

Ludlow Heritage News

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FREE

ALLOTMENTS

Julia Ionides charts their development



This early 20th century card reflects a time, beginning in the 19th century, when allotments were fashionable with the newly urbanised 'respectable' classes, who wanted space to grow their food and escape from city life. However, allotments have had a history of ups and downs according to the economic state of the country.

Their origins come from the time of enclosures when landowners reclaimed more of their land and labourers lost their right to use some of that land for growing their food, keeping domestic animals and gathering firewood. Enclosures began at least as far back as the 16th century, and in compensation allotments of land were attached to tenant

cottages, and this seems to have been the first use of the word 'allotment'.

The division of ancient landscapes, enclosure of parishes, and other actions supported by Acts of Parliament, changed the English landscape for ever; although enclosures took place in other parts of the British Isles, it was the good farming land of central England that proved attractive. At the time it was applauded as a way forward, but by 1801, Arthur Young, the agricultural writer, admitted that 'the fact is that by nineteen out of twenty enclosures the poor are injured.'

Some of the oldest allotments still in use are in Nottingham. They date back more than six hundred years and the seventy-five acres have been made a listed Grade II site. The first recorded evidence of plots there being rented for grazing was in 1604, and over two hundred years later they were divided into the allotment gardens that exist today. Another notable historic example is the Victorian Guinea Gardens which have remarkably survived in Warwick, and a few tenanted gardens survive in Edgbaston.

Enclosure of land gained momentum from the

mid-18th century and into the 19th, coinciding with the Industrial Revolution, and the dispossessed labourers moved to towns to find work. Their poor wages and living conditions gave rise to social unrest. To avoid this, landowners, sometimes from genuinely philanthropic motives, set up initiatives to provide land for those dispossessed of it. A correspondent in the *Annals of Agriculture* wrote that 'a few roods of land, at a fair rent, would do a labourer as much good as wages almost doubled.' The morality of the poor was always in the minds of the Church: the Bishop of Winchester thought that giving land to every married labourer would make them 'too saucy, want higher wages and breed more children.'² The Society for Bettering the Condition and Increasing the Comforts of the Poor was set up in 1797; matters progressed slowly and eventually an Enclosure Act of 1806 stipulated that 'a portion of land should be set aside for allotments'. There were eight acres enclosed in Great Somerford, Wiltshire, 'to be used as poor gardens at the discretion of the parish'.³ However, in 1908 the Smallholdings and Allotments Act set up Allotment Authorities in every area which had a duty under that Act to

The Mill Street Allotments



provide – or make reasonable effort to provide – ‘Allotments for the Working Poor’.⁴

Much changed over the years, particularly with the development of Council housing, and the ‘Parker Morris Standard’ Council house was given sufficient garden to enable the tenants to grow food for the family – or keep pigs, chickens and bees. Ludlow’s Sandpits

area is a good example of such provision, but generally things moved slowly in Ludlow. In 1998 there was a waiting list for allotments but no sites, and it was not until 2002 that the allotments were ready for use at what is now known as Wigley’s Field on land leased from Plymouth Estates to the Town Council; they sub-lease it to the Management Group – the Allotments Association.

Originally it was thirty plots of almost equal size, but some half plots have been created and there are now thirty-six plot holders. The standard plot size is ‘the ten pole plot, equal to three hundred square yards, which, properly husbanded, should feed a family of four for a twelvemonth.’⁵ According to the late David Lloyd, Wigley’s Field was named after an 18th century Ludlow mayor – a Mr. Wigley – who kept his horses there.

Allotment rent is low, but there are strict general rules for allotment holders, and specific ones for plots like Wigley’s Field where no sheds or permanent structures can be put up higher than one metre, and a policy of gardening organically, without the use of artificial pesticides and fertilizers and avoiding all genetically modified seeds and plants, must be complied with.



