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DEAR MEMBERS

A year of changes, Jane Hunt after many years of sterling work keeping in touch with you all is stepping down from the role of membership secretary. She has been an amazing help in getting me started on this task. I will do my best to keep up to her standards. As you will know we have made a modest increase in membership fees: £16 per annum for individual membership and £30 for joint membership. It is now time to think about payment. It has been agreed that all members should pay their annual fees in September of each year. This will help significantly in ensuring we have an up-to-date list of members. Ideally this will be made by a standing order or BACS payment from your bank to Ludlow Civic Society. If there is a problem with this, cheques can be accepted, they take much longer to process so please only used if essential. Help can be provided in setting up emails if anyone would like help with this.

There has been a small but steady increase in membership numbers and we have been delighted to welcome guests at the talks. It was noted that the AGM was helped along with tea and cake so we will look at how we can develop this approach. There have been many exciting talks and visits over the year that have both inspired us and provided a good chance to meet other members in new surroundings. Jane Hunt and John Cartwright have ensured that the talks programme 2023/2024 looks exciting and new visits are planned, so watch you emails or post for more information. If you have an email address please ensure that the Civic Society has it, this will ensure you are kept up-to-date with activities. Last time I checked over 50 members had either no email or failed to share it. We can reassure you that we do not allow access to your data to any other party but do want to be in touch.

The first meeting in September, mentioned in this edition will be an exciting chance to find out more about Lower Corve street. It will include several talks and songs. I hope to meet you there. Enjoy your summer.

Wendy McCracken
Membership Secretary
June 2023

DINHAM HALL

Anything that originally stood on the site before 1792 is unknown, other than a claim that it was the site of two houses, possibly known as “the hole in the wall”, leased from the corporation 28th October 1786 by Samuel Nash for 31 years. Its chief attraction is the outstanding view and it can be no coincidence that the spot was chosen by a man associated with Richard Payne Knight, one of the chief promoters of the appreciation of the Picturesque, an aesthetic ideal codified by William Gilpin around 1782,¹ and indeed, it boasts “the most glorious prospect”.

In 1745 Ursula Nash (b. Bitterly 1715-1798) married the Reverend Thomas Knight (1697-1764) of Wormsley, a man eighteen years her senior by whom she had 4 children. The union, whilst socially unequal, seems to have been harmonious. By the randomness of fate, the eldest boy, Richard Payne Knight (1751-1824) when only fifteen, inherited the considerable timber, mineral and property empire, including Downton, of his Grandfather, Richard Knight of Croft Castle (1692-1765).

Ursula had a brother, Samuel Nash (1717-1796), who proved his abilities managing the Moorfields Estate at Coddington for a Mrs Evans and her daughter, making enough in the process to build himself a house on the estate called The Moor².

Upon the death of Richard, Ursula turned to her brother for help in managing the estate. Thus Samuel became agent to his nephew, who with less interest in the commercial and industrial side of the empire relied heavily on his Uncle. Samuel was put in charge, c. 1772 of the original works on creating Downton Castle, begun by the architect Thomas Farnolls Pritchard and then supervised by Thomas Symonds (1730-1791) with increasing, then total direction from Richard Knight.

In 1782 Samuel resigned from the Moorfield Estate and took a fancy to rebuilding a “cottage” at Stoney Field, on the Downton Estate which produced a rather thinly veiled refusal from Richard. “I cannot have any natural objection to it, but our agreement was that you and your son were to live in Ludlow in order to carry out my business”.

Hence the full-time residence in Ludlow of Samuel Nash and his exotically named wife Suhana. Around 1792 they erected Dinham Hall, a neoclassical, three storeyed residence, faced in Grinshill³ Ashlar work with a large Bow window that is rendered to match the stone, thus saving the weight in construction. Whilst making several statements, the building is rather severe and the facing unusual for Ludlow. The usual problem of attributing an architect to a Ludlow house of this period arises – of those known to Nash, Pritchard died in 1777 and Symonds in 1791 (he retired in 1786 following the collapse of Hereford Cathedral Tower whilst he was surveyor).

