

LUDLOW

HERITAGE NEWS



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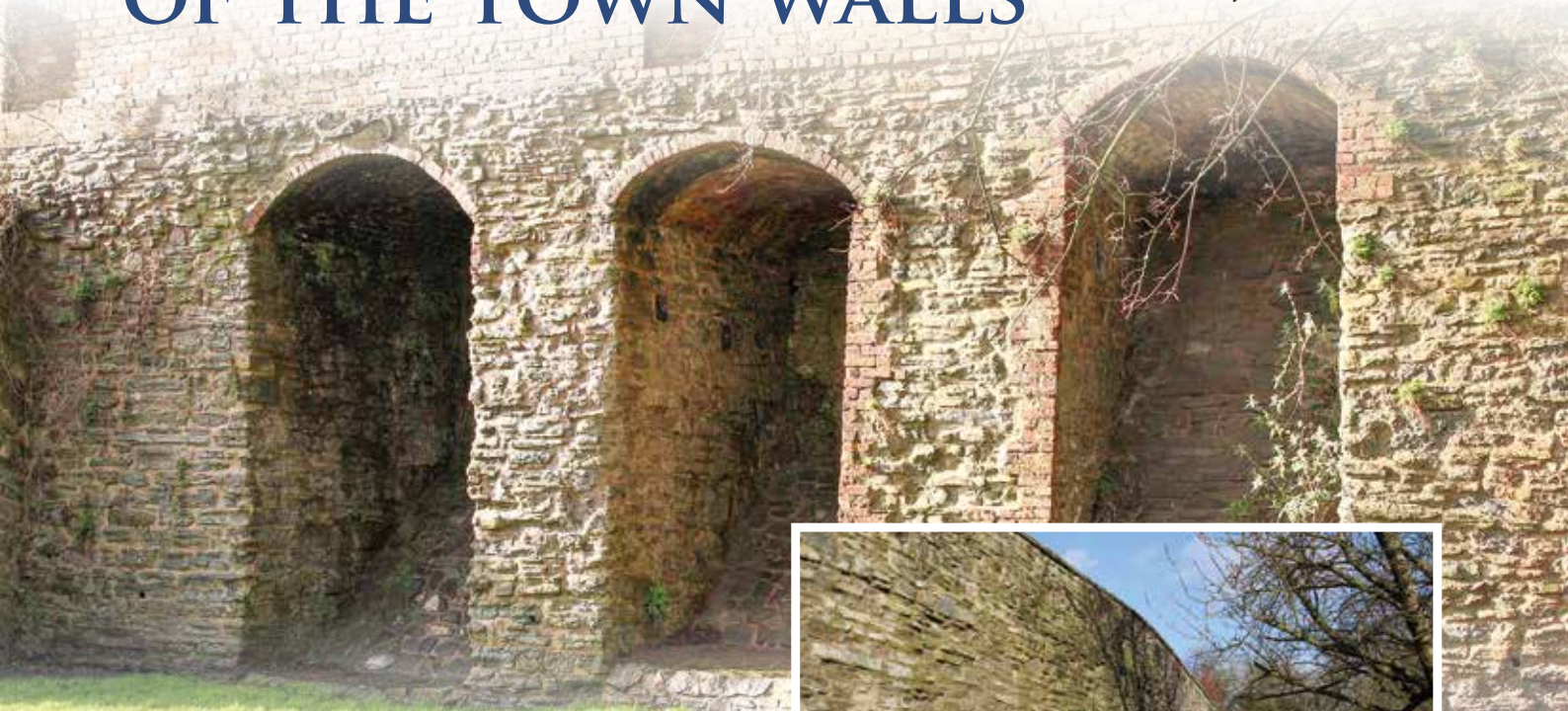
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AN OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE TOWN WALLS

Town wall from St John's Garden.



Town walls, also referred to as defensive walls, are a fortification used to protect a town or other settlement from attack by a potential aggressor. Apart from their defensive roles, in many cases they had a symbolic role, representing in visible form the power projection of the community they surrounded. They formed part of a wider group of defensive buildings which included large walls which were used to demarcate a particular region or territory, such as Hadrian's Wall which once separated England from Scotland.

Most surviving town walls are of masonry construction, although brick and timber were also used. Town walls could be either free-standing or built as a retaining wall as is the case with a substantial part of Ludlow's walls. They were often constructed in conjunction with

a town ditch which also provided further defence to a town or settlement. Salisbury made do with a simple ditch.

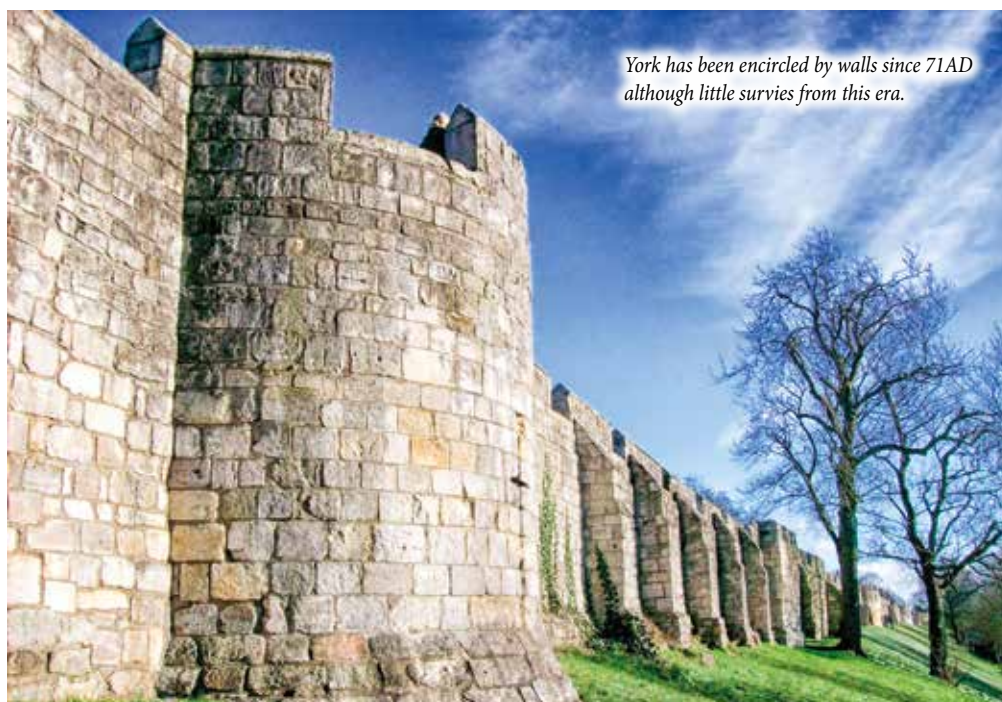
Defensive walls are found all over the world, with the walls surrounding Uruk in Mesopotamia



Town wall from Lower Mill Street.

being considered among the earliest examples. They were also found in the architecture of such diverse civilisations as those of the Indus Valley and ancient China. Many of the finest extant examples are found in mainland Europe, including Aigues-Mort, Avila, Dubrovnik,

Lucca and Valletta. However, this article outlines their development in Britain and Ireland. Here, defensive walls have a long history and can be traced back to the structures of earth and stone put up around henges and hill forts, as well as domestic settlements.



York has been encircled by walls since 71AD although little survives from this era.

More sophisticated card-shaped walls in stone and mortar were erected by the Romans after their arrival in Britain. They also enclosed existing towns with walls. Some evidence of these walls survives in the plans of such cities as Chester, Colchester, Exeter, London and Winchester. In some cases, the foresight of the Roman builders and the quality and size of their walls meant that their constructions remained in use for the next few centuries. Although in many cases, the town walls of the Roman era have been much altered and extended to take account of revised street plans and new types of building in the medieval period.

The next concerted wave of wall-building occurred in the late ninth century when the kingdom of

Wessex began a wide programme to protect its population from Danish invaders. Walls were also constructed in the Midlands in towns such as Bridgnorth, Tamworth and Worcester which came under the protection of Wessex.