One general rule of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners is that the produce grown is for your own and your family’s consumption and must not be sold. Livestock such as rabbits and chickens can be housed ‘as a right’, but permission might be needed from the landlord, in many cases the municipal authority.⁶

Ludlow’s other allotments have the feeling of a secret garden as you enter through the old wooden door off Lower Mill Street. The land is privately owned and leased out on a long-term contract. There are twenty-six plots of varying sizes and a waiting list of thirty-five. Apart from the garden shed prohibition, the regulations for the plot holders are similar to those for Wigley’s Field, with keeping the plots in good order being a priority.⁷ One thing both allotments have in common is their beautiful setting with views of the Castle and the River Teme. A wide variety of fruit and vegetables is produced.

A modern slant on allotments is the Grow, Cook and Share scheme, a Local Food project started in 2010. This scheme, funded by the Big Lottery, supports people in Ludlow and Craven Arms who want to learn to grow their own food and then cook it. The community garden at the Rockspring Centre in Ludlow, which has individual plots much smaller than allotments, is packed with vegetables and fruit, providing seasonal produce that can then be cooked at the regular cookery courses. There is an emphasis on projects for children and young people which will perhaps produce the allotmenters of the future.

One problem, though, for everyone is the lack of suitable land for allotments nationally. In response to the Government’s planning reforms, the National Trust has warned that ‘the 87,000 people on the allotment waiting list could lose out ... to a planning system which favours building’.⁸ Craven Arms Town Council, busy searching for the right land, hopes that some has been found by the River

Above left: A colourful shed on the Mill Street allotment

Left: The Grow, Cook and Share site at Rockspring

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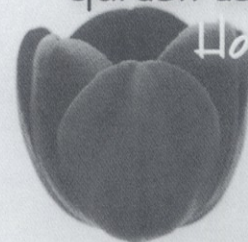


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Onny, but Wittington, in the north of the county, has yet to find any.

In the 1980s allotments were out of fashion, with the 'good life' interest waning, and were therefore lost to development. The 1990s saw a revival as people became more concerned about the environment, pesticides and air miles, and having a plot regained its popularity. With the current financial situation deteriorating for many people and gardens on new estates getting smaller, the need to have somewhere to 'grow your own' has become more pressing and solutions have to be found.

1. Twigs Way, Allotments, Shire Library, 2008, p.7
2. Ibid, p.9
3. Ibid, pp. 8-9
4. Information from Steve Blyton, Chairman of Wigley's Field Allotment Association
5. Information from the National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners website
6. Ibid
7. Information from Mike Jones, Chairman of the Mill Street Allotments.
8. Shropshire Star report, September 8, 2011

Below: A plotholder picking his produce at Wigley's Field

All allotment photographs by Peter Howell



Ludlow's Sevastopol Cannon and the Imperial Russian Ironmaster Charles Gascoigne



The cannon which stands outside Ludlow Castle is a trophy from the Crimean War, 1854-56: Britain, France and others against Russia. The war gave us the Charge of the Light Brigade, Florence Nightingale, and the Victoria Cross – instituted in 1856. It also gave Britain dozens of trophy cannon, still displayed in towns across the country. The focus of the war became the long and finally successful allied siege of Sevastopol (Sebastopol, Russian Sevastópol') in the Crimea, the main Russian Black Sea naval base.

On the war's conclusion in 1856, the departing Allies shipped home large quantities

of enemy equipment. The French and British shared out captured ordnance -- the French eager to offset the captured Napoleonic cannon from 1812 still displayed in the Moscow Kremlin. The most valued guns were bronze – the French, it was reported, received 88, the British 89. Iron ordnance was more plentiful: 875 Russian iron pieces were reportedly sent back to Britain.

Once the guns were safely stored at Woolwich Arsenal, the government had difficulty deciding what to do with them. Finally in 1857 the cabinet agreed that bronze guns would be presented to major naval bases

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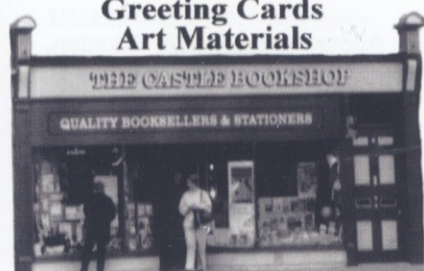


