate about global warming, fifteen years and more ago, predictions on these lines raised eyebrows within the scientific community and were pooh-poohed by outside commentators of a Panglossian

disposition. This is, however, no longer where we are 'at' today. Hence the Joint Declaration issued by the Conference of the British and German governments in February 2004:

'The conference noted that the atmospheric concentration of the most important greenhouse gas, CO₂, had reached a level not seen on Earth for at least 740,000 years, and that levels were likely to continue to rise during this century.

'The conference reviewed the effects already being felt throughout the world. It recognised that, if unabated, and if we do not adapt appropriately, future climate change could have a devastating impact on human society and the natural environment. The costs of inaction, felt mostly in the developing world, far exceeded the costs of action.'

There has admittedly been a roller coaster of purely natural variations for hundreds of millions of years. Long glacial periods have been interrupted by much shorter, warmer, inter-glacial periods. The last 10 to 12,000 years have been warmish and relatively stable – but with wobbles. There were floods, then droughts, in Mesopotamia and Egypt and North Africa between 5,600 and 1,200 BC – causing the decline of the Indus Valley, Sumerian and Mycenaean civilisations, and the rise and fall of Pharaonic dynasties on the Nile. Droughts in Latin America in the 800s AD provoked the collapse of the Maya. Settlement and farming in Greenland in the Tenth Century were snuffed out by extreme cold. In England, the so-called 'Medieval Warm Period' (900-1300) was followed a 'Little Ice Age' (1300-1860) when bonfires could be lit on the Thames.

Until recently, the experts believed that all natural climate change was slow. Now we know otherwise, from the evidence of cores from the Greenland and Antarctic ice caps. In one case, the Arctic Ocean warmed up by 7 C in only fifty years. Around 8,000 years ago, there was a brief cold spell followed by a big melt and a sudden massive rise in sea level. (It led, incidentally, to an almost overnight break-through of the Mediterranean, through the Dardanelles, into a land-locked Euxine lake, to form what is now the Black Sea. The folk memory of the disaster which overtook lakeside human settlements is

probably the basis of the Flood story in Genesis and in the Babylonian legends.)

These historical ups and downs were due to natural causes; among them, variations in the ellipse of the earth's orbit round the sun, and shifts in the earth's axis of rotation and angle of tilt. Volcanic eruptions, too, were part of the picture, possibly sun spots also. But latterly, humanity too has taken a hand in the process. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded in 2001 that '...in the light of new evidence and taking into account the remaining uncertainties, most of the observed warming over the last fifty years is likely to have been due to the [human-induced] increase in greenhouse gas concentrations'.

What would a warmer world look like? There would be new patterns of rainfall and drought and an increase in events such as hurricanes and typhoons. The great land masses of Africa, Asia and Latin America – where the poorest and most vulnerable human beings live – could be worst affected.

There are two jokers in the pack. First, there is a possibility that an increase in fresh water in the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans, caused by melting ice and increased river flow, may seriously weaken the Gulf Stream. There are indicators that this process (which has happened before, some 12,000 years ago, and again 6,000 years ago), may already have started. Thus global warming could, paradoxically, produce regional cooling. The other joker is represented by the possibility of a runaway greenhouse effect, as at earlier times in the Earth's history. Recent studies of ocean sediments have shown that fifty-five million years ago the Arctic Sea had an average temperature of 20°C. There was a massive die-back of marine creatures, as CO₂ levels soared. In each case, vast releases of methane, from melting tundra and the release of methyl hydrates from the ocean floor, may have been the cause.

Climate change may pose an unprecedented threat to human society, but it does not come alone. There are other things for us to think about, and there is a dangerous potential synergy between them. Thus the world's population is 6 billion today; it will soon be

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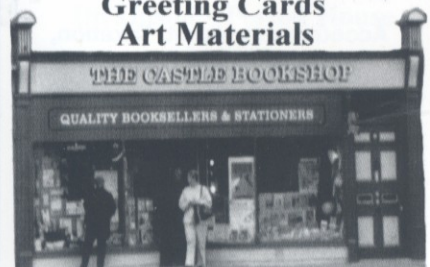
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9 billion. Some ecologists think the maximum viable population of the planet is 2.5 billion. There is a question mark over our future ability to feed ourselves. Soil degradation is now estimated to affect 10% of the current world agricultural area. Demand for water is doubling every twenty-one years. The UN is talking about a global water crisis. Then there is energy. How do we generate it, when fossil fuels become ecologically too damaging to use, yet while consumer demand increases?