After the Norman invasion, many new towns were laid out, often dominated by stone castles which provided refuge in times of crisis. In the main, these towns were walled at a later date. During the reign of William I, new cathedrals at Canterbury, Exeter and Lincoln were constructed within existing Roman walls. King Stephen ordered the heightening of the old Roman walls in Bath. The building of new town walls was possibly spurred on by the 'civil war' of the

anarchy period between 1135 and 1153. If a town was considered a military base, this became one of the main reasons for erecting walls at this time. Earthen ramparts were a cheaper option than masonry construction, and were still used during the medieval period at places such as Sandwich.

The next stage of development occurred from the twelfth century onwards, with towns becoming increasingly self-sufficient. In 1189 the city of Hereford, for example, took over the control of its own defences. Around 1220 a 'murage' tax was introduced which allowed towns to raise taxes on goods coming into a town, to be used for the purpose of building new town walls and repairing existing fortifications. By the fourteenth century, under the encouragement of the national government, most towns had become more or less financially, and in some cases politically, self-reliant. The gates of the town walls were used to collect tolls and to monitor the movement of people. Some walls were erected quickly, as at Shrewsbury, but in other places it took many decades to complete a circuit. Some schemes were over-ambitious, and the walls in places such as Scarborough and Stafford were left incomplete. The most impressive fortified town walls tend to be found in areas of potential strife, including Wales,

with Edward I's 'ring of iron', the Welsh Marches and the Scottish border, but not all walled towns flourished, for whatever reason, and local examples of this include Clun and New Radnor. The last main phase of concerted activity in the construction of town walls, occurred during the English Civil War of the 1640s, although, at this time, towns often had their walls complemented by other forms of defence.

In Ireland the development of town walls mirrored developments in mainland Britain, albeit with a time lag, as the Norman invasion of the island took place at a much later date. Also in Ireland, the town walls of the plantation era, such as those at Derry, form one of the finest examples of defensive walls anywhere in Europe.

Town walls were often a continuing work in progress, with masonry walls replacing earlier wooden constructions as is the case at Worcester and Hereford. Access to the town was through gateways. Most towns had between four and six gates which were sometimes supplemented by smaller entrances. Town gates were often a feature of civic pride and were sometimes adorned with statues and coats of arms. Gateways often became focal points where people often met to trade and carry out business.

Many town walls had crenellated tops but most of these have been lost as a result of neglect or rebuilding. Large sections of crenellations remain at Tenby and York. Most town walls also contained a number of towers often used for accommodation or storage as well as defence. The number of towers was often dictated by the amount of money allocated to the project as a whole.

How successful town walls were in keeping invaders out is open to debate. Some town walls had ditches adjacent to them to increase their defensive potential. Town walls appear to have been maintained in a piece-meal fashion, often falling into periods of neglect, followed by periods of frenzied maintenance in times of civil unrest.

As the country as a whole became more settled, after the Civil War, the defensive nature of the walls became



Aigues-Mortes (France), surrounded by 13th century walls listed as a historical monument since 1903.

Avila (Spain), completed between the 11th and 14th centuries. Listed as a national monument in 1884.



less important. Many were seen as a restrictive girdle upon the growth of a town. Walls were often neglected and sometimes even appropriated into the property against which they now stood, as is the case in Ludlow. In the eighteenth century, with improvements to the roads, many gateways and sections of walls were demolished to make way for wider roads. At the same time, the rise of antiquarianism and tourism meant that remaining walls became appreciated for their picturesque appearance, and often became features of the touristic circuit, opened to the public, with walkways laid on top. In Ludlow, the Broad Gate was turned into a Georgian town house, with a regency wing added in the early nineteenth century.

The best town walls in Britain and Ireland include those at York, Chester, Conway, Rye, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Derry, Caernarfon, Carlisle, Tenby and Canterbury.

In Ludlow, the town wall survives, but with much rebuilt. Most of the town wall was built as a retaining wall, rather than a free-standing wall. The route of the walls followed not only the contours of the land but had to take into account the existing layout of the town. It was planned as early as the 1230s, but little appears to have been completed before 1260, no doubt spurred on by the increasing instability on the Welsh border during the thirteenth century,

especially following the seizure of power by Llewellyn ap Gruffudd in 1255. The walls appear to have been completed by about 1304. It is now accepted that Ludlow had some sort of earlier defensive fortification centred on the somewhat irregular layout of the area of the town around Dinham and St Thomas's Chapel. The walls were constructed with four main gates and three postern gates. An eighth portal gate existed in the wall to the north west of the Castle, located in the grounds of Castle Walk House. The walls are built of a local somewhat flimsy grey siltstone which makes them somewhat prone to collapse, which has occurred many times over the years. The integrity of the walls has also been compromised by the fact

that some sections designed as free standing have over time become load bearing. As with the collapsed section adjacent to the garden of rest.

Little documentary evidence survives from the time of their construction, so it is difficult to get a complete picture of how they looked and functioned. This is in complete contrast to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when artists flocked to the town and depicted walls that were in a far better state than exists today.

Stanton Stephens

Works consulted:

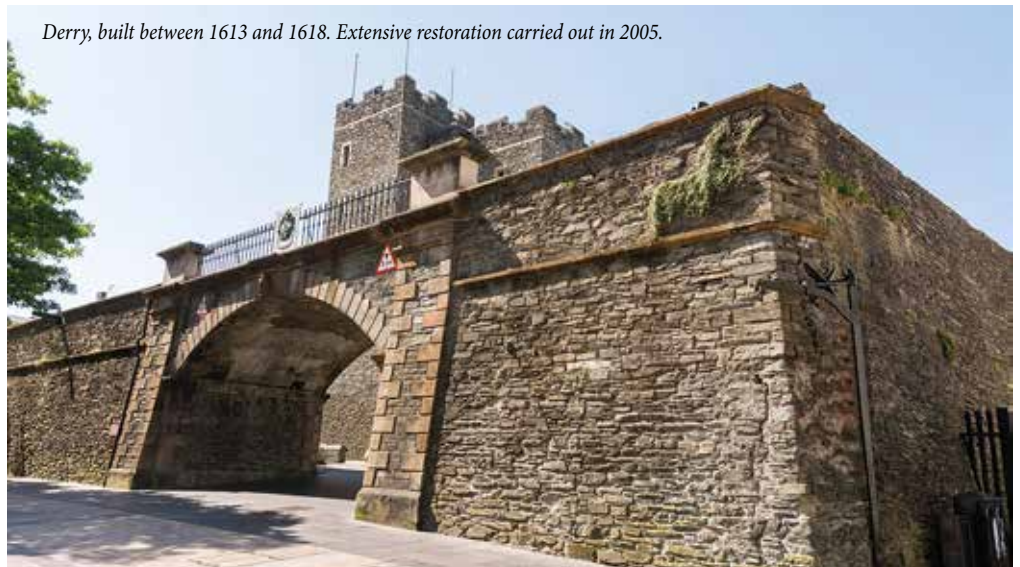
M.W.Barley, *Town Defences in England and Wales after 1066*. 1976

John Kenyon, *Medieval Fortifications*. 1990

Mike Salter, *Medieval Walled Towns*, 2013

C.J.Train, *The Walls and Gates of Ludlow*. 199

Derry, built between 1613 and 1618. Extensive restoration carried out in 2005.



GALDEFORD TOWER

A variety of names have been attached to this building since 1269, including the Tower, Caldeford, Ludlow Gaol, Galdeford Tower and Gauvets, all used to describe the eastern gate of Ludlow's town walls. Who Gauvet was is unknown; maybe he was a Constable of the Tower.