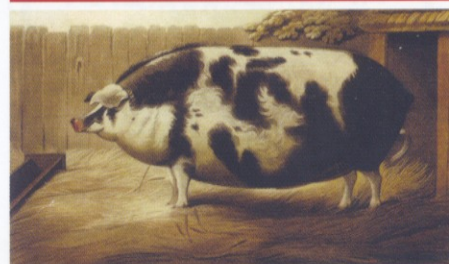
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The Cyrillic stamp on the left-hand trunnion

and the capital cities (Dublin, Edinburgh, London), and iron cannon allocated gratis to any British or Irish town 'having room to contain them'. Records show nearly 300 cannon distributed in this way across the British Isles and to British dependencies – Australia, Canada, Gibraltar, New Zealand. Some guns were melted down to make other forms of memorial, notably John Bell's London Crimean War Memorial, near Piccadilly. In World War II many trophy cannon were taken for scrap and so lost, including the only other Shropshire trophy, at Bridgnorth. Ludlow's gun, however, was spared.



Right-hand trunnion

24-лб: 24-lb.
ФРЕГАТ: FRIGATE
122½ -- П: 122½ -- P.
[pood = 36lb.] = 1 ton 19.4 cwt (ca. 2000 kg.)
1799 – Г. 1799 – G. [G. = god 'year']

But how did Ludlow come by its cannon? The Mayor – perhaps encouraged by the recent re-election of a Crimean war hero as a Ludlow MP – applied on his own initiative to the War Department for a Russian trophy, and received a positive response. On 6 August 1857 Ludlow Borough Councillors 'resolved unanimously that the Council approved of the course taken by the Mayor and that they accept the gift on behalf of the inhabitants, and undertake the due care and preservation of it'; the Shrewsbury and Hereford Railway Company agreed to 'convey the gun free of cost from Croydon to Ludlow'. On 25 November *Eddowes Shrewsbury Chronicle* reported that 'This great trophy of national valour' had duly arrived in Ludlow. 'A vast number of persons have visited the Station, anxious to catch a glimpse of this powerful engine of destruction...' Choice of a site proved difficult; but the gun was eventually placed in its present position in Castle Walk.

Ludlow's cannon carries a number of identification marks. Its barrel bears the Imperial Russian double-headed eagle; its two trunnions show descriptive data and a stamp of origin. The right-hand trunnion identifies it as a 24-pounder frigate gun weighing 122.5 poods (1 ton 19.4 cwt, ca. 2000 kg) and cast in 1799.

The Cyrillic stamp on the left-hand trunnion reads: No. 6599. ALKSND-ZVD. D.GASKOIN. 'Alksnd-zvd' indicates the Aleksándrovskii Zavód or Works, in Petrozavódk, north-western Russia. 'D. Gaskoin' shows that the foundry's then Director was named Gascoigne.

The ironmaster Sir Charles Gascoigne (1738-1806), a Yorkshireman, made his name as director 1769-1786 of the great Carron Company ironworks at Falkirk, famous for the 'carronade' naval gun which he developed. However, Carron Company had greatest success in the nineteenth century; under Gascoigne it struggled, and Gascoigne himself faced bankruptcy. He was therefore open to an invitation from Empress Catherine II to move to Russia and modernise Russian cannon production. British law forbade the export of specialist technology and craftsmen, and when Gascoigne finally emigrated in 1786 some Britons considered him a traitor: he was initially boycotted by the British community in St Petersburg.



Gascoigne was sent to Petrozavodsk to modernise the Alexander Foundry. He was very successful, remaining in charge until his death in 1806. He made a fine career in Russian service: by 1798 he was Actual Counsellor of State, civilian equivalent to Major-General or Rear-Admiral. Exceptional financial terms enabled him to amass a fortune. At the coronation of the new Emperor Paul I, in 1798, Gascoigne received a grant of some 2,000 serfs (dependent peasants).

