

Ludlow Heritage News

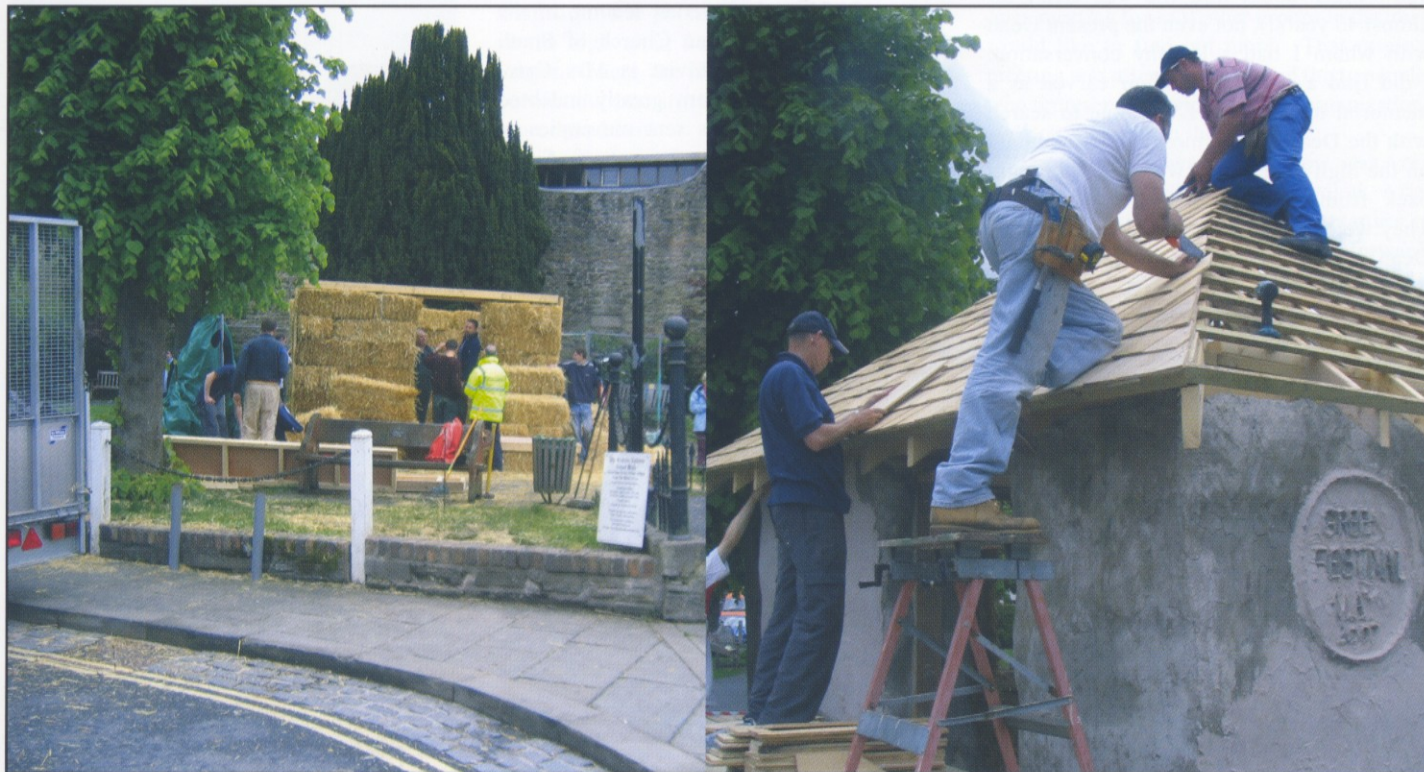
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No.47 WINTER 2007/8

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FREE

Green House



Ludlow's house of straw was erected as part of the towns annual green festival. Made from local materials - straw, timber and clay. The bales are bound and locked together and then coated with lime plaster. Placed on a stone plinth with a damp course, the house has a wooden roof, windows and doors. It makes a warm and eco-friendly home!

