

Ludlow Heritage



Published twice a year by
Ludlow Civic Society
www.ludlowcivicsociety.org

No 64 Spring/Summer 2016

N E W S

FREE

No 4
Brand Lane

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Visits

Programme
and Events

A short history of No.4 Brand Lane

The home
of Dan and
Karen Lloyd



Painting of Brand Lane Houses courtesy of local artist David Gray, The Art Room.

The Property

Our home, No. 4 Brand Lane, is an historic property on the south side of the street. Boundary changes over many centuries have made the front part of the house wider than the rear garden. The property occupies a central position in an irregularly-shaped block bounded by Brand Lane to the north, the town wall and ditch to the south and Old Street to the east.

When Dan and I purchased No. 4 in 2002, I was fascinated to discover a large box of ancient deeds that somehow had survived the house and its history. The earliest deed is dated 1603 and predates the present house! I couldn't resist the urge to research the plot using these many and varied parchments as my starting point. For earlier information I am indebted to the late historian David Lloyd (no relation) who provided further source material from his considerable collection of private local history information. What I discovered is as follows:

Continued overleaf

Early history: ownership by the Palmers' Guild.

The property was one of the earliest Ludlow properties to be owned by the Palmers' Guild. It is listed in a rental of 1327, when it was described as 'our tenement of the gift of Richard Smallman'. A later rental of 1351 names the Guild's tenant as 'formerly Simon the Summoner', a church court official. A title deed of 1392, confirming the Guild's ownership of a number of properties, describes No. 4 as a cottage, bounded on one side (the present No. 5) by a 'cottage of the Prior', i.e. Prior of St. John's Hospital in Lower Broad Street, and on the other by a tenement of William Parys, a wealthy cloth merchant known to have owned property to the east, part of which is now No. 3. In 1327 and 1351, the annual rent paid to the Guild was 3s.4d. But by 1392 this had risen to 6s.8d. The meaning of 'cottage' at this time, as opposed to 'tenement', is not certain, but the term implies a small residence, perhaps of one storey.

The occupancy of the property in the 15th century has not yet been traced, but by 1502 the tenant was probably Hugh Aston, still paying 6s.8d. In 1525, it was one of several Ludlow properties described as 'void', evidence that Ludlow, like several other towns, was suffering a period of urban decay. In 1549, the last rental before the dissolution of the Palmers' guild in 1551, the tenant was Gyles Bruton, who was paying the reduced rent of 5s., an indication of continuing decay.



Ludlow Borough Corporation

No. 4 Brand Lane, like all Palmers' Guild properties, now passed into the ownership of Ludlow Borough Corporation, who used the income for various purposes, including the maintenance of charities formerly maintained by the Guild such as the Grammar School and Hosier's Almshouses. By 1572, the rent was again 6s.8d. And the property is described as tenement and garden, with Thomas Job as the tenant. This suggests that a house had been built on the site, probably fronting the street as now, with a garden behind. In 1603, the property was let, still for 6s.8d., to John Fox, variously described as 'grinder' or 'smith'. In a tax assessment in 1614, Fox paid 1s.6d a year, suggesting that he was wealthier than many of the town's artisans, though some way behind the leading trading families.

By 1619, No. 4 Brand Lane was leased to members of the Clee family, though it is not known if they were related to the John Clee, weaver, who owned Nos. 12 and 13 on the north side of Brand Lane. In 1655, the property was leased to Richard Clee, who was living there in 1667 with Margaret, his wife, and Alice, his grown-up daughter. Richard Clee died in July 1669 but a year later the lease passed to Joshua Williams, who married Alice at St. Laurence's parish church on 11th June 1670. The occupation of Joshua Williams is unknown, but he seems to have mortgaged the property. In 1672, Williams paid tax on three hearths, showing that his house was larger than many Ludlow houses, though smaller than that further east in Brand Lane, now Brand House, which had six hearths.