Gascoigne's work for the government was not restricted to Petrozavodsk. In 1789 he developed a new foundry near Kronstadt, the port for St Petersburg, to run innovatively on scrap iron. In 1803 he began to renovate the navy's major foundry at Kolpino, outside Petersburg. In the 1790s Gascoigne was sent to what is now Ukraine to set up a new foundry, which became the city of Luhans'k. This was one of Gascoigne's less successful undertakings; nevertheless, that did not shake his credit with the government, nor apparently with the present-day inhabitants of



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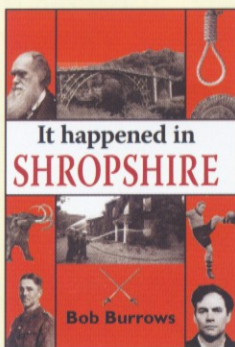
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Luhans'k, who celebrate Gascoigne as one of their founders. Gascoigne was also involved in non-military production: St Petersburg's first metal bridges, the first locally-manufactured Russian steam engines, ornamental iron-work. In 1797 Gascoigne helped retool the Russian mint, and was largely responsible for a new Russian statute on weights and measures. Later he became technical director of the huge Aleksandrovskaia textile mill in Petersburg.

The works which Gascoigne directed played a significant part in the development of Russian engineering: he was a notable (if also controversial) figure in the wider history of Russian heavy industry. As for ordnance, this was still the age of smooth-bore weaponry, and cannon from Gascoigne's time formed part of Russian stocks up until the Crimean War. Thereafter Russia, like Britain and France, moved quickly to modernise its artillery; but until then change was slow. This explains why British trophies from 1856 included guns half a century old, and how in 1857 Ludlow acquired a Russian cannon made in the eighteenth century by a British ironmaster.

Roger Bartlett and Roy Payne

Modern bust of Gascoigne in Luhans'k
(photo: Alex Chupryna)



THE LAST JUBILEE YEAR: 2002

We look back at the events and issues that concerned the Civic Society in 2002, the Golden Jubilee Year.

The main concern for the Society in 2002 was its response to the South Shropshire Draft Local Plan. The Committee felt Ludlow was about the right size at the time, and was against any unnecessary expansion. Of particular concern remained the southern approaches to the town. Also of interest was the plan to build an extra 1018 houses in Ludlow which the Committee felt was 'inappropriate for Ludlow as it will change the town's character irrevocably and will stretch its limited resources and infrastructure to breaking point'. The Committee was aware that McDonald's had expressed interest in the town as once a town's population rises over 10,000, a fast food restaurant of this type becomes viable. Also on the issue of planning, the Committee responded to the Government's green paper by claiming 'it will totally alter the planning mechanisms to what, in our opinion, is a much more lax system.' Some things never change!

Another area of concern in this year was the proposed development of the Dinham Water Meadow, and the Society had some success with the withdrawal of the Mill Street car park plan. Continuing controversy raged about the Ludlow Library and Museum Resource Centre (strongly opposed by the Committee). New plans had been submitted for No 18 Castle Street, with a more traditional façade, although the Committee felt that there were too many windows as there were sixteen dwellings, and that the number of flats (hence the number of windows) should be reduced. The Society had also been investigating the possibility of Ludlow's being nominated for World Heritage Site Status. 'Our MP supports us but it seems it would be years before Ludlow could be added to the so-called tentative list.'

2002 also saw the results of the 2001 Civic Society membership survey which

identified three major issues for the next five years: traffic, development and situation (i.e. the green space round the town). 2002 also saw Patrick Beautelement step down as Chairman, with Nick Holcombe taking over the post.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Henry Arthur Cheers LRIBA 1853-1916

Prompted by the articles in the Ludlow Heritage News, and having a long-standing connection with Twickenham where he lived and died, I thought I would try and discover more about the life and career of Harry Cheers, and, assisted by the Pevsner Architectural Guides and the Twickenham Museum website, compile a list of his principal works.

By good fortune I discovered at an early stage that a colleague, Mr Peter Kelly MBE, CP, the architectural historian who in 1976 was the founder chairman of the Isle of Man Victorian Society, had, in 1981, been introduced to the LRIBA Library by Dr Gavin Stamp, the architectural historian and writer, and that his research at the Library on Harry Cheers 'included membership applications, directories, architectural periodicals, letters etc...'

Mr Kelly has, very generously, shared the results of his research with me and I am in the course of compiling a list of the architect's principal works and additions and amendments to his entry in the Dictionary of British Architects 1834-1914 Volume I: A-K (2001). An architect whose works are recorded in London, fourteen English counties, the Isle of Man and South Africa merits further consideration.