Every politician, business person and decision-maker lives with uncertainty every day; and has to make policy, investment and planning decisions, despite that uncertainty. And this is how it inescapably has to be with climate change. The likelihood of sudden large-scale changes in climate may be small, and they may not occur for decades or even centuries. But the possible magnitude of their effects may be so large that they may cripple or even destroy society as we know it. What is called the 'Precautionary Principle' therefore has to be applied. As enunciated in the 'Rio Declaration' at the Earth Summit in June 1992, this reads:

'Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.'

Next, a closer look at the implications of a possible breakdown in the Gulf Stream; and at migration problems in a disrupted global climate on a grossly over-populated planet.

The Gulf Stream presently keeps Western Europe much warmer (by eight to ten degrees) than the same latitudes in other parts of the world. But it seems to have been affected by injections of fresh water from the melting of polar ice, caused by global warming. The first signs of depletion in the flow of warm water were detected, by US scientists, in 1998. In 2004, our own oceanographers recorded a 30% reduction in the warm water flow. A complete cessation of the Gulf Stream would have a disastrous impact. New York, which came to a halt under severe snowfall this February, is on the same latitude as Madrid, or a point on Portugal's Atlantic coast half way between Oporto and Lisbon. The

Central and Northern UK is on the same latitude as Newfoundland in Canada. In Goose Bay (on a latitude lying between Birmingham and Manchester) temperatures throughout the long hard winter fall to between -12°C and -22°C. The population of Newfoundland is less than a hundredth of the British population, and has housing and infrastructure well adapted to extreme cold. The UK does not enjoy these benefits, and could not hope to acquire them – meaning that 50 million or more of us could be looking for somewhere to go, sharpish. Continental Europe would not be any better off and could not help us; the Middle East and Africa, unwelcoming and unattractive; the US and Australia, unable and probably unwilling to oblige us – they would have problems of their own.

Second, environmental refugees. Leaving aside crop failures, desertification, disease and erratic weather patterns, a reference to sea levels will suffice. These have gone up and down by 120 metres and more, in geographical time. At the height of each Ice Age, water is locked up in ice and snow, and the seas descend or dry up altogether. In conditions of global warming, the ice and snow melt, and the seas rise. We have already observed, over the past forty years, a decrease in the extent of the Arctic sea ice by 10-15%, and by 40% in its thickness. According to a report in last month's 'Science' magazine, sea-levels could rise by six metres by the next hundred years – enough to flood London. But also to drown or drive inland many millions in the poorest countries. There is obviously a limit to the number which the West can absorb, without damage to social cohesion and political stability. But land frontiers can always be penetrated. Sea crossings are not a real barrier. Desperation could push Africans into Europe, Chinese into the relatively empty parts of Russia, Indonesians into Northern Australia. Sheer numbers would swamp all efforts at control. We should be left with 'war of every man against every man', as Thomas Hobbes called it. 'No arts, no letters, no society, and, which is worst of all, continual fear of danger and violent death'.

To balance the dismal prospects just evoked, there are two countervailing and consoling reflections. Where global warming is concerned,

it does lie within our present (and even more so, in our predictable future) grasp to find remedies before it is too late. Sir David King, the UK Chief Scientific Advisor, is on record as saying that 'taking action to tackle climate change can create economic opportunities and higher living standards'. The Treasury's Chief Economist, Sir Nicholas Stern, who is conducting a review of the economics of climate change, thinks that there are many arguments which suggest that it will prove possible both to be 'green' and to grow. What can we see down the line? In due course, the hydrogen fuel cell may replace the internal combustion engine. Nuclear fusion – still admittedly unharnessed – could give us unlimited pollution-free energy. Even with present technology, studies have shown that improvements in energy efficiency of 30% or more can be achieved at little or no net cost, or even at some overall saving.

There is admittedly a problem with the biggest polluter of all; the United States (with less than 5% of the world's population but well over 20% of its greenhouse gas emissions). But many there are ignoring the Federal Administration. The nine North East states, including New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts, are working towards creating a regional greenhouse gas market. In California, led by a staunch Republican, Governor Schwarzenegger, the state has enacted legislation to limit CO2 from cars and sports utility vehicles. These various State initiatives are important not only because they can help pave the way for federal action, but also because US States are themselves large emitters of greenhouse gases. California's emissions exceed those of Brazil. Those from Illinois exceed those of the Netherlands.