In 1672 Joshua Williams mortgaged the property to Francis Lamb of Ombersley in Worcestershire. He and his heirs retained ownership until 1720, when the property had been converted into two small houses, one of which was occupied by John Wilson, a pauper. In that year, however, the fortunes of the property improved dramatically, for on 3rd December, the lease was alienated to Sir Francis Charlton, a member of one of South Shropshire's leading families.

The Charltons and their successors

Sir Francis Charlton (1651-1729) was the eldest son of Sir Job Charlton (1614-1697) of Ludford, a lawyer, who was a member of the Council of the Marches, one of the Members of Parliament for Ludlow from 1660 and Chief Justice of Chester from 1662. Sir Francis had started to invest in large Ludlow properties in 1705 when he purchased 27 Broad Street, which for some years had been owned jointly with No. 5 Brand Lane, producing an L-shaped property with rear access from Brand Lane. The acquisition of the lease of No. 4 Brand Lane, which was a virtual freehold except for the payment of the annual 6s.8d. rent to the Corporation, consolidating the Charlton holding in this part of Ludlow, may have been intended to allow the construction of a very large property facing Brand Lane, but in the event the present house was built.

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Three surviving window tax assessments allow us to conclude with confidence that the house was greatly enlarged and probably completely rebuilt between 1724 and 1729. In 1724, the tenant was a Mr Stedman, who paid 2s. tax on eight windows. In 1726, there was no payment, perhaps because of reconstruction, but in 1729 Mrs Stedman, presumably now a widow, paid 6s. tax on seventeen windows. The wall facing Brand Lane, revealed by the removal of render in March 2005, has finely cut stone similar to that used for rebuilding 27 Broad Street and 5 Brand Lane. It probably came from the quarries on Whitcliffe owned by the Charlton family. Further research will reveal the identity of the Stedman family, but the use of the titles, 'Mr' and 'Mrs' show that they were people of quality, probably members of the well-known land-owning family of that name in the parish of Bitterley. In the first half of the 18th century particularly, many people of this kind wished to buy or lease town houses in Ludlow. Many houses were rebuilt or re-fronted in the fashionable Georgian style to cater for this demand.

The next tenant of No. 4 Brand Lane was Mr James Marsh, previously a tenant of another Charlton property, No. 27 Broad Street. James Marsh was a writing master, that is a private schoolmaster who taught hand-writing and other 'useful subjects' to boys whose parents saw little relevance in the classical education provided at the Grammar School. James Marsh, whose family seem to have been landowners in Orleton, is first described as 'writing master' in 1722, when he leased a room for his school in the Market Hall. It is possible that he also taught pupils in the houses where he lived. From 1740, James Marsh is described as 'gentleman'. He probably had other sources of income, perhaps enabling him to give up teaching. In 1763, the year before his death, he was still living at No. 4 Brand Lane with his wife and a maid, paying the substantial sum of 5s. as an annual church tax.

After the death of Sir Francis Charlton in 1729, the lease of No. 4 Brand Lane and the ownership of the other Ludlow properties, had passed to Sir Job Charlton II (1710-1761), the eldest son of Sir Francis's second marriage. He married Mary Came, the daughter of a London merchant, whose dowry helped him to replenish the Charlton fortunes. Ludford House, the main family seat, went to the issue of Sir Francis's first marriage, but Sir Francis not only made the Ludlow properties available for the issue of his second wife, but also set Job Charlton II up as a landowner at Park Hall, Whittington, in the north of Shropshire. Sir Job, who was a member of Ludlow Borough Corporation, needed a base in Ludlow for his social and political activities, and it was he who started to rebuild No. 27 Broad Street in the 1740s. He and his heirs retained No. 4 Brand Lane as a source of income from the rents paid by tenants. Sir Job died in 1761. He was succeeded by his sister Emma, who married John Kinchant (alternatively Jean Quinchant), the son of a Huguenot officer who had been killed at the battle of Fontenoy in 1745. The Kinchants had no use for the Ludlow properties and they were sold to Somerset Davies, an affluent Ludlow attorney, who completed the rebuilding of 27 Broad Street and lived there



with his wife, children and servants. He and his son, Somerset Davies II, who went to live at Croft Castle, continued to let No. 4 Brand Lane to tenants, one of whom, from 1763 to 1770, was Thomas Like, surgeon.