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WILLIAM MORRIS'S MANIFESTO FOR THE SPAB

A talk by Matthew Slocombe, Director Designate of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

25th April 2012, 7.30,
The Old School Room,
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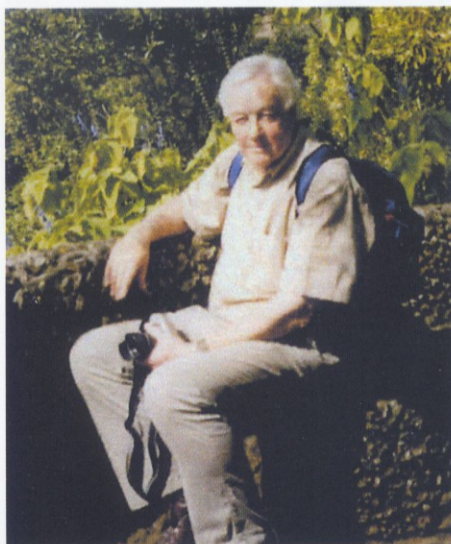
William Morris founded the SPAB in 1877 in reaction against the predilection of some Victorian architects to restore medieval buildings. Today, the word 'restoration' tends to be regarded as beneficial, carrying more gravitas than 'repair'. However, when one understands the implications within that word, made clear in Morris's manifesto, then it takes on a sinister aspect. Morris's manifesto contains the principles of sympathetic repair and conservation.

The SPAB is the largest, oldest and most technically expert national pressure group fighting to save old buildings from decay, demolition and damage. Matthew Slocombe, who has been Assistant Secretary for some years, is now Director Designate, the new title for Secretary. I carry a sense of anxious guilt persuading the holder of either position to sacrifice two days from the office, but my feeling that so many from Ludlow will have Eureka moments and find the talk of great interest, tips the balance.

Tickets, in aid of the SPAB, are £5 from the Castle Bookshop or from myself at 23A Mill Street, or £5.50 at the door. I am hoping that by 7.30 on 25th April the Old School Room will be offering standing room only!

Juliet Diamond

OBITUARY



NEIL AIKENS 1933-2011 CHAIRMAN OF THE CIVIC SOCIETY 1998-2000

Neil and Val arrived in Ludlow in 1987, having bought the Old Bell House from John Godrich – himself a past President of the Society. With the house came its appendages: Ludford Mill, No.3 Old Bell Cottages and, not least, Ludford Weir. Neil was still working full time for Shell, based in Chester, where he was Head of Base Chemicals.

No.3 was sold on and the initial task was the Mill. Its restoration started before Neil retired from Shell in 1992, his weekend relaxation being described as 'knocking a few walls down with his sons' – not literally. When fully habitable, the Mill paid for its upkeep by holiday letting, and was sold on in 1997. The Horseshoe Weir was restored in conjunction with the Teme Weirs Trust.

The Trust was formed in 1996 to restore the crumbling weirs in Ludlow. This was a huge task, not only battling with the river but also

with the Environment Agency. Neil became the Project Co-ordinator for the restoration, and his experience in his previous engineering life was invaluable in the work that was to take ten years to accomplish. The varying facets of Neil's character proved he was just the man to work with an enthusiastic team. His cogent and succinct letter writing and understanding of the complexities of lottery applications were major factors in our success. Following the sale of Ludford Mill, a major restoration of the Old Bell House was put in hand.

The earliest reference to his involvement with the Civic Society was in 1993, when he was Editor of *Heritage News*, and in Spring 1994 he contributed an article 'Breathing New Life into Old Buildings' about the history and restoration of Ludford Mill. At this stage he was in charge of advertising. In Autumn 1994, as Vice Chairman, he saw the start of the controversy over the Cattle Market site in Corve Street. In 1998 he became Chairman. Perhaps the best way to describe his chairmanship is to quote from an article in *Heritage News* in Autumn 2000.

'During Neil Aikens's chairmanship, architectural planning applications included the Tesco controversy; the town centre enhancement project; the British Legion War Memorial; the proposed Ludlow Library and Museum Resource Centre; the development of the former Angel Hotel, and of the former Walters site.