The building clearly vies with Dinham House and one or two other contenders as the smartest address in town, but in its severity and clear lines it is the antithesis of Payne Knights “picturesque” adventure at Downton and an affirmation of the no nonsense

profession of an Ironmasters agent. Samuel had probably picked up a lot of knowledge from Downton, and the awkwardness of some of the proportions suggests an amateur, possibly with some input by, Thomas Telford (1757-1834) whose professional life would have crossed that of Knights’ Agent and who was working nearby at the time.

The cost of transporting stone from Grinshill, some forty miles North, would have been immense, but it was a stone that was familiar to Nash from his work at Downton where he had been instructed in 1772 to have “bricks made and stone hewn”. Grinshill was also well known to Telford as “the stone that built Shrewsbury”⁴ and the uncompromising no frills design is almost on a par with his “official” buildings, whilst the method of weight reduction to the Bow is an engineers’ solution. Telford was Shropshires’ Surveyor of Public Works from 1787 until his death and in 1794 he carried out limited work to Dinham bridge where one remaining arch can still be seen. I stress that the theory of his assistance is “mere surmise”.

The house was built for Samuel for his own use, not that of his nephew as the Listed Building text claims, but he did not have long to enjoy the house dying in 1796 and his son Richard (1755-1815) after

1 Observations on the River Wye, and Several Parts of South Wales, etc. Relative Chiefly to Picturesque Beauty; made in the Summer of the Year 1770.

2 The former Moorfields estate was rebuilt c. 1796 and renamed Coddington Court. Much of the designed landscape has now been lost.

3 A red & white sandstone, the white is more hardwearing as in Attingham Park, widely used in Shropshire the quarry closed in 1914 but has since re-opened for specialist work. Alec Clifton Taylor; English Stone Building

4 Also used in the lintel and surrounds to the front door of No. 10 Downing St.



Memorial window in Elton Church.

some 19 years occupation, followed him on 14th June 1815⁵. In 1813 Richard had fathered Frederick (Williams) Nash 1813-1883, by his Housekeeper, Mary Williams (1776-1858) Frederick changed his surname from Williams to Nash in order to inherit from his father who had married Mary before he died.

Frederick Nash does not seem to have lived at the Hall, and in 1851 was lodging with Samuel Stead the Builder and master Mason in Castle St⁶, described as landed proprietor, and the Nash family are stated to still own the Hall in 1905.

The Thanks of the Town Council were presented to Frederick in 1870 "for the Swans recently presented to the Council through his exertions. It was also resolved that notices be put up near the New Bridge requesting persons to protect the

Swans and warning persons not to molest them".

He ended up in a sanatorium in Church Stretton and was killed after wandering in front of a train in June 1883 aged 79, he was co-founder of the Ludlow Field club and considered a "well known archaeologist"

Richard's widow, Mary, appears to be living elsewhere in town by then so that in October the house was advertised⁷ on a "Seven or Fourteen year lease, a truly Elegant House, with neat Garden Coach-House, Stables, and every requisite for genteel family, late the Residence Richard Nash, Esq. deceased. House now being painted and undergoing a repair". Mrs Nash also embarked on a sale of several farms and woodlands.

Take up would seem slow and

it was offered again the following year. At some point it was rented by Dr David Lewis (1784-1837), son of the Revd David Lewis (1760-1850) of Abernant, pluralist, Carmarthen Magistrate and King's Commissioners for Affairs of Taxes and secretary and treasurer for the Bishop of St David's.

Born in Oswestry, the Doctor's occupation of Dinham probably coincided with his first marriage to Isabella Phillips by whom he had three children. Isabella's family had an early connection with Abernant and it is possibly her brother John 1801-1864 who was prosperous enough to take over the Manor House at Kibworth Harcourt by 1846 and purchase it from his uncle the Revd Thomas Thomas's estate for £4,450 (a connection here with Farndon) on the 5th November 1855. He then embarked on an ambitious rebuild, so there was money in the family.