The European Union countries, for their part, signed the Kyoto Protocol in November 1997 and ratified it in May 2002. A whole raft of measures on energy, to reduce emissions, has been forthcoming. And even China is now taking action of her own.

But speedier and more ambitious action must now be considered, to take account of the long lead-times before we can expect good results. Global emissions of greenhouse gases must be made to peak soon – by 2025 at the latest,



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according to the IPCC, and decline rapidly thereafter. The developed countries will have to do more than their quota to begin with, leaving developing countries to catch up. We should transfer low-carbon technology to them as fast as we can develop it ourselves. As to energy, we need to add alternative, cleaner sources to the supply mix; and be much less profligate in future than we have been in the past. (At the personal level, do we need so many private cars and so much jet travel and air-transported goods? Are second and third houses really necessary?) Diplomacy matters; international co-operation is essential; global mechanisms of surveillance and control need to be tightened up. We should set up a World Environmental Agency to help co-ordinate international action, comparable in status to the World Bank, the IMF and the World Trade Agreement. Finally, we may need to look again at some of the unquestioned assumptions on which the Western World has been built – at the Consumer as King; at the Divinity which hedges about the Market Forces; at Sustainable Development, which is not sustainable; at Greed, not merely as Good but as God.

Lord Rees of Ludlow, shortly after his election as President of the Royal Society, rated the chances of our present civilisation surviving until the end of the century as no more than 50%. James Lovelock CH, in his 'The Revenge of Gaia', says that the world is like a smoker who knows he should kick the habit, but postpones and prevaricates, awaiting clear proof of the onset of lung cancer. Nevertheless, we do have a choice about the future. It is probably later than we think. Almost all environmental problems are currently getting worse. And there is always the risk of precipitating something irreversible and appallingly destructive. But the odds in our favour will improve, as public understanding increases.

Meanwhile, remember your Donne:

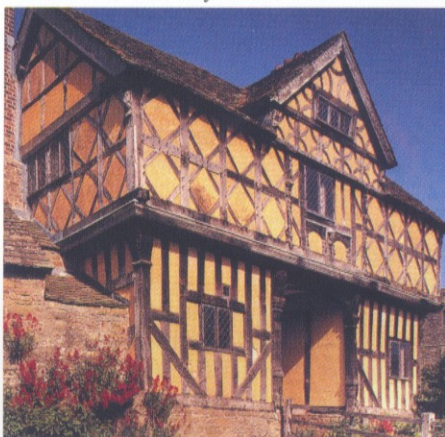
'No man is an Iland, entire of itselfe; everyman is a peece of the Continent, a part of the maine...Anyman's death diminishes me, because I am involved with Mankinde; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.'

THE SHROPSHIRE PEVNER

This October sees the publication of the long-awaited Shropshire volume in the series *The Buildings of England*. Originally written by Nikolaus Pevsner, this volume has now been expanded and revised by John Newman with contributions from Gavin Watson, Michael Watson and Roger White. Jonathan Meades has described the series as 'the greatest endeavour of popular architectural scholarship in the world' and this volume is re-dedicated to the memory of Alec Clifton-Taylor who loved Ludlow well.

The county of Shropshire is comparatively unspoiled and is among the most appealing in England for lovers of architecture. Its many historic towns, including Shrewsbury and Ludlow, are especially rich in Georgian and timber-frame buildings, and the variety of styles and materials in the villages reflects the diverse landscape of plains, hills and moorland with their underlying geology.

Among several notable monastic remains, the Cistercian abbey of Buildwas is one of the finest, and there are many outstanding medieval parish churches. Castles abound in this Marches county and, with many of the country houses, have a central place in the story of English architecture: the fortified mansions at Acton Burnell and Stokesay which show thirteenth-



Stokesay Castle



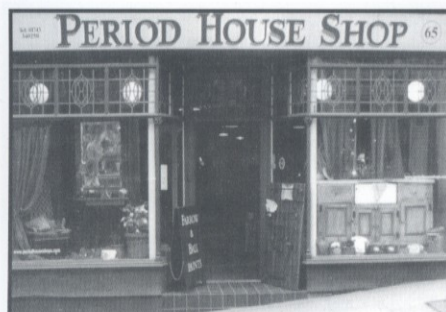
Ludlow Castle, chapel of St. Mary Magdalene.

century design at its most sophisticated; the vigorous baroque houses of John Prince and Francis Smith; John Nash's Italianate villa at Cronkhill, which looks like something in a Claude painting; and Norman Shaw's splendid late Victorian mansion at Adcote.