SHROPSHIRE INFLUENCE IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA:

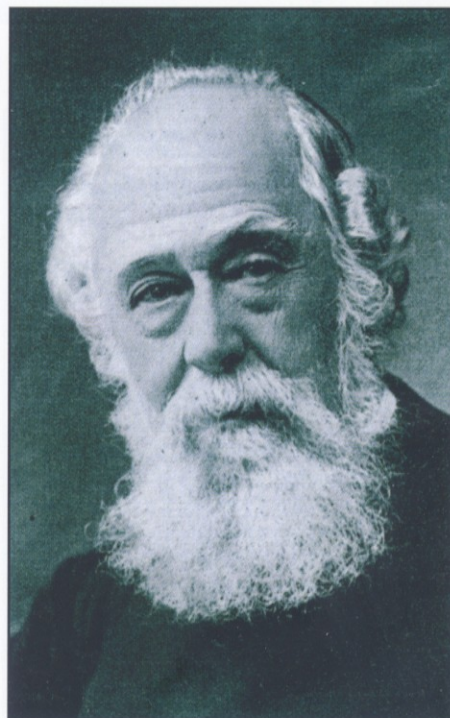
Roy Coles

Readers will be familiar with the Great Law Suit which rocked the political scene in Ludlow in the 1840s, revolving around the dispute over the financing of various charities following the enforcement of the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835¹. One of the key players in this dispute was the headmaster of Ludlow Grammar School, the Rev. Arthur Willis, who had been appointed in 1838.

Willis had been a housemaster at Shrewsbury School, and, following his appointment as headmaster at Ludlow, had aspirations to expand the school by offering university exhibitions. This would require money. The Great Law Suit rumbled on for five years and cost so much that, by the end, most had been spent in the courts and there was little left to benefit the Ludlow Charities!

Willis had been held in high regard in Shrewsbury such that at least one boy came with him to Ludlow in order to continue his education under him. One such boy was Charles William Barnett-Clarke, born at Shrewsbury on 16th July 1830, the son of Dr C.T.H. Clarke. After leaving Ludlow, Charles went to Worcester College, Oxford, graduating in 1850 and getting his MA in 1855. During 1851 and 1852 he spent the better part of two years travelling in Egypt, Palestine, Asia and Europe whilst waiting to be old enough to take Holy Orders. He studied at Wells Theological College in 1852-3, was ordained Deacon in 1854 and Priest in 1855 by Bishop Wilberforce of Oxford. He served as Vicar of several parishes in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, during which time he married Mary Williamson who bore him two sons. Mary died prematurely in 1870².

On 1st July 1871 he took up the post of Archdeacon of George, a town in South Africa

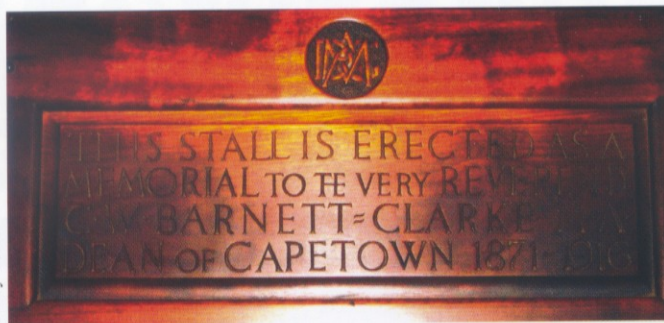


Portrait of Charles Barnett-Clarke

from where, only nineteen days later, he was appointed Dean of Cape Town on 20th July.

At this point, perhaps, I should explain my interest in this subject. Following a chance remark by David Lloyd at one of his Tuesday lectures, I told him that I planned to visit Cape Town and that I would try to find out more about this Old Ludlovian. Two weeks later I was in Cape Town Cathedral enquiring about Charles Barnett-Clarke. To my amazement no-one there seemed to know much about him (he was Dean for almost 45 years!), not even the present Dean with whom I had a lengthy conversation. I did find a stall in the choir carved as a memorial to him, and I was able to search with the Dean for the mosaic crosses inlaid on the high altar which were a gift brought back from Jerusalem by Barnett-Clarke. They were covered by an altar cloth and the Dean did not seem to know that they were there! I vowed on my return to research this remarkable man.

© Roy Coles



Memorial Stall in Choir of Cathedral

A search on the Internet led me to the archives of the Anglican Church of South Africa, where the archivist is Mrs Carol Archibald to whom I am greatly indebted for her help³. She has sent me copies of photographs and photocopies of South African reference books and some of Barnett-Clarke's sermons.