Mary Edwards, computer

When the lease of No. 4 Brand Lane was sold again by Somerset Davies II in 1810, it was to Mrs Mary Edwards, the widow of the Revd. John Edwards, Preacher of Ludlow (senior curate) from 1778 until his early death in 1784. Through contacts made whilst an undergraduate at Cambridge, Edwards had met Nevil Maskelyne, the Astronomer Royal, who was the creator and editor of the British Nautical Almanac, first published in 1767 and funded by the government, through the Board of Longitude. The Nautical Almanac was an annually-published collection of astronomical tables that supplied the data necessary for sailors to find their latitude and longitude at sea. Maskelyne set up a network of people living in different parts of England to compute and check these tables, using seven-figure logarithms.

Maskelyne's links with the Revd. John Edwards were strengthened by occasional visits to South Shropshire, where his sister, Margaret, the widow of Lord Clive of India, was living at Oakly Park. Maskelyne is known to have visited John and Mary Edwards at their home in Old Street, the timber-framed Preacher's House. Personal accounts kept by John Edwards show that during his Ludlow years, more than half the family earnings came from fees for Nautical Almanac computing. John Edwards also supplemented his clerical income by teaching private pupils.

Recent research by Mary Croarken of Warwick University shows, however, that most of the computing was, in fact, done by Mary Edwards. One of Edwards's pupils, later a Member of Parliament, wrote that 'the widow had done the greater part of the calculation in the life of her husband'. Certainly Mary continued the work on her own after her husband's death, as a means of supporting her two young daughters. It

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is not certain where she lived in Ludlow after 1784, but she described it as in 'a small narrow street just off the main thoroughfare'. By 1810, however, her success was such that she was able to purchase No. 4 Brand Lane, the lease being alienated to her on 28th October. In a letter, she described the property as 'an airy house with a garden, clearly a dream house to her and her daughters after their previous privations.

She lived here with her two daughters and a maid, paying 2s.6d. church rate each year. Inheriting very little from her husband, Mary used capital for this purchase that she herself had earned by her mathematical skill and hard work over many years – a very rare achievement for a woman at this time.

Mary was clearly a very remarkable woman, as is cogently summarised by Mary Croarken: 'The Oxford English Dictionary credits the first printed use of the work computer to Sir Thomas Browne in 1646 and describes the term as meaning 'one who computes; a calculator or reckoner especially a person employed to make calculations in an observatory, in surveying etc.' Through the 17th and 18th centuries, such positions were rare. To find a woman employed as a paid computer was exceptional. Mary Edwards was such an exception, working for over 30 years as a paid computer for the British National Almanac. She was one of the Almanac's most prolific, reliable,

accurate and timely computers through the later part of the 18th century and into the beginning of the 19th. While Mary Edwards undoubtedly had both skill and an interest in mathematics and astronomy, she worked primarily to support and feed her family. She was not a leisured lady for whom computing or mathematics was a stimulating intellectual hobby. For her, it was the difference between a modest lifestyle and poverty.'

When Mary died, her two unmarried daughters, Eliza and Maria, inherited No. 4 Brand Lane and lived there with a maid, with Eliza continuing her mother's computing work until 1832, when the compilation of the Nautical Almanac was centralised in London and no women were employed. Maria died in 1828, but Eliza continued to live alone at No. 4 until her own death in 1846, attended only by a single servant, Selina Jones.

Selina Jones, servant, and her successors

When Eliza died, she bequeathed the house to Selina for her lifetime, after which it was to go to a Trustee, Charles Walker of Ashford Court. Two years after Selina inherited the property, she was able to buy the leasehold for £19. 15s., much less than the house itself was worth. Selina died in 1860, after which the property was mortgaged by Charles Walker. In 1890, the last mortgagee sold the property to Miss Elizabeth Cranstaun, a member of a well-established Ludlow family, one member of which was a banker and another Headmaster of the Grammar School. Her heirs sold it in 1920 to Francis and Agnes Creswell, genteel ladies who lived in the house with style and elegance until 1957, after which it passed to the Barratt family, a member of which, Mrs Angela Woodward, lived at No. 4 until Dan and I acquired the house in 2002.