Shropshire is also unrivalled for its early industrial remains which include the spectacular bridge at Coalbrookdale, the first in the world to be built of iron. More ancient cultures are represented by the numerous prehistoric hill-forts and the celebrated Roman town at Wroxeter, with the earliest traces of human activity dating back as far as the fourth millennium with evidence of Bronze Age ritual and funerary sites.

Each town or village is treated in a detailed gazetteer, with a general introduction which provides an historic and aesthetic overview. Numerous maps and plans, along with over a hundred new colour photographs, full indices and an illustrated glossary help to make this book invaluable both as a reference book and as a guide.

John Newman first became involved in *The Buildings of England* as Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's driver, in Berkshire and Hampshire. He wrote the two volumes on Kent, *West Kent and the Weald* and *North East and East Kent*, and half of the Dorset volume. In the 1990s he contributed to *Glamorgan and Gwent/Monmouthshire* in the *Buildings of Wales* series.



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Broad Street has long been famous as one of the most beautiful streets in the country. John Leland in 1540 described it as 'the fayrest part of the town', and in 1946 Christopher Hussey wrote '...There is no more beautiful street in England than this...' More recently, Sir Nikolaus Pevsner said it was one of the most memorable streets in England' – a judgment reiterated by John Newman in his new version of the Shropshire Pevsner, and Sir Alec Clifton-Taylor called it 'unforgettable... one of the best in England'. But while the individual buildings are generally well cared for, the treatment of the street itself is a disgrace.

For years the street has been spoilt by yellow lines and poor street furniture. In the 1980s a famous battle was won to save the cobbles from being dug up by the County Council, supported by the Town Council, for car parking. The cobbles are now listed, but what would their defenders say if they could see the state of them today? For most of the year they are covered by weeds, they are parked on and damaged by cars, dug up and inadequately restored by workmen for the utilities, and 'enhanced' by inappropriate plant tubs.

The upper, more commercial, part of the street is ruined by excessive signage, advertising boards, garish shop fronts and far too much reflective plate glass. Now - the



last straw - the street is adorned with a series of dalek-like ticket machines, completely out of character with the historic buildings around them, and a line of black poles down both sides of the street, carrying notices for would-be parkers. It looks as though the needs of the car and car drivers outweigh any pride in the appearance of the street. And what is true for Broad Street is true for the rest of the historic town. Mill Street and Dinham are suffering from the same contempt for aesthetic considerations. These are the parts of the town that tourists from all over the world come to see. We should take more pride in the outstanding architecture of this unique town and treat it with far more respect. There must be some way of accommodating the needs of car drivers without ruining the very thing many of them have come to see.



A rare view of Broad Street without traffic or parking signs.

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LUDLOW MUSIC SOCIETY 2006/7 SEASON

All music lovers will be interested in the new series of concerts promoted by the Ludlow Music Society at Moor Park School, Ludlow. The season is now under way and began with a concert featuring the **Plane Dukes Rahman Trio** on September 30th.

The celebrated **Maggini String Quartet** will appear on Saturday, November 11th at 7.30 p.m., playing quartets by Haydn (Op.71 No.3), Lennox Berkeley (No.3) and a late Beethoven quartet (Op.131 in C sharp minor).

In 2007, the season will continue with a concert by the violinist **Priya Mitchell** accompanied by the pianist Polina Leschenko. The programme will consist of Mozart's Sonata in E minor and Cesar Franck's Sonata in A. The middle of the programme will feature two works by the contemporary Russian composer Alfred Schnittke (his Suite in the Olden Style and Sonata No.1). This concert is on Saturday, February 3rd at 7.30 p.m.

An unusual concert in this series will be the Young Artist's Concert sponsored by the Countess of Munster's Trust. On Saturday March 10th at 7.30 p.m., the young tuba player, **Leslie Neish**, accompanied by pianist Martyn Parkes, will perform some interesting transcriptions of music by Bach, Schumann, Sarasate and Kreisler.

The season is rounded off with a piano recital on Saturday April 21st at 7.30 p.m. by **Leon McCawley** whose programme will centre on the theme of 'Fantasy' with pieces by Mozart (K.475), Chopin (Op.49) and Schumann (Fantasiestucke Op. 111 and Fantasy Op. 17).