The structure itself served several purposes apart from that of fortification: the Corporation met here (ad turrim) until the building of the 'New House', and even afterwards for the annual election of officers. It was also the principal town gaol where various social classes of prisoner were recognised by the individual naming of parts of what must have been a substantial building, probably with a semi-circular D Tower either side of the

gateway, and extensions within the wall. Hence, we have the Burgess Tower to host errant burgesses, Chenser's Tower for those of lesser status, but who still had a right to trade in the town, and the bog standard horror of the Thieves Tower. In 1776 a payment was made for the 'Broad Street Ward Chamber in the Tower' which, together with the Corporation meeting room and accommodation for the gaoler, suggests a large number of rooms.

Possible the earliest reference has been unearthed by C.J. Train, dating from 1269, with the rather mystifying 'A great earthquake; Galdeford Gate (Porta de Galford) was begun from its foundations.' Train follows this with a further event in 1274 when the tower was clearly a working part of the defences, and the Gatekeeper (Custos porte de Caldeford), one Richard Tyrel, was kidnapped by two Cleobury men who failed to produce a bill of sale for oxen bought at the St Laurence fair. An interesting twist, demonstrating that the walls kept villains in as well as out.

Galdeford's Tower is mentioned sometime before 1537 in a humble petition for release from a prisoner lodged there, to Sir Thomas Cornwall (1472-1537) for 'having in his idle humour of drynke made some words of abuse towards your worship'. Cornwall, who styled himself the tenth Baron Burford, was made a member of the Council in the Marches in 1521, though the abuser seems to have been locked up by the town authorities, who enforced respect towards the Council. There is no record of the outcome or the name of the prisoner.

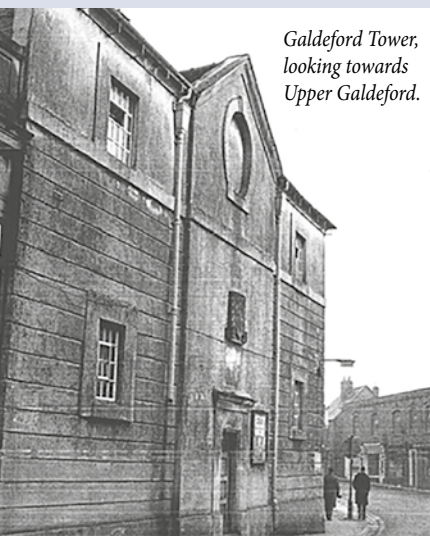
Leland recorded a Galfride Gate in 1540, and further evidence that 'Galdeford Tower' continued as a gaol next occurs in 1603, demonstrating that the tower was used to house prisoners, in addition to the Porter's Lodge prison then existing inside the Castle. This latter seems to have been mostly for Welsh offenders.

In 1642, during the Civil War, Ludlow was occupied by Prince Rupert, 'who entrenched himself very strongly and made fortifications for the preservation of himself and associates.' given that Ludlow was one of the last towns to fall to the Parliamentarians in 1646, the Gaolford Gate must

have still been capable of fulfilling its original role, albeit only briefly. With the abolition of the Council in the Marches in 1689, and subsequent disintegration of the Castle and its own gaol, Gaolford became the principal residence for the delinquent. From the various references to 'gateway' and 'tower', it is a credible theory that they were separate entities. The gatekeeper might not necessarily have been a resident of the tower, or even the gaoler. No accurate pictures exist of the old gateway, but in the course of redevelopment on the south side of Tower street in 1977, traces were uncovered and recorded.

The town walls, like the Castle, were built of the local Silurian Siltstone. This generally weathers very badly, but Pevsner claims that framing the material with a harder stone lengthens its life. He also claims that it can be cut to an ashlar surface, though Alec Clifton-Taylor states 'it could not be ashlar' to judge by the fairly rapid weathering of the eighteenth-century gaol on the site of the Tower, this problem remained unsolved, leading to the building being rendered in the twentieth century.

After the abolition of the Council in the Marches, the Castle and its Porter's Lodge prison became



Galdeford Tower, looking towards Upper Galdeford.

THE GATES

We will now take a brief look at the other gates.

1. DINHAM GATE

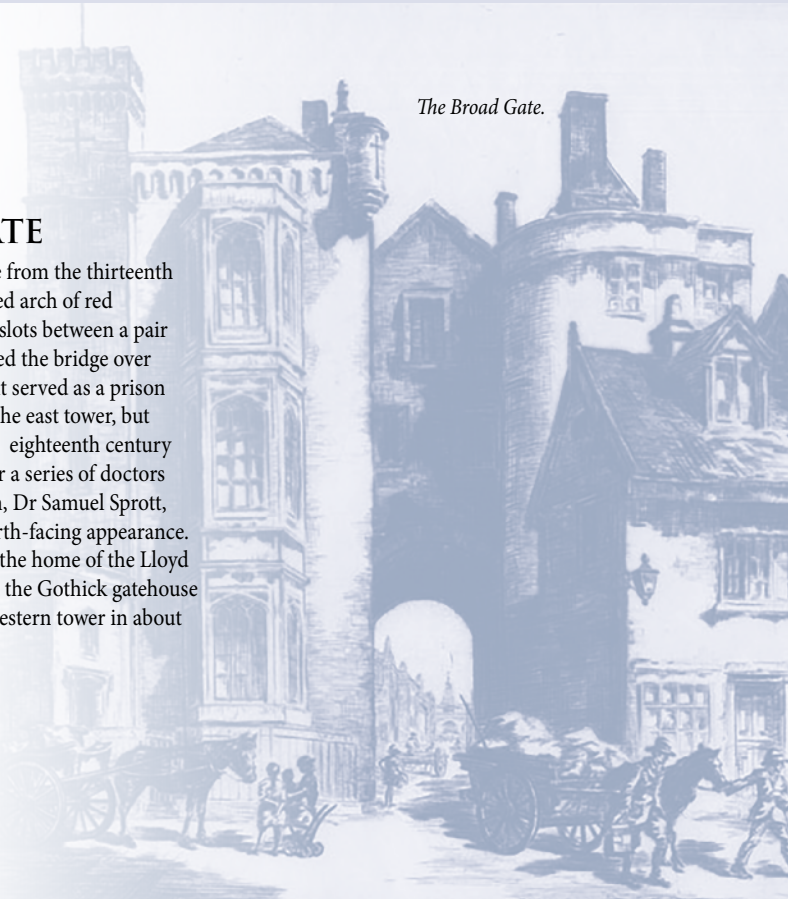
Victorian research suggested that the gate was a sally port or barbican with a second entrance. Rare pictures show it to be a squarish block, with no projecting round towers and a room above the entrance. The narrow gateway was designed for pack-horses. Its demolition in 1786 enabled Thomas Telford to construct a temporary timber bridge on top of the old one to carry wagons. This was replaced in 1823 with the current bridge.

2. MILL GATE

A small gate flanked by semi-circular towers and capped with a conical roof.

3. BROAD GATE

The only surviving gate from the thirteenth century, with a two-centred arch of red sandstone, and portcullis slots between a pair of drum towers that framed the bridge over the town ditch. Early on it served as a prison with a dungeon based in the east tower, but from the beginning of the eighteenth century it was a dwelling house for a series of doctors and lawyers, one of whom, Dr Samuel Sprott, was responsible for its north-facing appearance. From 1814 to 1946 it was the home of the Lloyd family. Henry Lloyd built the Gothick gatehouse on the south side of the western tower in about 1824.



The Broad Gate.

ruinous, though the lodge may have ceased to function as a prison before that. As an overflow or a detention centre for less political and more mundane malefactors, Gaolford Tower gradually superseded the Castle. In the 1760s the medieval building had also reached the end of its shelf-life, 'by length of time having become ruinous' as the inscription on its replacement explained. Whatever remained on the north side of Tower Street was demolished or incorporated in 1764 when the Corporation authorised the construction of the new gaol.