'In landscape terms, the Gallows Bank meadow preservation; the protection of the unspoilt southern approach to Ludlow; the landscaping rather than housing on the former swimming pool site; and the reinstatement of the River Teme weirs involved quite different issues and criteria.

'In respect of all these controversial planning issues it was Neil's task to co-ordinate the Society's studies of context and content with the formulation of its strategy and tactics, and their implementation. This was achieved with the help and advice of the elected committee, but not without a mass of personal correspondence and behind-the-scenes lobbying! Neil performed the Chairman's role with quiet distinction throughout, and he maintained the status and respect which

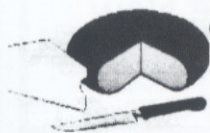
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the Society is accorded by the overwhelming majority of the community in Ludlow.'

Neil also made a valuable contribution to the Friends of Whitcliffe Common.

In 2010 he and Val decided to downsize, and Neil embarked on what was sadly to be his final project, the conversion of 32 Broad Street from a dental practice back into a private house. With a Georgian frontage, the house has 14th Century origins with a 16th Century extension.

The restoration, using the same architect originally retained for Ludford Mill, is sympathetic and consummate, involving a modern extension at the rear – Neil was not averse to modern design providing it was good and used appropriate materials.

Although the restoration was not finally completed at the time of his death, Neil had the ability to visualise, and so saw completion 'in his mind's eye'. Once again, as with Ludford Mill, he breathed new life into an old building.

He leaves a wife, three sons and seven grandchildren, and a considerable legacy for future generations.

Bill Lloyd-Kitchen

NOTES from the chairman

The Jubilee Garden

The matter that is taking up the bulk of our time is the old garden next to St Laurence's and the Reader's House. As I reported in the last edition of Heritage News, the site has been bought on behalf of the Civic Society by an anonymous benefactor, and the building of five inappropriate luxury houses has been prevented. Thanks to very generous donations from our members and others, we have now raised just over £100,000, and so will soon be in a position to transfer the garden land into the direct ownership of the Society.

Following consultations with the Ludlow Diamond Jubilee Committee and others, the garden has now been designated The Jubilee

Garden, and we hope it will be open in time for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June. At the time of writing, the clearance of the garden, including cutting back the ivy on the walls and the felling of some of the trees, has been largely completed. The effect is dramatic, as anybody passing by the site will have noticed. We are very grateful to Alan Jones Tree Surgeons, Ludlow Town Council and a small group of volunteers who braved the freezing conditions in February for undertaking the clearance. The next step is to design the Jubilee Garden, obtain grant funding to help with the cost of the work, and then make it all happen. As I write, we are looking for a green-fingered volunteer who would be willing to take on managing this aspect of the work. If you think you could help, please get in touch.

The Buttercross

Another issue that has taken up quite a lot of the time of our Committee over recent months has been the Buttercross. As many readers will know, the Town Council has been working on a very worthwhile and exciting £1.9 million Heritage Lottery Fund application. If successful, the HLF grant would enable much needed repairs to the Town Walls, the creation of new walks round the Castle, and the extension of the Bread Walk so that it runs all the way from Dinham Bridge to Ludford Bridge at riverside level. It will also enable the upper storey of the Buttercross (formerly the Town Council chamber) to be turned into a new interpretation and education centre for the town, with a focus on the built environment and traditional building skills. The Civic Society supports this project enthusiastically.

There was, however, one aspect of the Town Council's proposals to which we objected strongly: this was the proposal to install glass doors to the ground floor of the Buttercross which would be closed at night. We believed such doors would do severe harm to the character of the building, and that they were not justified as the Town Council had decided that the ground floor of the Buttercross should remain an open but covered area for the use of market traders (which was its historic function, of course). The only justification that the Town Council was offering for the installation of the

doors was that the building suffered from some misuse at night, notably urination. We did not feel that the Town Council had sufficiently explored other ways of dealing with such antisocial behaviour, or that the Council had adequately demonstrated that the problem was sufficiently severe to justify the drastic solution proposed.

When others, most significantly English Heritage, expressed similar objections to the glass doors, I am pleased to say that the Town Council removed this element from its planning application. This cleared the way for the Civic Society to give its full backing to the Council's HLF bid.