Only a year after his arrival in Cape Town in 1871, the new Dean had to act as the president of the assembly responsible for the election of a new Bishop, Bishop

Robert Gray having died in September 1872, as well as putting into effect the constitution of the Church in the Province. The original cathedral of St George in Cape Town was built in the "classical" style and its entrance had been designed to face down St George's Street, one of the main streets of the city and now a pedestrian mall. This orientation meant that the building was aligned north-south instead of east-west. The new Bishop (and Archbishop from 1897), William West Jones, declared that this building was not suitable to be the Cathedral and wanted a new one. The Dean set about the task of finding a suitable architect with an acceptable design – and then finding the money to build it!

The appointed architect was Sir Herbert Baker (1862-1946), who was responsible for many fine buildings in South Africa and India as well as South Africa House in London and Rhodes House in Oxford, amongst many others. The foundation stone was laid on 22nd August 1901 by HRH George, Duke of Cornwall and York (later King George V). The project was halted by the Second Boer War (1899-1902), but the building began to take shape and was about half complete at the time of Barnett-Clarke's death in 1916. The old St George's was not demolished until January 1953 (to make way for the extension to the nave of the present cathedral which, up to that time, had been only partly built). It is still incomplete.

There is no doubt that the Dean was a popular figure and well-loved by rich and poor alike. At the time of his death of pneumonia and heart failure on 23rd February 1916, in his eighty-sixth year, he was deeply mourned. His obituaries are full of praise, mentioning his many and varied interests and



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South side of Cathedral

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One of the altar mosaics (approx 6 inches across)

sacristan in his Cathedral until her death in 1917. His younger son became a civil servant, working for the Legislative Council of South Africa from 1904.

It is good to think that this remarkable clergyman spent part of his formative years at Ludlow Grammar School. One can never know just what influence his education there had upon him, but experiences at that time of one's life often mould the character for ever.

I was able to return to Cape Town earlier this year and whilst there returned to the Cathedral to re-photograph the mosaics inlaid in the high altar, with the kind help of the vergier. There are five of them, one in each corner and one in the centre. The result is reproduced here.

I hope that, when the guide book to the Cathedral is next revised, mention will be made of the man who was largely responsible for overseeing its creation.

¹The Concise History of Ludlow, D.Lloyd, 1999 pp132 etc

²from "Messengers, Watchmen and Stewards" by W.de Villiers

³www.cpsa.org.za/archives

⁴The (South African) Church Chronicle, 24th February 1916 pp47-8 etc

⁵Dictionary of South African Biography p49

CITTÀSLOW –WORKING FOR THE BENEFIT OF LUDLOW AND ITS HINTERLAND:

Graeme Kidd, former Mayor of Ludlow and the UK President of Cittàslow outlines what Cittàslow is and what it has been doing.

First up, let's deal with one little hurdle. "Cittàslow" is Italian for "Slow City" or "Slow Town", and you need to think about the fast animal, the cheetah, when you say "Cittàslow". Shorten the "a" a bit, but "Cheetah-Slow" gets you there!

The movement started life at a food festival in Orvieto, Italy, about a dozen years ago. It works towards improving quality of life and supporting traditional values, products and producers. It's a kind of non-political route to "eco-government" or "eco-urbanism", if

you like, and it has a great deal to offer communities that sign up to improving their town's score against a set of Cittàslow goals.

Cittàslow has also helped Ludlow raise its profile on the regional, national and, indeed, international stage, and helps to attract visitors to our town. Here's a whistle-stop tour...

How Ludlow became the first Cittàslow in the UK

Members of Ludlow's Local Agenda 21 group became interested in Cittàslow and called an open meeting to see if other groups in the town would like to find out more. That original meeting was attended by around thirty people, who represented a wide range of organisations and communities in the town.

The journey towards Cittàslow was very much a "bottom-up" process for Ludlow. After a meeting with Cittàslow representatives in London, Ludlow decided to move forward. Agenda 21, the Ludlow Chamber of Trade, the Civic Society and the Town and District Councils all chipped in to cover the application fee, and in Autumn 2003, the self-assessment form was completed and sent off to Italy.