In 1823, his father the Revd Lewis wrote to a friend⁸ "I am just returned from a fortnight's visit to Dr Lewis. He lives in the greatest respectability among the primordines of the place, - in a sumptuous house with a genteel establishment. His wife is one of the most accomplished little personages I ever saw; - and her great accomplishments, when compared to her goodness and piety, do certainly retire out of view.

We were favoured every evening at tea with evident proofs of very liberal munificence to the family from Farndon, and which was very properly and tenderly appreciated".

"Munificence from Farndon" would suggest that the new Mrs Kent was connected to John Phillip and something must have been available to keep Dr Lewis living in a "sumptuous house".

Lewis clearly had more to live

on than his father's stipend and a doctors salary, though he practised at the Worcester Infirmary⁹ as well as being made physician to the Ludlow Dispensary in 1828.¹⁰ His extended relatives included the Revd Edward Lewis who married Charlotte Wynne of Dolardden, Castle Caereinion, Montgomery, Archdeacon Edward Lewis, and an ancestor was the Archbishop Bishop of York 1761-1776.

Between 1823 and 1825 the Doctor and family seem to have been in India, there was an East India Co. connection with the pair and she is thought to have died there. Returning home he married for the second time to Caroline Lewis a distant cousin and with her had two daughters Mary and Emma.

Lewis clearly wanted to move in 1832 when the press announced "1832 To be Entered upon at Candlemas next, A DELIGHTFUL MANSION, called DINHAM-HALL, with pleasure and kitchen gardens, good coach-house, stables, and every requisite for a genteel family; most pleasantly situated in Dinham, adjoining ... in the occupation of David Lewis".

In 1833 it was still on offer and again in 1835¹¹

"To be Let, AND ENTERED UPON IMMEDIATELY, A DELIGHTFUL MANSION, called DINHAM HALL, with Pleasure and Kitchen Gardens, good Coach-house, Stables, and every requisite for a Genteel Family; most pleasantly situated in Dinham, adjoining the Castle Walks, late the occupation of David Lewis, Esq., M.D. The House comprises an Entrance Hall, Breakfast Parlour, large Dining and Drawing Rooms, and Library, with seven excellent airy Bed Rooms, two Dressing Rooms, Kitchen, Larder, Servants'

5 In his will Richard Nash mentions Brooke Foss Westcott of Ludlow, who married Nash's relative Mary Nash in 1791. As befitted a gentleman in the late 18th century, Westcott took interest in botany, and his son Frederick Brooke Westcott (1800-1867) became a chemist and druggist, as well as lecturer in botany at Sydenham College Medical School, Birmingham (now part of Birmingham University). Frederick's son Brooke Foss Westcott junior (1825-1901) was educated at King Edward's School, Birmingham, collected ferns and Lepidoptera as a boy, became Regius Professor of Divinity at Cambridge and ultimately Bishop of Durham.

6 In 1848 Frederick sold land at Shortwood, Stanton Lacy, to Samuel Stead, mason, for £100, National Archives 6683/1/72.

7 Hereford Journal - Wednesday 4th October 1815.

8 21st June 1823 to Revd Thomas Thomas of Curate of Farndon, Northants/ The Manor House at Kibworth Harcourt describing a visit to Dr David Lewis his son.

9 Worcester Journal - Thursday 6th April 1826: He solicited a leave of absence from Worcester Infirmary.

10 Founded 1781 with £661 to help the poor, of whom 392 were treated in the first year at a cost of £521. One of the first physicians was Dr Martin Dunne 1740-1814 an enthusiastic exponent of experimental electrophysiology! His cantankerous conduct ended in 1810 after a row with the vicar amongst others. It also coincided with a complete restart the same year and again in 1828.

11 Hereford Times - Saturday 21st February 1835.

Hall, Laundry, Brewhouse, and good vaulted Cellars; The annual rent on lease for seven years will be eighty pounds, or seventy-five for fourteen. For further particulars, apply to Mr. Salway, Dinham Cottage, Ludlow; or to the Landlord, Mr. Frederick Nash, Bartlett's Buildings, Holborn, London.