William Baker (1705-1771), architect of the Buttercross prepared a scheme for 'repairing Ludlow Gaol' by March 1763. This was put into the hands of the architect Thomas Farnolls Pritchard (1723-1777), and in June a survey and plan had been prepared for repairs to the tower, so at this stage there was no intention to demolish the old structure. An estimate was then submitted by Davies and Watkiss to repair and alter the tower 'in the manner intended by Mr Pritchard, with the following additional work which is not mentioned by him although absolutely necessary'. This was seemingly a separate contract from one signed on 22nd May 1764, when Thomas Watkiss and Thomas Sheward were engaged 'to pull down the westward front of Gaolford's Tower from the

buttress on the north side to the chimney place on the south side, and to rebuild the same in a good and workmanlike manner, and to build the chimney up from the dungeon. Have to find the materials themselves, and bring them to the site where they will be paid a sum of £35. Work is to be completed by 1 September next.' Pritchard was paid two guineas by the Bailiff of Ludlow in 1765, possibly for having designed or supervised the building. The builders may in the end have been the Hattam family, who also worked on the Guildhall and lived at 137 Corve Street.

To judge from today's remains, the front of the building was of dressed, coursed Cleve Hill stone, and a photograph of 1895 shows a seriously eroded stone face with hints of what appears to be squared ashlar facing. A later picture taken around 1955 (to judge by the Landrover) shows that the stone had been rendered for the first two storeys in faux linear stonework courses either side of the central bay with smooth render above. The recessed inscription stone above the door seems to have been filled in and replaced with the Shropshire Council coat of arms. The original inscription on the front proclaimed, 'This building was erected at the charge of the corporation in MDCCLXIV, in the fourth year of King George III, for the common

prison of this town, in the place of Gaolford's Tower, an ancient prison and gate, by length of time having become ruinous.'

An improving text on such a building seemed almost mandatory, witness the terse and alarming message at the House of Correction in Belfast 'Within Amend, Without Beware'. Fragments of the tower seemed to survive within the development; the Post Office Directory of 1863 recording 'There is a police station and a small structure called Gaolford Tower'. The police station was occupied by 1836 when 'a body of police consisting of seven men has been lately appointed for the preservation of peace and tranquillity of this borough.'

The date of the gaol meant that it just missed the new wave of prison reforms. John Howard (1726-90) published *The State of the Prisons* in 1777; Jeremy Bentham (1748-32) and his all-seeing eye, the 'Panopticon' was still several years from being taken seriously, whilst the prison architect, William Blackburn (1750-90) had yet to find inspiration in his designs from the Penitentiary Act of 1779. Whilst never intended to be any more than a means of detaining local petty offenders, the result was a bleak three-bay box with a 'gable-like steep impediment', slightly extended from the façade. At first there was

not even the facility of an exercise yard. However, take-up of the limited facilities seemed low.

Howard's report in 1777 recorded 'For felons etc. two lower rooms, vaulted, with chimneys. Two rooms above, more spacious and airy for Debtors.' By 1793, following personal advice from Howard, Thomas Telford, as County Surveyor, had completed the new county gaol at Shrewsbury, a ground-breaking design incorporating the new ideas. It became the receiving house for the harder cases from local towns including Ludlow.

The building contained a police court where Petty Sessions were heard every alternate Monday at twelve noon, and was used as a venue for inquests. In 1913 Superintendent James Parry was in charge with one sergeant and four constables. The station moved to its new location around 1970 and the old gaol was demolished in the 1970s. A fragment of Pritchard's work, or even the original wall remains on the west end leading up the alley to some red brick fragments, probably of the police station.

Richard Hurlock



The only remaining habitable tower on the town wall.

4. OLD GATE

The Old Gatehouse and the adjoining Lane's were used as a workhouse and house of correction from 1676 until 1837, after which they were known as Lane's Asylum, and used as almshouses. Some stonework in the Old Gate probably relates to the early twin drum-tower defence system that guarded the road here. It was described as 'only recently destroyed' in 1808. Originally, Old Street ran down to a ford which took the ancient route south across the river to Ludford. This was also the site of the town stocks.

5. GAOLFORD TOWER

Also known as Galdeford or Gauvet's tower, it consisted of at least two towers with gateway and chamber between. This became the town gaol. The Corporation also had rooms here. In 1764 it was entirely replaced with a new gaol designed by Farnolls Pritchard that was added to with a police station with court around 1836. A fragment survives in brick and stone on the west side while the rest was demolished around 1970.

6. UPPER CORVE GATE

Corve Gate, at the top of Corve Street, was widened in 1796. The principal gates would seem to have had a portcullis. The grooves remain at the Broad Gate and an account of 1556 records the cost of 'peynting the portcolys' at Corve Gate.

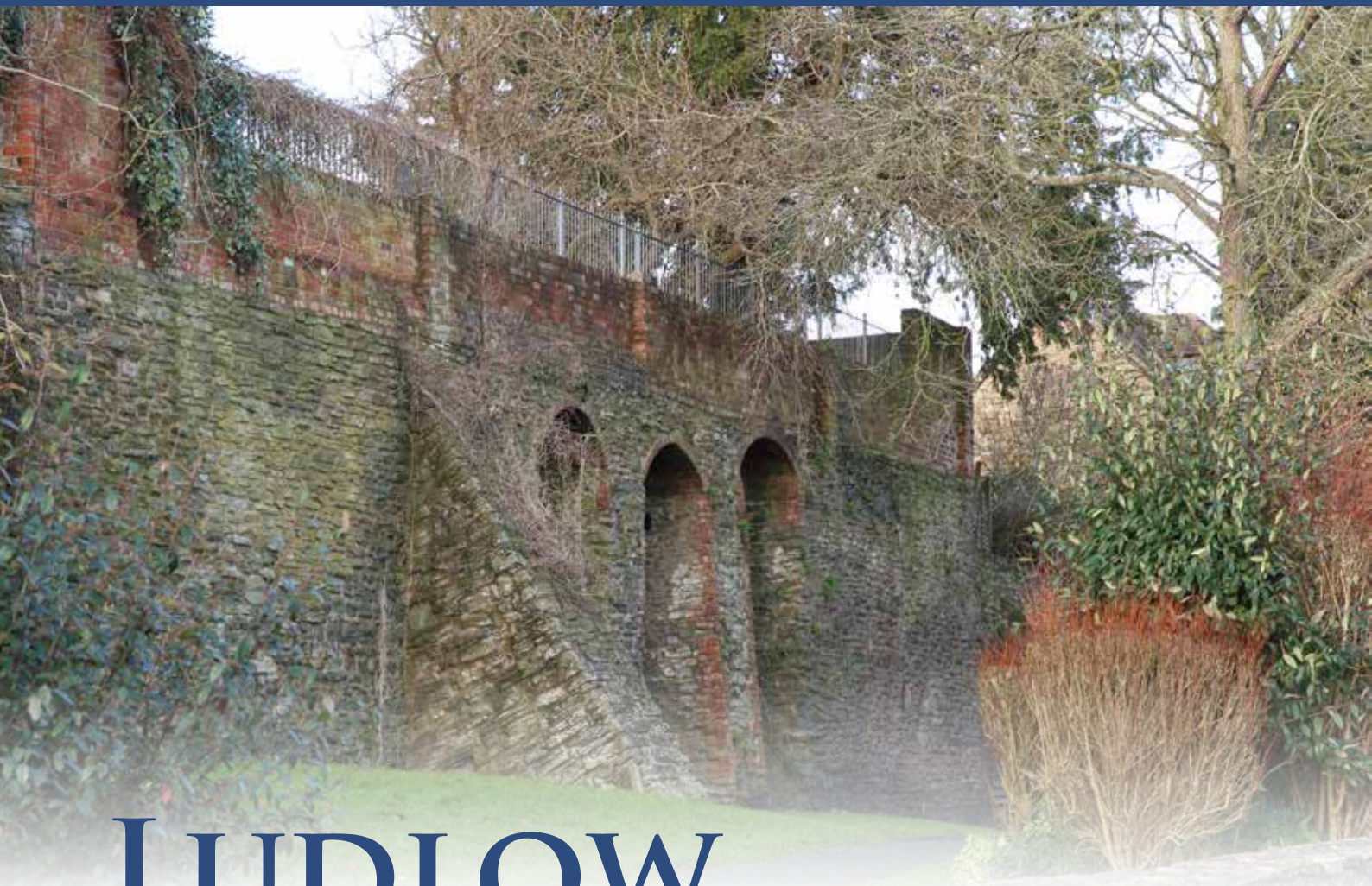
6 (A). LOWER (NETHER) CORVE GATE

It is a mystery why this gate existed. Not part of the main walls, it was linked to the wealthy Priory of the Grey Friars. The Priory suffered destruction around 1535. In 1712 William Stukely noted, 'There was a rich Priory...about the same time an arched gateway went across the street but is now demolished.' With little military value, it may have marked a 'zone' where the Town Writ tolerated traffic in curfew hours, and the temporary residence of the Welsh.