Finally, I would like to mention a recent visitor to our house, Joan Hobbs of Stevenage, who had been evacuated to No. 4 in 1944 'during the period of the flying bombs'.....After making herself known to me on a visit from London, she later wrote me a charming letter describing her wartime experience: 'At No. 4, an elderly lady opened the door, who was introduced as Miss Creswell. She looked at us, a mother with four children, and was persuaded to take us in because, as she said afterwards, she liked the look of us. She soon made us feel at home and showed us to our rooms. I was shown to the attic room on the left-hand side. Miss Creswell had short white hair, which probably made her look older than she really was. Her father was the Vicar of Clun and she had a sister who lived near Dinham Bridge. She also was known as Miss Creswell and was my Sunday school teacher and we met at her house. She introduced us to St Laurence's Church, where the headmaster at my school, a Mr Burton, was the cross bearer. I remember it all so well.'

Researched and written by Karen Lloyd



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Visits

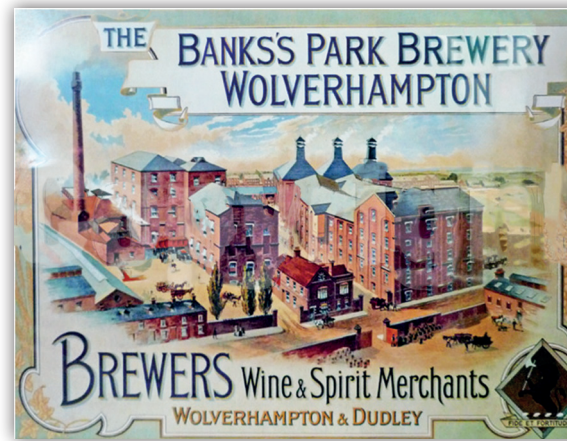
For many years the Civic Society's programme of visits was an important part of its activities and a much valued part of Ludlow's cultural and social life. Recent visits to Tyntesfield House and the Birmingham Gun Barrel house have proved highly successful and of great interest, but in the main excursions have not formed a large part of our annual programme for several years.

This year we are planning what we think will be an exciting series of visits. To tempt you to join us, we present a brief outline of the places we hope to visit. We start with a coach trip organised by Juliet Diamond to two gardens on Wednesday 22nd June. We will start at Bryan's Ground, embellished in recent years by the garden designer and writer David Wheeler and the artist Simon Dorrell, both well-known through their garden journal, *Hortus*, then we will carry on to Broadheath, the home of Mr and Mrs Pritchard. Both gardens were created in the first part of the 20th century, when the Arts and Crafts movement and Gertrude Jekyll's influence abounded. When the gardens were created both properties were occupied by sisters, the two Holt

sisters of Bryan's Ground and the four Coates sisters of Broadheath. A garden visit is exciting enough in itself, but in the case of these, it will be greatly enriched by the opportunity of seeing the houses in their setting. Bryan's Ground is pure Arts and Crafts, being modelled on Bishopsbarns, York, which was built by Walter Brierley, the so-called 'Lutyens of the North'. It was commissioned by the Holt sisters in 1913. Approximately twelve years later, the Coates sisters commissioned Clough Williams Ellis to extend Broadheath, a Georgian farmhouse, and design the garden. The garden is only one of three credited to Williams Ellis, the others being at Plas Brondanw, his family home, and Portmeirion. Like most gardens, Bryan's Ground and Broadheath have evolved, but,

thanks to sympathetic owners, their original characters have not been lost. We believe the likelihood is that they have been enhanced.