Lewis died in 1837, his son Dr R. G. Lewis followed in 1840 of spasmodic Cholera while living in Calcutta. By 1841 Caroline is living in Broad St with her 80-year-old mother, oldest son David (21) all of Independent means and three other children. Caroline died in 1870 aged 83.

There is a period from 1835 to 1837 to around 1855 when the tenancy is unclear, although in 1840 Edward Rogers, MP for Bishops Castle made brief use of it.¹² He was followed by the arrival of the Revd Charles Kent (1805-1885), who became Vicar of St Giles, Ludford around 1838, a position he was to hold for forty-seven years until his death. It would not seem possible that the living from this, combined with his later appointment as Perpetual Curate of Elton in 1844 would have been enough to sustain the Hall. The author of 'The Diary of our Parish of Ludford' 1866 was the son of Charles R. Kent of Clapham Park, Surrey.

In 1841 he was living with his elder sister Susanna, at Cleobury Mortimer and must have known the wonderfully named Ludford, Church Clerk, Ephraim Grub who in 1841 bemused parishioners with the following notice "that persons to be buried in this churchyard must be those living in the parish; and those who wish to be buried are desired to apply".

In 1850 he was attending Bromfield Horticultural show, but by 1851 he had dropped off the census records and whilst it seems unlikely that he could have afforded Dinham Hall, family money must have made up the shortfall.

In 1855 he married Henrietta Knight, aged 21, the daughter of John Knight (1803-1872) of Henley Hall (a grade II building 2 miles east of Ludlow) acquired by the Knight family in 1770.

As the paper¹³ recorded "The Marriage ceremony when the bride was lead to the "hymenial altar" was performed at St Lawrence by the "Rev. Jas. Phillips, Rector of Ludlow. The happy pair, were attended by a long train of friends, and entertained by our kindhearted Rector with a sumptuous breakfast. After the marriage ceremony they took their departure by rail for town previous to leaving for the continent."

In 1857 she produced a son and heir, unoriginally named Charles, and at this stage one might be forgiven for assuming that wealth and the mighty Knight family connection had somehow propped up the costs of Dinham Hall. Nothing could be further from the truth and the Henley/Knight connection was a seriously poisoned chalice, publicly revealed after her death.

John Knight was a very strange and unpleasant man, sufficiently blessed with other property to lease Henley to Charles Cuyler. On his death in 1872 he bequeathed Henley to his neighbour, a rather surprised Sir Charles Rouse-Boughton, 11th Baronet, John's three sons were equally surprised and mounted a legal challenge to the will.

The following extracts are from The Staffordshire Advertiser - Saturday 29th March 1873 and it is worth reading the whole trial, the man was a monster. "At the time when the will was made John Knight had a sister (since deceased), who had been insane for years, and who was dependent upon him, but no provision was made for her, and she was not even mentioned in the will. He was deeply attached to his daughter Henrietta and proud of her beauty and accomplishments, yet in 1855



Dinham Hall with younger boarders in the garden from the time when the hall was the boarding house for Ludlow Grammar School. Photograph taken sometime in the early twentieth century.

left her alone, unprotected and destitute at lodgings in Ludlow, whilst he left the neighbourhood. It was then that she became engaged to Mr Kent, whom she married. After the marriage John Knight became much attached to her three children, but, although their father was by no means in affluent circumstances, their names did not appear in the will.

Other less edifying detail was added; "The place swarmed with rats, and he alternately fed and shot them. He built magnificent greenhouses and fruiteria. and with his usual consistent inconsistency, allowed the fruit to rot or else fed the animals with it. He used to dress himself up in skins, paint his face in stripes, and then suddenly burst into the servants' room with a gun in his hand and frighten them".

Charles Kent added his more christian testimony saying the "deceased never seemed at rest or treated anybody in a friendly way". These are the more amusing highlights, the brutality he visited on his sons was appalling.