Further details concerning membership, subscriptions, single tickets etc. can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs Alma Cogswell (01688 660535) or e-mail alma@inextenso.com. The web-site is : www.ludlowmusicsociety.org.uk



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READERS' LETTERS

Regular readers may remember that our last issue contained an article by Julia Ionides on garden houses. One of the buildings described was the Gazebo at 27 Broad Street which featured on our front cover. Julia later received a letter from Alick Barratt, a former resident at 27 Broad Street, with additional suggestions about the provenance of the pieces of stained glass inserted in some of the windows of the Gazebo. With his permission, we print part of his letter here.

I lived for some years at 27 Broad Street, and my mother continued to own the Gazebo even after she sold the main house and part of its garden....Consequently, I have known the Gazebo well for over thirty years, from 1956 until it was sold to George Williams.

I did some research on the stained glass in the windows and you may be interested to know what I found out. There was a little head of apparently medieval glass in the lower room. That must have come from some church – perhaps from Ludlow church when all those fragments of 14th and 15th century glass were being established as a jigsaw in the east window of St Katherine's Chapel in 1904. The other stained glass that I recall in the Gazebo is all heraldic. In the lower room are two panels showing the arms of Salwey (sable, a saltire engrailed or) and in the upper room the arms of Powys. I can't remember the exact blazon of the Powys shield and, anyway, there are several quarterings in the Gazebo rendering, but the main one is the bear's paw between two cross crosslets. As you know, Thomas Powys of Lilford sold Henley Hall to Thomas Knight, eldest son of Ralph Knight (so first cousin of Richard Payne Knight) in August 1771. I assume that the Powys arms in the Gazebo at 27 Broad Street originated at Henley, but I have absolutely no evidence in support. I suppose that Thomas Farnells Pritchard [the architect at No. 27] could have incorporated this bit of heraldic glass into the Gazebo during the six

years between the Knights purchasing Henley Hall and Pritchard dying, but that would imply that Pritchard carried out the building of the Gazebo at least seven years after his work on 27 Broad Street itself.

So far as the Salwey glass is concerned, I believe that it was installed in the lower room at the Gazebo at the end of the 19th century by Thomas Atherden. In 1894 (and, no doubt, for several years around that date) he was manager of the Bank of Rock, Eyton and Co. at 18 Broad Street, which had been the Ludlow house of the Salweys of Richards Castle. The Salwey saltire is on its rainwater heads. The bank customers came in by the smaller entrance that was added for them. Thomas Atherden lived in the residential part of 18 Broad Street until he bought the freehold of 27 Broad Street where his family lived until 1955, when his daughter, Miss Atherden, died. Shortly afterwards, my family bought it, and my mother and I moved in in June 1956. I can well imagine the Bank Manager deciding that decorative glass from the former Salwey house would be more appreciated in the windows of his gothic gazebo in a Strawberry Hillish sort of way.

Sir,

In your Summer 2006 edition there is a small piece about Ludlow, Pennsylvania, USA. Our youngest son lives in Emlenton, Pennsylvania, and works in Oil City, and we have visited Ludlow Pa. on one of our visits. Is it just a coincidence that Wetmore Pa. is almost six miles or so from Ludlow?

It strongly suggests to us that people from our area went to Pennsylvania and named the settlements.

Yours sincerely,

*V.H. and E.J. Richards
Walford House, Nr. Leintwardine,
Craven Arms, SY7 0JT*

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

LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY COMMITTEE NEWS CHAIRMAN'S NOTES WINTER 2006/7

First, I want to express the Society's thanks and best wishes to James McFarlane who completed his term as Chairman last May; an impossible act to follow, but I hope to continue his policy of 'favouring sensible conservation and fighting daft developments'.

Turning to current events, it is tempting to regard the new parking regime as a 'daft development'. It's certainly highly contentious and the Committee shares some of the critics' concerns, particularly over the plethora of yellow lines, the rights of red zone permit holders and the lack of arrangements for visitors.

Nevertheless, the planning of this scheme was the subject of unprecedented public consultation and debate, with input from just about everybody, including this Society. The scheme will be reviewed early next year, and we, along with everybody else, will have to see how it works out in practice.

The other major concern for the town is the threat to Ludlow Hospital. Here, the debate has been entirely one way, though it behoves critics of the Primary Care Trust to come up with constructive proposals for the hospital, possibly through the formation of a trust. The Society has assisted financially with the campaign for the retention of the hospital, and supports the consultants' proposals for the expansion of the hospital's activities.