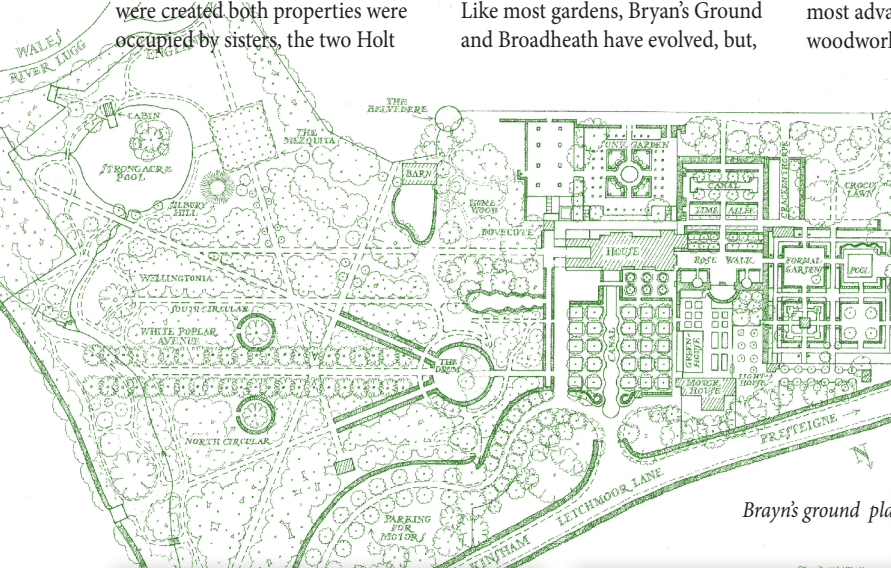
The other three visits in the programme are being organised by John Farley and will be self-drive. On Thursday 28th July there will be a visit to Oakwrights who manufacture very high quality green-oak-framed new houses. The company is less well-known than Border Oak who have a number of houses in the Ludlow environs. The visit will commence at Oakwrights' 'try before you buy' holiday-let show home, 'The Woodhouse' at Swainshill just outside Hereford (HR4 7PU). We will also tour Oakwrights' factory where the company operates some of the most advanced digitally-controlled woodworking machines in the



world. Tim Crump, the founder, and MD of Oakwrights, will be one of the speakers in our Winter 2016/17 programme of talks.

This will be followed on Wednesday 24th August with an afternoon tour of what was originally known as Bank's Park Brewery at Wolverhampton, now renamed as part of the Marston's Group, built with grand Victorian ambition in 1875 and still working flat out today with a virtually unaltered brewing process. It is what would be known in modern

Continued overleaf



Brayn's ground plan



Brayn's ground view

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parlance as 'craft brewing', but on an industrial scale. The whole brewing side of the site is wonderful industrial archaeology, great vaulted spaces with proper smells and a brewing process which can be seen, unlike the sealed stainless steel vessels of a modern micro brewery. There are steep steps and slippery floors, so 'sensible' footwear is advised. The tour will not be

suitable for those with mobility problems.

Finally, on Wednesday 21st September we have a visit to the Herefordshire village of Much Marcle. We will begin with the church of St. Bartholomew (HR8 2LY) where we will be given a guided tour of the church (rated 2 stars by Simon Jenkins), with its beautiful and recently-restored

tomb of Blanche Mortimer, and the Kyrle Chapel and the ancient yew in the churchyard. We will then have a tour of the Grade 2* listed Homme House, built in the early 16th century with an added Georgian frontage. In a tour of the garden we will discover a recently-restored Grade 1 listed 17th century banqueting house.

We hope we have whetted your

tastebuds and look forward to welcoming you on at least one of these trips. Looking to the future, we would welcome any suggestions for future places to visit. One such place is the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham, a walking tour of historic Brum led by our former chairman, Simon Buteux.

JULIA IONIDES

The Civic Society mourns the death of one of its most valuable members, Julia Ionides, who died in a tragic accident in Istanbul last December. She made an enormous contribution, not only to the Society, but to Ludlow and, through her wider interests, to many people in the country and beyond.