The Court of Probate were persuaded that Knight was 'a capricious, morose recluse, verging on insanity. Clinching testimony that he 'seldom dressed till the middle of the day', and was 'fond of listening to German bands' was produced and the Knights retained their patrimony, albeit briefly¹⁴.

In 1858 on the 13th April, Henrietta bore a daughter at Ludford Park and in 1860 had her portrait exhibited at the Royal Academy. This was by the painter Reginald Easton and must have

some connection with Kent's subsequent second marriage to his daughter. Her final appearance was on 27th January the following year, when on "Sunday evening last she was in her usual health, although near her accouchement, which occurred late in the evening, without exciting any apprehensions of danger. To the surprise and inexpressible grief of her family and numerous friends, she shortly afterwards appeared in a state of exhaustion and, somewhat suddenly, expired, she died a beloved and exemplary wife".

Seemingly of a practical turn of mind the vicar disposed of her runabout the following month¹⁵.

"TO BE SOLD, A First rate, Step-piece BAROUCHE, nearly new, with Patent Axles and Brass Furniture, is painted dark blue, pricked out with red. The Horses are upwards of sixteen hands high, in first-rate condition, and perfectly sound. The whole will be sold together or separately, a very moderate sum.—Apply Henry Jones, Mill-street, Ludlow, Coachman to the Rev. Charles Kent".

Later in the year ¹⁶ he had a new three light, stained glass window installed at the west end of the parish church of Elton, in memory of his late wife, who was buried here. The subjects are: in the centre light, Christ blessing little Children; on the left, the Raising of Jairus's Daughter; and on the right, the Raising of Dorcas. The tracery is richly filled in with ornament, emblems, etc. by Messrs. Edmundson and Son, of

12 P. 24 Victorian Ludlow. Ludlow Hist research Group.

13 Hereford Times - Saturday 21st February 1855.

14 Sold to Edmund Thomas Wedgwood Wood 1874. Estate agents details describe an estate of 1,056 acres of rich agricultural land, 7 principal farms and "The extensive and Commodious Family Mansion, with a large coach house and stabling, walled kitchen garden, and a very superior range of vineries and peach houses, all with an income upwards of £2,100 p.a. with 30 head of deer in the park.

15 Hereford Journal - Wednesday 13th February 1861.

16 Hereford Journal - Wednesday 6th November 1861.

Manchester.¹⁷

The census of 1861 shows him living at Dinham with 3 children and 4 servants and the following year on the 24th February 1862, he re-married to Blanche Henrietta Julia Easton (Blanche referred to herself as Julia H B 1842-1914) at St Georges, Hanover Sq. She was eldest daughter of the artist Reginald Easton Esq. (1807-1893)¹⁸ and went on to produce a large family for the vicar. The landlord seems to have occasionally performed some maintenance, not always successfully, in 1867:

“An accident of a somewhat serious nature occurred on Thursday morning¹⁹ to a member of the Ludlow Rifle Volunteer Corps. named George Lello, a joiner in the employ Mr. Turner, builder, whilst pulling down an old building at the rear of Mr. Frederick Nash's premises, Dinham, a portion of the the roof gave way. He sustained a very severe wound in the head, with other injuries, and is now under the care of Mr. Hoggins, surgeon.”

1878²⁰ Charles Kent, was summoned for an infringement of the Towns Clauses Act for discharging dirt and water into Mill St. The complainant was Mrs Mason, widow who claimed that she saw Mr Kent's carriage, and his servant man was throwing water over the wheels where the Defendant has two stables. There as a great amount of dirt upon the carriage, and upon the street after the carriage was washed, opposite Mrs. Mason's house. She had have frequently seen the same thing done and it is source of great annoyance to the residents there.”

The defence, expressed surprise that a complaint should have been made which he thought, was only the result an irritable disposition.