Ludlow became the first Cittàslow in the UK on 24th November 2003, after Ludlow Town Council had voted unanimously to support the town's application forwarded to the Italian Cittàslow organisation for consideration. "Ludlow has been Cittàslow for hundreds of years," said Massimo Borri, Cittàslow's Director of International Networks when he visited the town during its annual Food Festival.

How Cittàslow Ludlow works

Having achieved a great deal since 2003, operating as part of the Town Council's committee structure, in 2007 Cittàslow is



cittàslow ludlow



Drawing of Ludlow Grammar School

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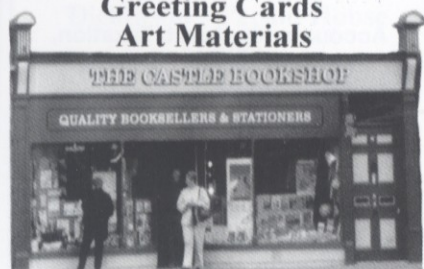
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expected to become a Community Interest Company (CIC). Membership of the company will be open to a wide range of Ludlow's interest groups, and the Town Council will be invited to be represented.

Organisations already represented on Cittaslow Ludlow include Age Concern, the South Shropshire Youth Forum, Ludlow Civic Society, Ludlow churches Together, the Women's Institute, Ludlow Local Agenda 21, Ludlow Chamber of Trade, Ludlow Town Centre Residents' Association and the Shropshire Wildlife Trust. Officers and members from Shropshire County and South Shropshire District Councils also play an active role in Cittaslow Ludlow.

Why Ludlow became the home of Cittaslow UK

Shortly after Ludlow was accepted as a member of Cittaslow, the Chair of Cittaslow Ludlow, Alison Cundall, along with the Mayor and Town Clerk at that time, Graeme Kidd and Paul Russell, travelled to a Cittaslow meeting in Italy. At that meeting it was announced that, according to the practice of the Cittaslow international network, as the first Cittaslow town in the UK, Ludlow would become the headquarters of the UK network and always be the lead town in the UK network.

Financial Support from Advantage West Midlands

Advantage West Midlands (AWM) was supportive of Ludlow's status as the national HQ of the Cittaslow movement, and had already provided some seedcorn funding to support Ludlow's membership of Cittaslow and the travel costs of the visit to Italy undertaken by Ludlow's three representatives.

AWM felt the most appropriate way to provide some financial support to Cittaslow UK was through the Ludlow Market Towns Initiative, so a one-year project application was developed.

When Slow Food UK began looking for a town to host its UK headquarters, Ludlow submitted a "bid" to the Slow Food International organization, which was supported by AWM and a wide range of other organizations and individuals in and around Ludlow – including, once again, the Civic Society. That bid was successful, and Ludlow now basks in the accolade of being the UK HQ for the Slow movement – something which has immense PR value for the town and its hinterland. It also played a significant role in the Academy of Urbanism's decision to give Ludlow the first Great Town award.

What are the objectives of the two projects, Cittaslow UK and Cittaslow Ludlow?

Cittaslow UK aims to grow and develop the network of Cittaslow towns in the UK. It has developed a business plan and an organizational structure, which is soon to be implemented via a Community Interest Company, and has been delivered through an "off the shelf" limited company so far.

Cittaslow UK has developed and launched an information website at www.cittaslow.org.uk, and a range of marketing and support material that is used to service enquiries from towns interested in the concept.

Cittaslow UK's main current activity involves visiting towns to explain the Cittaslow concept and the benefits of becoming part of the UK network. These visits are generally

delivered by Graeme Kidd, who is the UK president of Cittaslow UK, as agreed by the Cittaslow UK board. Cittaslow UK also provides information to journalists and researchers who make enquiries.

Cittaslow UK's first objective is to secure a Cittaslow member town in each of the English Development Agency regions, and in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Cittaslow Ludlow aims to improve the quality of life in Ludlow and to promote Ludlow's membership of the Cittaslow movement to people in the town and to potential visitors to the town.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Cittaslow UK continues to promote the Cittaslow concept to towns that enquire about it. So far, Perth in Scotland, Mold in Wales, and Aylsham, Diss and Berwick-upon-Tweed have all become members of Cittaslow through the UK organization, and Perth and Kinross Council has become a Cittaslow Supporter – which is a category of membership open to organizations rather than to towns.