The 2nd Ludlow Conservation Weekend. 26th – 27th May

A date for your diary is the 2nd Ludlow Conservation Weekend, which will take place on the weekend of 26th/27th May. The weekend is organised by the Conservation Trust for St Laurence's, and, like the hugely successful weekend last year, it will consist of a mixture of talks, walks and tours, and practical/craft demonstrations. The highlight last year was undoubtedly the Stone Carving Festival and auction of carvings, and this year wood carving will be added to the mix. As part of the weekend there will be a Housman evening, too, organised by the Housman Society. The Civic Society helps to support the weekend financially, and we will have a stall amongst the marquees out on the churchyard. Proceeds go, of course, to the conservation of our magnificent parish church. Not to be missed.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, 2nd – 5th June

It will not be possible to miss the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations the following weekend. The Ludlow Civic Society's main contribution is, of course, the creation of a new permanent public open space, the Jubilee Garden. However, we will also have a stall at the Ludlow Mascall Centre (Bishop Mascall Centre) over the weekend, and will be taking a look back at the events which took place in Ludlow in the Queen's other two Jubilee years, 1977 (Silver) and 2002 (Gold). See you there.

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James McFarlane

While I was writing these notes the sad news came through of the death on 18th February of James McFarlane, a past Chairman of Ludlow Civic Society. Jim made a huge contribution to Ludlow in many ways, and a full obituary will follow in the next edition of Heritage News.

Resignation

I regret that I will have to resign as Chairman of the Society at the AGM in May, as I will be leaving Ludlow on 6th June for a spell doing charity work with Raleigh International in the rainforest of Borneo – quite a change from Whitcliffe Common! Since moving to Ludlow in 2008 to repair and restore the Reader's House, I have found myself plunged into conservation issues in what I believe is rightly called 'the loveliest town in England'. It has been an enormously rewarding experience and I have made many new friends (and hopefully not too many enemies). It was a great honour to be elected Chairman of the Civic Society last year, and I hope the new Chairman will enjoy the job as much as I have. I wish the new Chairman, and the Society as a whole, a great future in challenging times.

Simon Buteux

EVENTS

The Civic Society lecture in March was a highly enjoyable talk on Damascus tiles. These hugely influenced architects and designers in the West such as Sir Frederick Leighton and the entire Arts and Crafts Movement. It was given by Arthur Milner, an expert in Indian and Islamic art. This was followed in April by a fascinating talk on Wigmore abbey by the well-known actor, John Challis. The AGM will be on May 9th.

During the following season we plan to have another talk by Simon Holloway who gave the immensely popular lecture on corrugated iron, and a return visit by Richard Field who will talk about Nancy Mitford. Jean Brown from the Historical Research Group will be talking about Victorian Ludlow.

Prue Bellak

MEMBERSHIP

We are delighted to have welcomed ten new members to the Society since the last issue of Heritage News, and membership remains at just over 400 subscribers. Thank you to all who responded to the autumn renewal invitations, and to those yet to do so I issue my usual reminder that it's still not too late!

Unfortunately, I will soon be obliged to resign as Membership Secretary after two years in the role. The Society will be looking for someone new to fill the post, the major responsibilities of which are maintenance of the membership database and the processing of renewal subscriptions at the start of each Society year. If anyone is interested in joining the Committee and taking on the role, and would like further information, please feel free to contact me on 01584 872295.

Rebecca Buteux



Responses to articles are always welcome. Please address your letters to:

The Editor, Heritage News,
7 Dinham, Ludlow SY8 1EJ

Ludlow Civic Society 2011-12 Officers and Committee

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Sir Keith Thomas
Dr Martin Speight
Dick Stephens
Philip Dunne M.P.
Simon Buteaux
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1. An increased membership strengthens our influence in protecting this unique town.
2. We need your support in our fight against over-development and bad design.
3. We need your ideas on how we can promote improvements for the town.
4. You can enjoy our social functions, lectures and trips.
5. You will receive our free magazine which comes out normally twice a year.
6. You choose just how much you do for us.

If you wish to join, please complete the form below.

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, The Readers House, Church Walk, Ludlow SY8 1AJ

Please accept my/our application to join the society.

Annual membership subscription is £13 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.
I am currently a UK taxpayer.

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

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

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