7. LINNEY GATE

Still collecting tolls in 1751, it was probably demolished around when St Leonard's House was built. In the 1880s the portcullis grooves and door jambs were uncovered during repairs when the strange brick attachment was erected.

Richard Hurlock



View of town wall from the town ditch.

LUDLOW TOWN WALLS TRUST

The Ludlow Town Walls Trust was set up in 2007 at the behest of English Heritage to form a coordinated body to represent and oversee the repair and well-being of this extensive Scheduled Ancient Monument. Until this point there had not been an overall identification of the condition and potential threats to the wall or a strategy to respond to the then frequent collapses which were occurring all round the perimeter. English Heritage were concerned that by simply responding to incidents and negotiating with the many different owners, this was an inefficient way of managing a situation which had common factors of cause, economic impact and repair specification.

An underlying concept of the Trust was that by becoming a registered charity, it could raise the overall understanding and public profile of the monument, receive and make grants, and work in partnership with public bodies and private owners to ensure the long-term care and interpretation of the wall. Its first chairman was Graeme Kidd, who encouraged Ludlow Town Council to become a key supporter of the Trust, awarding it an annual grant to assist with the running costs and undertaking a condition survey of the wall. LTC provided a nominated councillor to the management committee as did Ludlow Civic Society. The remaining committee members

were made up of individuals with expertise in local history, conservation, building technology, and property owners with areas of wall in their custody. South Shropshire District Council nominated a Chief Officer and myself as Conservation Officer to help integrate the work of the local authority to provide assistance to the Ludlow Town Walls Trust.

Graeme sadly died in 2009, since when Richard Cundall has been chairman. Under Richard's tenure the Trust has supported the undertaking of a building skills training workshop during the rebuilding of a collapsed section of walling at the rear of the Feathers,

the major repair to the wall bounding the park at St John's Road, and the coordination of works to strengthen and repair the boundary wall to Castle Street car park.

A key area of the Trust's work has been the monitoring of the condition of the Walls either through professional surveys or collating evidence from local people who have observed localised defects which at any given time can be more easily remedied than allowing further degradation to a point where major intervention is required. An interesting adjunct to the various condition surveys has been the identification of subtle variations in the building

techniques used along the wall, which corresponded to the old burgage plots along the north face. Archaeologists have suggested this may be attributed to individual responsibility for construction of sections of wall abutting independent properties, much the same as individual villages being responsible for constructing sections of the Great Wall of China passing through their domain.

The Trust has from the outset recognised that education and skills training are key requirements for maintaining an understanding of the Town Wall in Ludlow's history and retaining a capability to continue its traditional repair.

As such, the Trust has had a long involvement with the South Shropshire Skills Trust and its long-standing Ludlow/Transylvania Trans-National Partnership. Over two hundred local craftsmen and students have now taken part in the project helping to repair fortified churches and traditional vernacular buildings in Romania, while learning the skills of traditional lime-rendering, lime-burning, stone quarrying and brick and tile making.

The Trust has for a number of years been lobbying and providing expertise to the public bodies responsible for the repair to the collapsed section of wall in front of St Laurence's Church, and it is now encouraging to see movement on this issue.

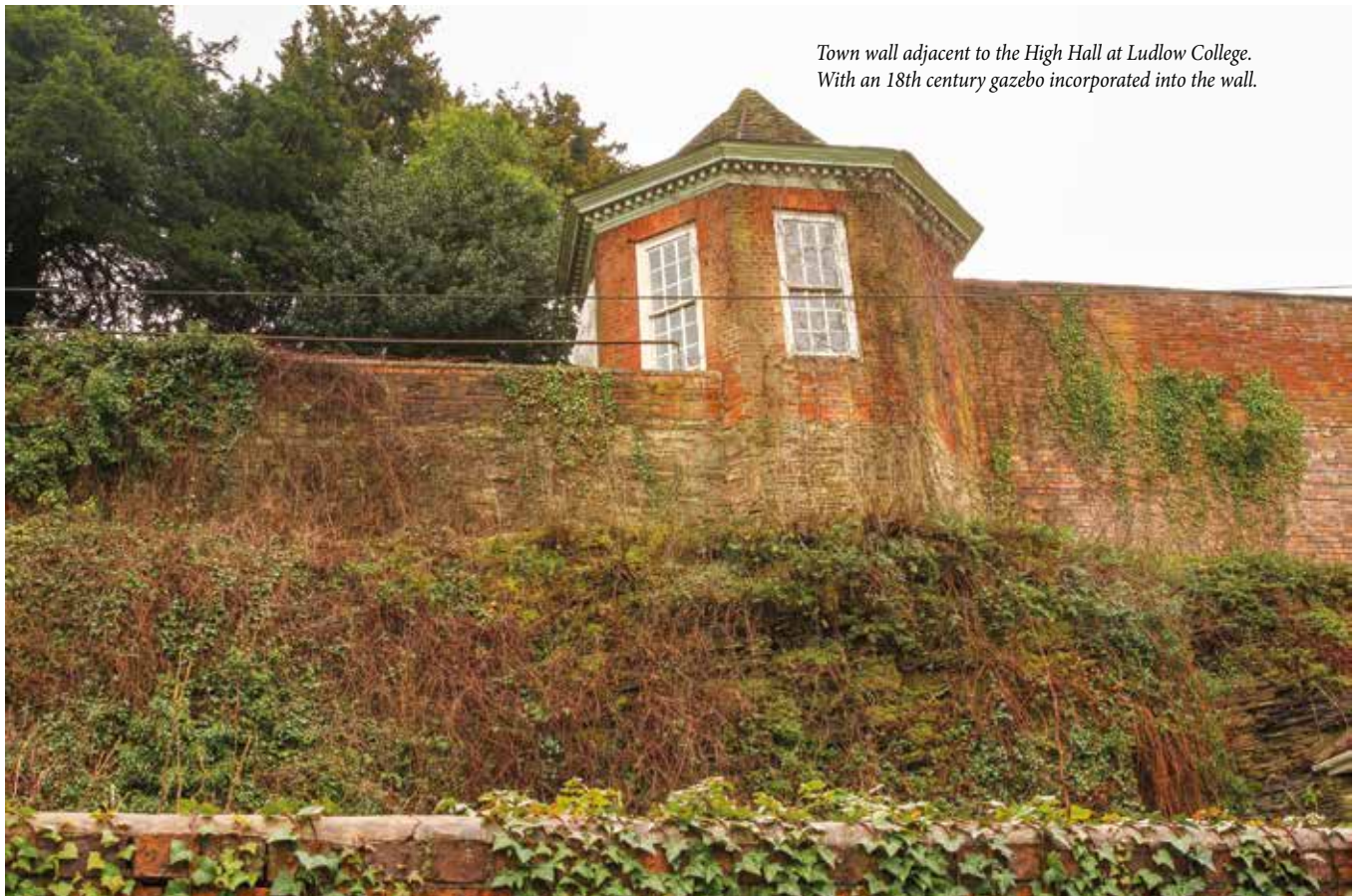
With the contraction of services in local government, Shropshire Council has sought to rationalise its involvement with the many individual heritage trusts across the county, and, where possible, to encourage one primary organisation to represent the various interests in any given community or area. Ludlow Civic Society is now embracing that role, and Ludlow



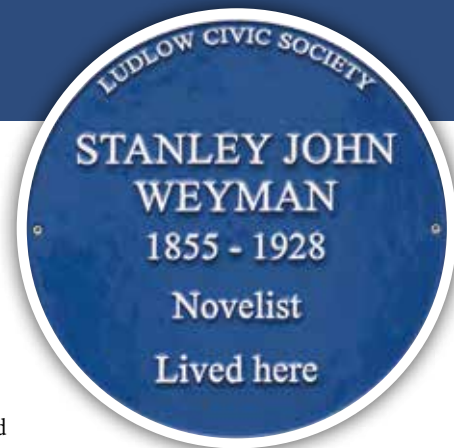
Section of town wall adjacent to Castle Street car park.