Two further towns, one in Scotland and one in the northwest of England have taken the formal decision to work towards becoming members of Cittaslow, and a significant number of towns have made enquiries and are actively considering working towards Cittaslow membership status.

Cohesive marketing material has been created and deployed, including branding and the website www.Cittaslow.org.uk, and an additional grant of £6,300 secured to further the aims and objectives of the project. A business plan was drafted and approved by the Cittaslow UK board, and the "for-profit" limited company that was established as a pragmatic move at the end of the MTI funding period for this project is about to evolve into a Community Interest Company.

Cittaslow UK has been represented at a number of international Cittaslow meetings, has held two board meetings to develop and approve strategy, and has become the fastest-growing Cittaslow network in the world.

Cittaslow Ludlow has delivered a variety

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of projects and supported others delivered by other local organizations. These include the purchase of two trailers for a pilot commercial cardboard recycling scheme, which has proved incredibly popular, and financial support for the Straw Bale House project led by the District Council, which demonstrated traditional building techniques in a very practical way. A newsletter and conference for Ludlow delivered information about Cittàslow and how it works for the town; funds were provided to commission photographers to take images of life in Ludlow for a library of images that can be used, copyright-free, to promote the town (these images have been used in the SSTA brochure and elsewhere); and a website was created at www.cittàslowludlow.org.uk.

A sub-group of Cittàslow Ludlow has been formed to work towards reducing the town's carbon footprint: CITTÀSLOW ENERGY. This group is about to publish a leaflet that explains the benefits of low energy lightbulbs and roll out an information campaign.

For more information about Cittàslow
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enquire@cittàslow.org.uk

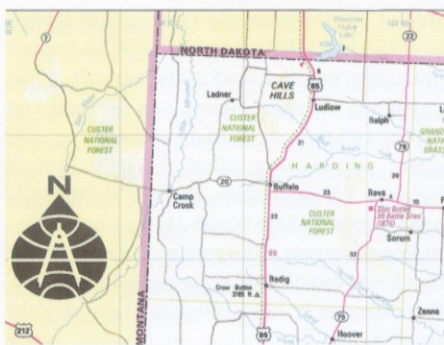
Those of you who keep your back numbers of Heritage News might like to look at the article from the Winter 2001 edition (No. 35, p.3) which highlights some of the other aspects of the Cittàslow movement.

LUDLOWS IN SOUTH DAKOTA:

Jim Gosling

There are some twenty Ludlows in the United States – villages, towns, townships and one city. South Dakota claims two of these, one the most ephemeral of all Ludlows, the other having a fascinating and unique history.

The Ludlow in Beadle County SD was a depot on the Great Northern Railway



Harding County, South Dakota

consisting of a siding and a loading grade. It was named after a railroad official. It was very little used and was moved to an alternative site nearby on Jas May's farm at Sheffield SD, thereby losing its name.

Of more importance is the Ludlow located in the Cave Hills region of Harding County in the far northwest corner of the state. Harding County has an area of 2,678 square miles and a population of 1,353 – the county town, Buffalo, had a population of 380 in the year 2000. It is unlikely to have increased. Compare Shropshire, "one of the most sparsely-populated counties in England", 1,346 square miles and a population of 289,100. We are talking here of very, very wide open spaces. This Ludlow in South Dakota came into being in 1895 as a post office located at the Ed McCumsey Ranch. It was later moved some five miles to the east to a new location on a ranch homesteaded by Fred Clark and developed by 1904 into what we can call Old Ludlow.

The naming of Ludlow has two variants. The romantic one is that it is named after William B. Ludlow, a Civil War soldier in the Engineers. William Ludlow accompanied George Custer on his 1874 expedition to the Black Hills of Dakota some two years prior to the fateful expedition which led to Custer's "Last Stand". One of the aims of the Black Hills expedition was to substantiate whether or not gold was present in an area of prime religious significance to the Indian tribes – history does not need retelling "Thar's gold

in them thar hills".....Ludlow was in charge of the survey unit and found a series of caves containing prehistoric native Indian paintings. One such cave was named by Custer as Ludlow's Cave. There is a Ludlow Cave close to the Ed McCumsey Ranch, but perhaps not quite in the area of the Black Hills expedition? The lesser explanation is that Ludlow is named after an old trapper of that name.