Julia was born on 7th April 1942 in Hemel Hempstead. She attended Tolmers Park School for girls and then went on to study acting and stage management at the Webber Douglas School of Dramatic Art. She worked in the theatre for some years, but on holiday in Cyprus, met an R.A.F. officer who was stationed there, and married him. Among her many talents, Julia was a trained Cordon Bleu cook, and after their marriage, she and her husband ran a hotel in Scotland. Eventually, they moved south with their three children to Clun, and then to Ludlow, where they separated and finally divorced.

In Ludlow Julia met Peter Howell, an architect, who has played a large part in the Civic Society over the years. They later married and have lived in Ludlow ever since, always working together in a variety of areas, including the Food Festival, their important work for the blind and the disabled, running the Dog Rose Georgians, writing and publishing books and travelling all over the world to record music and soundscape, from Russia to South Africa, Venice to the U.S.A. Julia had already found time to do an MA in art history, and, with a Churchill Fellowship, she wrote 'Thomas Farnolls Pritchard of Shrewsbury', 1999, the definitive study of the local 18th century architect who had such an important influence on Shropshire and the bordering counties. This gave her an enormous advantage in running the Marches section of the Georgian Group, while she also possessed an indispensable gift for an architectural historian, an infallible visual memory. The days out, study days and longer visits which she organised so brilliantly, attracted people from as far away as Kent and the West Country. We were not only introduced to many Georgian buildings that we would not otherwise have seen, but ate Georgian food

researched and cooked by Julia with the help of Peter, her daughter Caroline and grandson Jo.

Julia came from the very distinguished and widespread Ionides family, and was the great-great-niece of Luke Ionides and his brother Constantine, who were important collectors of works of art in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Constantine's collection forms the basis of the objects in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Julia, with her scholarly interests, was admirably placed to research the history of the family, which came originally from Istanbul. The Dog Rose Press had already republished the 'Memoirs' of Luke Ionides in 1996, and it was while Julia was continuing her researches for a future book on the family, that she fell to her death down a flight of stairs in Istanbul.

To those of us who knew her, she was a constant source of amazement with her energy, her generosity and her gift for friendship. She had contacts everywhere in the world and in many different spheres and her hospitality was boundless. She led a rich and happy life, and her love of people was at the centre of everything she did. She and Peter were loyal members of the Civic Society, and she was a reliable and frequent contributor to 'Heritage News' with articles on subjects such as garden houses, markets and the Georgian Group.

She leaves behind Peter, her constant companion, her three children and eight grandchildren. She also leaves a huge gap in the lives of her many friends.



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A black and white line drawing of a man with glasses, wearing a shirt and tie, focused on working on a mechanical lock or latch. He is using a small tool. The drawing is detailed, showing the internal components of the lock.

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C O M M I T T E E *News*

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The year's end for the Civic Society is fast approaching. At the AGM this year it will be necessary to elect a new Chairman, Treasurer and also Events Secretary. It will be essential to vote in new committee members. Please would you take time to think about whether you would consider becoming a member of the Committee, and to recommend others to take on the responsible but creative roles of the Civic Society Committee. Any communication on this to our Secretary, Juliet Diamond, will be most helpful.

It is most important that societies which care for the town's continuing heritage bring in people with ideas and experience of buildings and infrastructure. It may be said that all responsible residents of Ludlow

should participate in some form with the clubs and societies active in ensuring the town's welfare and status. Increasingly, we now work with other related societies, to ensure better communication

between the various different interests of Ludlow.

Now that it has attained the status of one of the most attractive and interesting small towns in England, it is not easy to maintain this title without a lot of help from the residents working together in an organised fashion. Every year there are increasing pressures placed upon Ludlow, which has limited resources to address these effectively. The Ludlow Civic Society must remain strong and active to meet these challenges.

In line with modern communications and to reduce

costs, we use e-mail and our website more and more. You can keep up to date with the lectures and events which are organised by the Society. This is the best means for us to keep in contact with our members and friends. It would be most helpful if you would make sure that our Membership Secretary, Jane Hunt, has all your contact details.