Town Walls Trust will cease to be a separate organisation. Richard Cundall, Stephen Treasure and I have agreed to remain as advisors to LCS relating to Ludlow Town Walls for a period of three years, and thereafter to review the position. The Walls have stood for eight hundred years as a key element of Ludlow's unique identity, and long may they continue to do so.

Colin Richards



*Town wall adjacent to the High Hall at Ludlow College.
With an 18th century gazebo incorporated into the wall.*



STANLEY WEYMAN, LUDLOW'S GREAT NOVELIST AWARDED BLUE PLAQUE

At noon on Friday 31st January a large crowd gathered on the pavement outside Number 54 Broad Street to witness the unveiling of the civic society's most recent blue plaque: 'Stanley John Weyman (1855-1928) novelist, lived here.'

The ceremony was attended by several members of the Weyman family including fifteen-year-old Amy Weyman, the novelist's great-great-niece, as well as by the press and numerous admirers. After excellent speeches by Richard Hurlock, Chairman of the Civic Society, and Merlin Unwin, publisher of Weyman's masterpiece *Ovington's Bank*, some forty people retired to the Angel for refreshments generously provided by the Civic Society.

Stanley Weyman was one of the most illustrious British writers in the last decade of the nineteenth

century and the early decades of the twentieth, as well-known and highly-regarded as H.G.Wells, Oscar Wilde, Rudyard Kipling and Robert Louis Stevenson. Stevenson, in fact, sent Weyman letters of admiration, Oscar Wilde petitioned the Home Office from Reading Gaol to make Weyman's novels available to convicts, and Hugh Walpole described him as 'one of the finest masters of the narrative gift the English novel has known'. Graham Greene was later to refer to Weyman's historical novels as 'key books in my life'.

Weyman's popularity has, like

that of other great writers, ebbed and flowed down the decades, but his influential place in the history of English literature can never be denied. And *Ovington's Bank*, with its insightful analysis of how people think about money, and what living a good life entails, is one of literature's greatest novels.

Jim Lawley

Local publisher and Civic Society member Merlin Unwin making an entertaining speech after the unveiling.



Members of the Weyman family.

BOOK REVIEW:

HOW GREEN IS MY HOUSE?

In this issue we are re-introducing a section for book reviews. We hope to make this a regular feature on books relating to Ludlow history and conservation in general.

Old House Eco Handbook (2019, 2nd edition) by Marianne Suhr and Roger Hunt. White Lion Publishing, in association with SPAB, £30, pp.208.

William Morris, founder of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), once famously remarked, 'We are only trustees for those that come after us.' He was, of course, referring to what he called 'old buildings', but the sentiment applies equally well to the wider network of ecosystems in which all building activities are situated, and which support the life of all creatures on this planet. It is here, however, where tensions can potentially arise. Old buildings, for all their aesthetic appeal and cultural importance are often, to take one example, highly energy-inefficient. Yet reducing energy consumption, and especially its associated carbon footprint, are now rightly regarded as urgent global priorities. Yet the conflict is not as stark as one might imagine. It is not only a choice between saving your single-glazed Georgian sash windows or saving the planet. With good sense and sensitivity, as this book seeks to prove, it is possible to repair, maintain and modify old buildings to balance high ecological standards with the preservation of their architectural and historical integrity.

The book itself is sponsored by SPAB, and is, in effect, an ecological updating of their highly successful earlier publication, *Old House Handbook* (2008). Its production values are high: hard covers, high-quality paper and an abundance of photographs and informative well-designed diagrams. A minor criticism is that the book has a 'coffee-table' feel to it: many

(admittedly attractive) photographs serve as eye candy and don't really illustrate any argument, or when they do, the point is simplistic. Do we really need, for example, a picture of a house with windows open to illustrate the point that ventilation is improved by opening windows? Nevertheless, it is an appealing book to hold and read, although a less glossy approach might have reduced its cost.

The book's central practical chapters deal with such matters as modern retrofit materials, roofs and ceilings, windows and doors, walls, floors, paints and heating. These are sandwiched between opening and concluding chapters that deal with more reflective and philosophical issues such as favouring repair over restoration (something dear to Morris's heart), ensuring that any modifications are reversible, and, interestingly, the linkage between sustainable building techniques and sustainable communities. Reading one paragraph near the end brought Ludlow to mind:

'Vibrant places improve local economic performance, enhance and support biodiversity, enable healthy living and foster pride and community cohesion. People feel rooted in their surroundings, maintain their homes and know and care about their neighbours.'

At a more practical level, it was good to read a convincing critique of some current popular practices such as the EPC certificate scheme, the fluid-injection damp-proofing industry that promotes its often unsuccessful and damaging techniques as the standard solution to damp problems, the installation of UPVC windows, and the much touted quick fix of spraying sticky

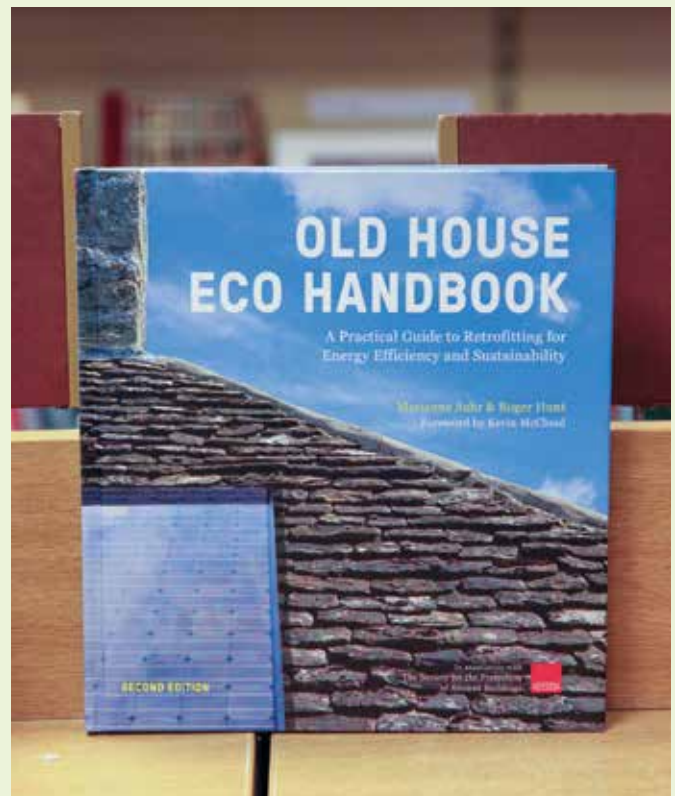
foam on the undersides of roofing tiles to improve insulation and stop tiles slipping. A key point that emerges time and again throughout the book is the importance of letting your house breathe, and the avoidance of modern solutions to heat insulation and damp-proofing (such as cement renders, impermeable membranes and non-breathable paints) that act as barriers to moisture flow, but simply divert the problem and cause harm elsewhere.