The Ludlow Cave

Old Ludlow prospered as a small community serving the extensive ranch lands in the sparsely-populated community. Its story was told in detail in a series of articles in a Buffalo paper, the Nation Center News, published in 1985. Olaf Torkelson owned the ranch house known as the Ludlow Hotel, part sod and part timber built, a rooming and eating house for travellers, and a mail-carrying business. The general store was owned by Ole Torkelson (no relation), Ted Hermanson ran the blacksmith's shop and garage. The school at Ludlow suffered a number of moves before locating in Old Ludlow just west of the Tokelson store. Ludlow also possessed a weekly newspaper,



New Ludlow South Dakota, the Old School House



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Old Ludlow



An evening's entertainment in Old Ludlow Ilene Toft, Olaf Torkelson, Lillie Samdahl and Lena Torkelson

The Herald, purchased and edited by Glen Glendinning, a US Commissioner.

The fascinating part of the above story is that most of the people named can be traced in the Bureau of Land Management records directly back to their claims made under the Homesteading act of 1862, over the period 1909-1921. The records give the details and locations of the relevant township/range and copies of the Certificate of Register are available. For example, "The claim of Inga Glendinning, formerly Inga Larson (wife of The Herald editor) has been duly consummated in conformity to law, for the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter....of Section thirty-



Ludlow South Dakota from the air

three in Township twenty-two north of Range six of the Black Hills Meridian, South Dakota containing one hundred sixty acres." Thus a mapping of their claims can be made in Ludlow and the surrounding areas.

But moves were afoot, literally. State Highway 85 runs from Buffalo northwards to the South Dakota/North Dakota boundary, passing some two miles east of Old Ludlow. A church was established at the Ludlow/Highway 85 crossroads in 1927. Two alternatives were placed before the Ludlow inhabitants – walk two miles to church and two miles back on a Sunday, or move the whole town two miles east. The latter alternative was preferred, and all the buildings, school, post office, store, gas station and pumps plus the houses, were each loaded onto a platform supported by four wagons, and horse-drawn to the crossroads to form New Ludlow.

What of Ludlow South Dakota today? The population in 2000 was only twenty-five. The post office, life blood of the community, a second-hand building from North Dakota, was closed in 2001. The church has gone, my correspondent said "I don't know where", suggesting perhaps a re-use elsewhere? The school (kindergarten to Grade 8) is still operational, just. Ludlow, therefore, has the school, the KC Bar and Café, a Community Hall and a Fire Hall. It still serves the wider community, but it is a community located in the bleak, flat landscape of the High Plains with temperatures set well below 0°F in winter, very high in summer, in a landscape subject to storm, rain, hail, snow and probably locusts, as were the pioneers of the West. We should not complain about the sometimes intemperate weather of our Ludlow.



New Ludlow today - the Post Office (now closed), Community Building and School to the left, the KC Bar & Café to the right - Easily missed!

LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY COMMITTEE NOTES CHAIRMAN'S NOTES WINTER 2007/8

Ludlow bounced back from the summer floods to stage a very successful Food and Drink Festival in September. The competence shown by the Festival organisers and the authorities dealing with the floods showed that Ludlow can live up to its accolade of "England's Greatest Town".

Unfortunately, Ludlow must also be in line for an award for "England's Silliest Town Council" following the activities of some of its members during the past few months. This matter has become more important now that the government has accepted the case for one "Unitary" Authority for Shropshire. This means that the South Shropshire District Council will probably cease to exist in May 2009, leaving Ludlow Town Council to carry the standard for local democracy!

Planning and other matters affecting Ludlow will be decided at County level, and it will become imperative that Ludlow's views are put forward in a coherent and convincing manner. The Civic Society will need to contribute to this process to the best of its ability. In this context, the recent proposals for changes to the town's parking scheme are not encouraging. At the consultation stage, members of your Committee brokered a sensible compromise between town centre residents and some local businesses, but the published proposals take little account of the views of residents and the Society. The County Council has been urged to think again.

More positively, the District Council has accepted in principle the Society's proposal for a new Conservation Area in the Victorian/Edwardian "suburb" of Gravel Hill/St. Julian's Avenue, Julian Road. It is also good to note that the derelict "Raven" (featured on our front page last issue) has now been demolished.