Another worry for the future is that the Town Council now has plans that could seriously alter the appearance of the Market Square (see front cover). Other proposals for the town, less drastic in scale but in need of scrutiny, are for a re-jig of the Linney Recreation Area, and the Buttercross. Your Committee will be making its views known on the proposals and would welcome input from our members, residents and visitors to the town. We will also need to consider any proposals for the Lloyds site if and when they come to fruition.



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Last year I wrote a piece for Heritage News for local government which concluded that Shropshire County Council should become a 'unitary authority'. This would a) allow a strong elected County Council to resist the influences of non-elected regional and European bodies, and b) return some power and influence to individual towns and parishes in the county, especially traditional boroughs like Ludlow.

Coincidentally, this idea became more relevant this year when the responsible government minister (David Milliband) declared his support for unitary authorities, and Shropshire County Council published, with some enthusiasm, a proposed timetable for the election of a 'shadow' unitary authority in April 2008. Unfortunately, the Prime Minister carried out yet another re-shuffle, promoted young Mr Milliband to another job, and the whole process has been left 'on hold'.

However, whatever changes to the organisation of local government may occur, Ludlow needs to get its views across. An election for a new Town

Council is due next year, and I hope some members will put themselves forward as candidates as they have done in the past. In addition, the Town Council's constitution allows for the appointment of advisory committees which can influence and inform the Council's decisions. Currently, the Council is heavily dependent on highly paid consultants whose experience and qualifications often compare poorly with those of our own members. I hope that people will also volunteer for these committees, which are informal and constructive.

Ludlow also has to take a view on its longer term future. Developments on the 'wrong' side of the by-pass at the Sheet and Rocks Green have already been approved. It is likely that government restrictions on new residential development in South Shropshire will shortly be relaxed. The community needs independent and rational opinion to mitigate the consequences.

All of this is a plea for members of the Society to get involved with the processes which lead to decisions affecting our future. If we don't, decisions will be taken by others and it'll be too late to complain if we don't like them.

Finally, I would welcome suggestions for the Society's own future activities, including lecture topics and speakers for the next season. In the past, the Society has organised trips to places of interest, usually for a day but on occasions for the weekend. We are planning trips to Tyntesfield and Stroud but other suggestions would be welcome. I can be contacted at 41 Gravel Hill, Ludlow SY8 1QR, 01584 876955 or Holstan2@aol.com

Nick Holcombe

MEMBERSHIP

Apart from the 200 copies held in reserve, limited supplies of our 50th Anniversary edition of Heritage News, published in the autumn of 2004 are still available at the Tourist Information Centre in Ludlow's town square. There are also supplies of the 2006 summer edition available at the same location.

At the end of September there were 215 paid up members of the Society (233 this time last year) with a further 85 still to renew. Assuming a fall-out rate of 30/40 a year, this would give a final total of between 260 and 270 annual members for 2006/7.

Adding in 141 Life Members brings the grand total to between 401 and 411 members.

The total number of members has been gradually falling in recent years. In May 2002 there were 448 in total, dropping to 426 in May 2003 and 410 in May 2005.

It would therefore be a great help if, when you have finished with your copy of this edition, you could pass it on to anyone you think may be interested in joining the Society.

There is an application form below.

Michael Coleman-Smith

EVENTS

The Civic Society's lecture season started off with a lively talk about King Charles II's escape after the Battle of Worcester by Roger Pendrill whose ancestors were much involved in the event. This was followed by Sula Rayska's fascinating account of the restoration of Flounder's Folly, a very well-known local landmark. In November we shall have former M.P. and minister, David Mitchell, on 'Women, Politics and Westminster' which should be entertaining, and at Christmas the usual party and discussion forum.

The New Year starts with three talks by the Historical Research Group, 'Ludlow's First World War Memorial', 'Bastardy in Ludlow in the Eighteenth Century' and 'The History of the Merchant House'. The next talk will be on the history of Ludford House, followed by a talk on A.E.Housman and then a talk on J.M.W.Turner – altogether a very broad range of subjects.

The Society's AGM will be in May.

Prue Bellak

LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY

2006-20067 Officers & Committee Members

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Vice-Presidents:	Dr Martin Speight Dick Stephens Matthew Green Philip Dunne M.P.
Chairman:	Nick Holcombe
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Committee Members:

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BECOME A MEMBER - JOIN NOW

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

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

Please accept my/our application to join the society.

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 until further notice as GIFT AID.

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

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Address

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