The book claims to be a 'handbook' and in the main offers sound practical advice on measures that are easy to implement, such as how to improve the thermal efficiency of single-glazed sash windows without replacing them. Much of the technical detail is well-explained, and the whole chapter on paints offers some good advice and much-needed clarity. But in other places the book swerves between stating the blindingly obvious (check the reputation of any builder you employ), to dealing with complex technical issues and

definitions that leave the reader unclear as to how to proceed. So, for example, in relation to installing breathable building materials, the reader is advised to ask the manufacturer technical details on 'breathability': 'as a minimum this could be supplied in the form of an MNs/g measure of vapour resistance' (p.50). What the humble reader and homeowner who goes to this trouble does with this figure is not so clear.

In the end, the book encompasses three identities: a handbook offering sound advice to the homeowner on how to repair and maintain traditional buildings; a volume raising a series of questions that need to be addressed and solved by architects and contractors; and a work exhorting us all to think green in planning the repair and renovation of historic buildings. If you are contemplating having work done on an old building, this book would be a most useful purchase.

John Cartwright



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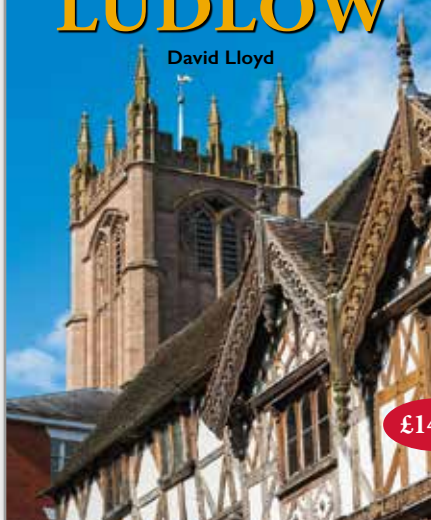


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LUDLOW'S REPAIR CAFÉ

The first Repair Café happened in the Netherlands in 2009, and the idea immediately took root, spreading globally across thirty-three countries and is continuing to spread.

Diane Lyle ran Ludlow's first Repair Café in October 2017, initially as a pilot, and, while the footfall was light, there was clear support for a second event from both volunteer repairers and customers. After the second Café, it was even more evident that this needed to be a regular event in Ludlow's calendar, and the current quarterly pattern was quickly established.

The ethos of a Repair Café is simple: rather than throw something away because it is broken or just isn't working as it used to, bring it along to a Café to see if it can be repaired.

The idea of repairing something isn't new, of course, but it is something which dates back to an earlier age when 'things' were harder to come by, when money was short, when simply heading to the shops, let alone going on-line, was not a first option, nor, indeed, a feasible one. The first option was to take something apart, to see how it was made, to see what was wrong, to see if it could be mended – and put back together again (using all those screws!).

When money was more plentiful and it was possible to buy new, the instinct to repair, indeed the enjoyment of attempting to repair, remained, with the added challenge of keeping pace with the ever-more-complex manufacturing processes, and defying, where possible, that built-in obsolescence.

That enjoyment, that sense of challenge, abounds at each Ludlow Repair Café as the repairers embrace whatever appears on their table with enthusiasm, giving the atmosphere a real buzz.

The 2017 Repair Café was supported by a dozen repairers, including three specialists: one for jewellery, one for clothing and soft furnishing and one for bicycles. Subsequent events have attracted new volunteers and there is now a front-of-house team as well as an expanded repair team. This means

the initial core group doesn't have to commit to each event, although the majority do. Among the new recruits came a clock specialist who always has a queue, someone who specialises in old radios, and an IT specialist.

While the quarterly pattern of of Ludlow's Repair Café is now established, there is little or no pattern about what items will arrive through the door. This means every Repair Café is different, and each one a learning curve! Electrical items are regulars, and have been from the beginning, but these, too, offer a wide range of challenges from vacuum cleaners to toasters, bread-making machines to food mixers, irons to fan heaters, stereo and music systems to radios, TVs and DVD players, hedge trimmers to leaf blowers, electric drills to sanders, even a humidifier...the list is endless.

The same can be said about the variety of non-electrical items, too. Over the past two years, the repair team has tackled a torn tent, an assortment of toys, including an almost decapitated old rocking horse, two very (very) precious dolls, a Dalek, a sixty-five-year-old teddy bear who had lost his smile, antique glass, ceramics and porcelain, items of furniture, curtains and clothing, mirrors and photo-frames, garden tools even an Edwardian desk calendar.

Not everything can be repaired, of course, but the majority of items which come to a Repair Café are sent home again to live a little longer. And every item which has its life extended means that adding to landfill has been avoided, at least for a while. That's one of the main feel-good factors of the Repair Café; that, and seeing the glow on the faces of owners who have entrusted the team with something precious and treasured when it is returned to them mended and whole again. Even the items which aren't able to be repaired offer a sense of

satisfaction to both repairer and owner, because a repair was at least attempted, and the reason why a repair couldn't be effected is explained.

Because repairs cannot be guaranteed, there is no charge, but donations are requested to cover the costs of running the Café, for room hire, insurance, replenishing central tool and admin. resources, and advertising.

Ludlow's Repair Cafés alternate between Ludlow Mascall Centre and Rockspring Community Centre. They run on the last Saturday morning of January, April, July and October, from 10.00 am to 12 noon.



The 2020 dates are:

25th July, Ludlow Mascall Centre

31st October, Rockspring Community Centre

For any specialist item needing repair it's advisable to check before the event, as not every volunteer can always be 'on duty'.

To know more, or to get involved as part of the team, contact Diane Lyle.



ELIZABETH BENNETT: RECOLLECTIONS.

Elizabeth Bennett, a long-standing member of Ludlow Civic Society, died suddenly on 7th January 2020, aged eighty-nine. She contributed greatly to the town as a trustee of the Conservation Trust, a volunteer at St Laurence's, and as a teacher of art history.

I first met Elizabeth many years ago. Long before I came to Ludlow in 2006. When I arrived, she greeted me saying I was now a Ludlovian. I protested that perhaps I should have been born in Ludlow to qualify for that, but no, she insisted, 'in my eyes you are a Ludlovian.' How kind and welcoming that was. This is typical of Elizabeth's generosity and hospitality, and a reason for her having made so many friends.

We met through the Georgian Group which then had a very active Ludlow-based branch, organised by Julia Ionides. We enjoyed many superb visits to Georgian buildings in the Marches and beyond. A small group of like-minded people who met regularly, Julia referred to us as her 'family'.

Elizabeth loved art and architectural history, including historic churches. Her knowledge was boundless, and her generosity in sharing it was a joy in knowing her. She was very fond of the artists Nicholas Poussin and Claude Lorrain who had so inspired the English eighteenth-century landscape movement. She was also fond of English artists of the 1930s and 1940s. The Second World War artist, Eric Ravilious, was a favourite. She introduced me to a friend who owned an early Eric Ravilious painting which was unknown to the art world. I am a friend of Anne Ullmann, Eric Ravilious's daughter, from whom I had borrowed material when curating a Ravilious exhibition in 2004. Anne was delighted by the discovery

of this painting, and included it in a book on her father's work. Later it was exhibited at the Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne, and Elizabeth was thrilled to attend the opening.

A very remarkable coincidence happened one day when I was driving Elizabeth somewhere in my car. I had written to Anne Ullmann and had left the letter, ready for posting, on the dashboard of the car. Suddenly there was a shriek of amazement from Elizabeth. 'I cannot believe this,' she kept repeating. She recognised the address in Harborne as the one which had belonged to her cousins, the house she often visited as a child. You can imagine what followed: a visit to the Ullmanns for Sunday lunch! Elizabeth made a big hit with Anne, who always asks after her whenever she writes to me. I was so pleased that I was able to send Lizzie greetings from Anne at Christmas.

A passion for art, high intelligence and an incredible memory, excellent communication skills, a warm and lovable person who loved contact with people, these qualities all belong to Lizzie. We will all miss her, especially her sons, Martin and Robin and their families. What a wonderful friend she was! She will always have a very special place in my heart.