This year we have also included some visits to local properties of interest in the programme. The numbers are quite limited so early booking is essential.

Dan Lloyd

TALKS AND EVENTS

Once again, a big thank you for attending our varied selection of speakers during our Winter programme. These ranged from a stunningly-illustrated talk on children's pop-up books to a fascinating talk by two speakers on the almshouses of Ludlow.

This summer we are organising a variety of trips for your delectation – see the article 'Visits' and the enclosed booking forms for more details. Looking a little forward, we have planned a diverse programme of talks

for the autumn in our new venue, the Methodist Church in Broad Street, starting with local art dealer, Miles Wynn Cato, on his adventures in art, on September 14th, followed by Tony Lewery talking about a subject dear to our hearts in Ludlow, sign-writing, on October 12th. On November 9th, Christopher Wakeling will be telling us about Nonconformist Chapels and Meeting Houses in England and Wales. All talks will start at 7 p.m. prompt. Looking even further forward, our ever-popular Christmas party will take place on December 14th, once again in St Laurence's Church. Please don't forget the AGM which will take place at the Methodist Church in Broad Street on Wednesday 18th May at 7 p.m.

Ludlow Heritage Awards for 2015

The Ludlow Heritage Awards are made annually by the Ludlow Conservation Area Advisory Committee on which the Civic Society is represented. The awards are for improvements to the character and appearance of the conservation area and may be repairs, restoration, or new uses and buildings.

In 2015 the awarded schemes presented the Committee with a theme. All were restorations to give buildings a continuing useful future. At 108

Corve Street a long-neglected house was carefully restored to provide a family home. At the Gatehouse, Lower Corve Street, the same was true of one of Ludlow's landmark buildings. At 7-8 Broad Street, the works brought neglected upper floors into play. The other two awards went to businesses: Bodenham's, whose careful repairs have been paralleled with well-designed improvements to trading operations, and the Blue Boar, where a light touch has restored the character of the building; in both cases, one hopes, securing the future of the building.

Our thanks go to the recipients for investing in Ludlow and doing it well.
James Caird

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Chairman: Dan Lloyd

Vice-Chairman: Richard Hurlock

Hon. Secretary: Juliet Diamond

Hon. Treasurer: Richard Mangnall

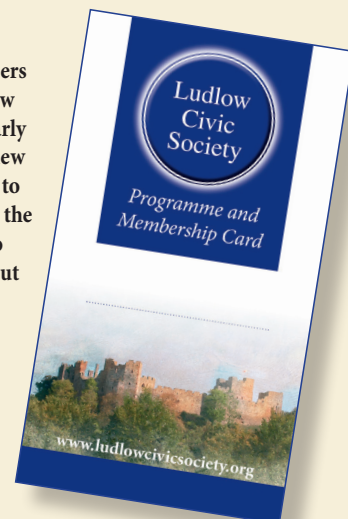
Committee Members: Jane Hunt, Tony Mahalski, John Nash,
Anthony Shuster, Stanton Stephens, Valerie Thomas

We are part way through the membership year with new members still joining, some of whom are new residents in Ludlow. We particularly extend a warm welcome to these new members who have recently come to live in Ludlow. We hope they find the Civic Society an interesting way to meet fellow citizens and learn about Ludlow's heritage.

Some changes are afoot. Many members use email so we propose to publicise our evening talks each month by email as well as items of additional news. Members should not forget that our website, www.ludlowcivicsociety.org also gives you much information. You will also read here in the magazine that the Committee is arranging various outings to local places of interest, which are in addition to the evening talks. We hope these will prove popular.

Please note that the talks continue to start at 7 p.m.

Jane Hunt



To: The Membership Secretary, Ludlow Civic Society,
51 Julian Road, Ludlow SY8 1HD

Please accept my/our application to join the society.

Annual membership subscription is £13 per person. £24.50 per couple - 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)

Address

Postcode

Email

Responses to articles are always welcome.

Please address your letters to:

The Editor, Heritage News, 5 Castle Street, Ludlow SY8 1AS