With regard to domestic matters, your Committee has agreed to reintroduce day

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trips to places of interest within reasonable travel time, possibly including repeat visits to Tewkesbury, Avoncroft Museum, Lichfield and Chester. The visits will be open to members, family and friends and are likely to cost around £30 per head, to include coach travel, lunch and tea. Suggestions for other destinations (within 1½ hours travel time) will be most welcome. Our first excursion is likely to be a tour of "Kilvert Country" following the lecture in January. Also for 2008, your Committee is hoping to arrange an informal public debate – with expert guest speakers – on the issue of traffic in Ludlow, i.e. the advantages/consequences of pedestrian-priority areas and/or full pedestrianisation of the town centre.

In my letter to members in August, I gave a brief summary of the Society's financial position. Heritage News has a wider circulation, so non-members may care to note that the Society has some money available to support projects which meet our primary object "to secure the protection, conservation and, where possible, improvement of features of the town that are of historical and other public interest". Annual grants are made

to the Friends of Whitcliffe Common, the Conservation Trust for St. Laurence, the Millennium Green Trusts at Dinham and Gallows Bank, and St. Leonard's Churchyard Trust. We will consider applications from similar organisations or suggestions for "seed-corn" funding for new projects.

I can be contacted at 41 Gravel Hill, Ludlow SY8 1QR; telephone 01584-876955 or e-mail: Holstan2@aol.com

Nick Holcombe

MEMBERSHIP

As agreed at the AGM in May, the annual subscription has been increased from £10 to £12, effective from September 1st. The previous level of £10 had been held for five years as originally promised, but an increase became necessary in both the level of subscriptions and in members' entrance fees, partly because of increasing costs and partly to enable the Society to meet Inland Revenue rules for claiming Gift Aid, a valuable supplement to the Society's income.

At mid-September, subscriptions have been received from 176 members. That leaves just

under a hundred still to renew and, allowing for average wastage and new members joining, we should be able to reach last year's total of 265 annual members.

If you are already a member, please keep an eye out for anyone moving into your area who might like to become a member. There is an application form at the bottom of the last page.

Michael Coleman-Smith

EVENTS

The Civic Society lecture programme opened in some style, with a talk by Professor Peter Dickinson, musician and composer, on Lord Berners, the eccentric polymath. Music was included as well as slides.

The programme continued with a talk by John Newman, well-known for his part in the Pevsner "Buildings of England", and editor of the new volume on Shropshire. He talked fascinatingly about the revolution in Shropshire's architecture, 1660-1860. He will be followed by our well-known local historian, David Lloyd, who will be lecturing on "The Golden Years of Georgian Ludlow, 1720-70". We shall have the usual Christmas party and discussion at the Harley Centre.

In January, Laurence Le Quesne, historian and lecturer, will talk about Francis Kilvert, followed in February by Christopher Martin, whose lecture is called "A Glimpse of Heaven" and will be about the interiors of Catholic churches. This will be illustrated by magnificent photographs (by Alex Ramsay) from his book. In March we are fortunate to have Gavin Stamp, well-known architectural historian and television personality, who will talk about Sir Edwin Lutyens. We finish in April with a local figure, Simon Holloway, who will talk about corrugated iron in building. His book on the subject comes out shortly. The AGM will be on May 7th.

Prue Bellak

LUDLOW MUSIC SOCIETY 2007-08 SEASON

Ludlow Music Society's season has opened with two exciting concerts: an all-Russian programme from the Atrium Quartet, and a piano recital from Llyr Williams. There remain three concerts next spring. On 16th February, in the Young Artists' Concert, Thomas Barber, oboe, and James Southall, piano, will perform a varied programme from Bach to Dizzy Gillespie on 8th March. Our last concert takes place on 19th April, and is a recital by Roderick Williams, baritone, called "Kinderlieder", in which he will be accompanied by Susie Allan, piano, with Jenny Agutter as narrator. Tickets and enquiries 01584 876141.

LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY

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IF YOU LOVE LUDLOW

here are six good reasons why you should join
LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY

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, 75 Old Street, Ludlow SY8 1NS

Please accept my/our application to join the society.

Annual membership subscription is £12 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)

Address

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Postcode