Gaye Smith

TOM CAULCOTT 1927-2019

It was with great sadness that the Committee learnt of the death, just after Christmas, of Tom Caulcott, aged ninety-two, in the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, where he had once held the post of chairman. He was a long-standing member of the Society, and a committee member under the chairmanship of Stephen Dornan during the 1990s, a real-life dynamic duo.

Tom was born in Wolverhampton in 1927. After his somewhat peripatetic childhood, his family finally settled in Birmingham where Tom attended Solihull School. In 1945 he was awarded an exhibition to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, to read history, but changed to law for Part II of the Tripos. This was followed by two years of service in the RAF.

Tom began his career in the Central Land Board and War Damage Commission, rising through the ranks to become Private Secretary to Sir Robert Fraser. After this department was abolished in 1951, Tom was transferred to the Treasury, where he rose to the Chancellor's Private Office. The small Labour victory of 1964 meant that the manifesto pledge of creating a new department for Economic Affairs, to balance the Treasury, had become a reality. George Brown was to be at its helm. Tom's time with Brown was interesting to say the least, with Tom often at the receiving end of Brown's famous temper. After a shaky start, the department settled down, and survived the occasional clashes with the Treasury. The first six months saw an incomes policy and the publication of a National Plan. But the stress levels never lessened for Tom, and he eventually asked for the Treasury to take him back.

Back at the Treasury, he moved around several departments. He finally became an under-secretary in the Civil service department in the Machinery of Government unit. The 1974 election saw the return of Labour to government and saw him working with George Brown's deputy, Tony Crosland, in the Department of the Environment.

A move away from central government occurred in 1976 with his appointment as Secretary of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. In 1982 he was head-hunted by Birmingham City Council to be their Chief Executive. Birmingham, at that time, was a city in decline. Tom convinced the City Fathers to embark on an extensive capital programme. The jewel in the crown was to be the new home for the world-renowned City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The new Conservative administration had little time for capital expense on arts projects, so Tom had the idea to create a dual-purpose venue. Thus was born the Birmingham International Convention Centre. Tom saw to getting the project financed using European money, and he even invited Jacques Delors, President of the European Union, to lay the foundation stone. The building was opened in 1991 by Her Majesty the Queen.

Other improvements to the cultural life of Birmingham instigated by Tom included the enlargement of the stage at the Hippodrome Theatre, grants given to allow Welsh National Opera to visit the city, the move by Sadler's Wells Ballet to Birmingham, the appointment of Thomas Trotter as organist of the city, and the restoration of Joseph Chamberlain's house, Highbury.

Tom retired in 1988 and moved to Ludlow with his wife, Jane, where they lived in a venerable Georgian house overlooking the

Castle gardens. Tom threw himself into Ludlow's community and social life. He became involved with many of the town's institutions, and sat on many committees including South Shropshire District Council, Teme Weirs Trust, the Town Centre Residents Association, Friends of St Laurence's, Ludlow Assembly Rooms and the Civic Society. He made a valuable contribution to the Society, giving up much time, and bringing a considered approach to any problems the Society faced. During his time on the Civic Society Committee, he sat as the Society's representative on the South Shropshire District Council's Conservation Advisory Committee.

Tom and Jane had a tremendous love for the arts, ranging from Shakespeare to Elgar, Housman to opera. Indeed, Tom was an inaugural member of the Housman Society. Who can forget when Tom brought Simon Rattle and the entire City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra to Ludlow in 1996 to play Vaughan Williams's *On Wenlock Edge* and George Butterworth's *Shropshire Lad* to a packed house in St Laurence's church to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of *A Shropshire Lad*.

Tom is survived by his wife, Jane, a daughter, grand-daughter and a grandson. A son predeceased him.

Stanton Stephens



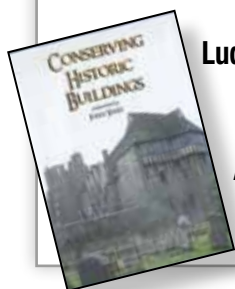
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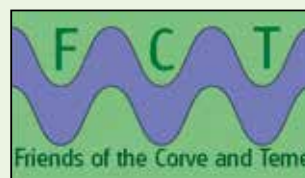


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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The impetus for this edition has been the handing over of the efforts of the Town Walls Trust to the LCS after their sterling work over the last twelve years. From 19th August 2019 we took over some of the aspirations and aims of the Trust, a body dedicated to inform, publicise and assist any owners of the Town Walls in their grants or traditional skills to repair these listed fortifications. The LCS will continue this work as the 1233 Committee, a direct reference to the original Charter permitting the 'enclosure' of the town.

We shall embark on a step by step survey to ascertain the current condition and, where possible, ownership, as well as hoping to help in a solution to the problems of rebuilding the churchyard section that collapsed in February 2013.

Elsewhere, we were recently asked whether Ludford came within our remit of interest. Indeed it does. In addition to a lengthy list of members from 'over the water' who have contributed much over the years, who could not wish to embrace the Norman church, the almshouses, the Old Bell, and, of course, the Charlton Arms. Magnificent Ludford House, home to the great and not so good, Sir

Job Charlton who backed the wrong horse by entertaining James II here a year before his monarch fled abroad, Sir Edmund Charlton, local MP, who spent three weeks in the Fleet Prison for contempt of court, John Lechmere who served at Trafalgar, Captain Reginald James Beresford Parkinson JP, bound over for threatening behaviour by his fellow magistrates. Yes, plenty here to interest us.

As usual, there are downsides to report, even trying to stay away from the more depressing aspects of the Planning System. Before Christmas, the Society made an offer to the Town Council to repair the clock in the Council Chamber

at the Guildhall. Originally a gift from Mr Henry David Greene, QC, Recorder of Ludlow and local MP, it was presented in 1894 at the time he acquired both positions. The clock, dated 1751, had formerly hung in Clifford's Inn Hall, London, for a hundred and forty years, and was made by the noted clockmaker, Nathaniel Delender. To date, this offer has met with little support, and the LCS may consider sponsoring elsewhere.

The guiding hand behind Greene's gesture was Henry Weyman, Coroner, local historian and one-time Mayor. Members may recall our ceremony in January when a blue plaque was erected at

54 Broad Street to commemorate his brother, Stanley, the best-selling Victorian author, as described by Jim Lawley earlier in this issue.

Finally, it is with sadness that we record the stepping down of Anthony Shuster, our website maestro, Malcolm Perrett, committee member, and, especially, Alan Layng, our much-valued Treasurer, who has done so much to straighten out our finances and wag a stern fiscal finger.

*Richard Hurlock
Chairman*

Collapsed section of town wall below garden of rest.

MEMBERSHIP AND EVENTS

We are all pleased and grateful in equal measure to our membership this winter, who have shown enthusiasm for renewing their membership. Also, many new members have joined this year for the first time.

The year will have much the same format as last year, with a talk in most months, but, as you will learn below, the possibility of more trips to interesting places.

The Methodist Church continues to host our meetings, where we enjoy such excellent audiovisual facilities. All members receive information on talks/excursions in their Membership programmes, and other membership matters by post. However, we do also update the publicity for events by email to those members who have an email account. Those members who do not have an email account will now be able to receive, if they wish, by post some further communications.

Members may also like to look at our website (www.ludlowcivicsociety.org) which has a wealth of information about the Society, and, as you will

STOP PRESS. STOP PRESS. STOP PRESS. STOP PRESS.

Due to the ongoing situation with The Corona Virus the events detailed in the following section have been postponed.

have read elsewhere, you will also find on the website early editions of the Heritage Magazine.

We are booking speakers for the remainder of 2020, then into 2021, to include a talk on Charles Darwin and visits to the Flaxmill near Shrewsbury and Brynkinhault near Wrexham. We have found that excursions to places of interest have proved very popular. Last year saw a visit to the Barber Institute of Fine arts, combined with Winterbourne House. We shall welcome, this year, Nicola Kandinsky, the Director of the Institute, to talk about its history. We hope to see you at the monthly talks, and the AGM on May 8th.

Jane Hunt, Membership and Events Secretary



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