It was strange that this carriage washing had been going on for very many years, and yet no complaint had been made. There was certainly no evidence of annoyance to any other person in the street and contended that it did not come within the meaning of the Act, After some discussion, the Mayor said the Bench were of opinion that this was an offence under the Act, and that as the servant was merely acting under the instructions of his master he was not the person to be summoned, they would withdraw the summons on a promise from Mr Kent not to repeat the annoyance, and pay the expenses.

Charles died 16th November 1885 aged 79, he had been ill for some time. Ludford Church filled with mourners in a fairly lavish ceremony attended by most of the immediate family, he was buried in Elton.

By 1890 the house was let for the summer months and the younger (Julia Easton) Kent children had moved to Cow Street, the days of one family ownership of such a large house were over. One of her sons Edward Cavendish Kent b. 1876 married Eleanor Lloyd Sherlock²¹ and moved to India becoming a Captain of the Coorg & Mysore Rifles in 1913, Julia must have moved to India with them, dying there in 1916. Another son Charles Henry Kent was rector of Merton, a keen historian who formed an unlikely friendship with Prince Frederick Duleep Singh²² in renovating the church. In the 1930s' Charles recalled a ghost story told to him by his grandfather Reg Easton whilst staying at the Hall, this then appeared in Lord Halifax's Ghost Book, publ. 1936 under “The Corpse that Rose”

1894 and enter Ludlow Grammar

school²³ when, Head master elect, Mr Hugh J Hastings, M.A, announced the governors of the above School have taken Dinham Hall, Ludlow, as a temporary residence for the Head Master, pending the erection of New Buildings. By 1901, Hastings with wife Margaret and two domestics shared the house with seven students.

1905 the local press recorded that on the death of Mr Samuel Nash the property passed to his grandson, the late Mr Frederick Nash, who was so well known in Ludlow a quarter of a century ago, and it still remains in the family of Samuel Nash.

1930 the terms fees of Ludlow Grammar School were published, amounting to £3. 6/- tuition and £20 for board. In 1963 the school tried to raise money to buy the building suggesting that the Nash family still held it.

Around 1977 the grammar school became a sixth form college but this seemed to make little difference to the boarding arrangements. One Emma House wrote on the haunting of the house that included a woman in grey and manservant named Ben, stating that, “my Mother and I went to live at Dinham Hall I think in 1983 when she was appointed as House Mistress—a challenging job which involved the running of the house and staff, and caring for around 20 boys”. Most were students at the sixth form college in Ludlow whose parents lived too far away to travel daily, or abroad. The college was a state run establishment in the three years we spent there, before the house became a hotel.

In March 1988 Planning Permission for Alterations and Change of Use from School

Boarding House to Hotel and Restaurant was granted.

The Hotel ran until around 2020, when the current owners²⁴, Frank and Louise Choblet revealed plans to convert it into housing. The plans envisaged the 13-bed Dinham Hall Hotel and its adjoining restaurant, Elliotts Bistro, converted into five properties and the cottage within the grounds making another two.

A final application in October 2020²⁵ was submitted for a “Change of use of the existing hotel, restaurant & letting cottages within the site into 7 No dwellings, internal alterations and associated works” This is possibly the best solution for a house that hardly saw its creator and over the 19th century housed two principal tenants that seemed to punch above their weight in supporting a building that had no real soul as an old family house, it will be up to someone else to write the next two hundred years!

Works have been completed on 9 Dinham which has been converted into a town house and Dinham Hall (10 Dinham) to convert the original part of the building into three exceptional apartments that that enjoy wonderful south facing views out over the garden and towards the surrounding countryside.

The conversion of a later building once known as the banqueting suite and Elliot's restaurant has created a spectacular living space with a private walled garden which is currently on the market with a guide price of £1.1m via Knight Frank. The fact that they all have secured parking spaces and sit in one of the most favoured addresses in Ludlow has been extremely attractive to the people who we expect to be moving in by the end of August.

Richard Hurlock

17 Stained glass makers, of Manchester, the studio was founded in 1854 by Ralph Bolton Edmundson (d. 1864) who had previously established the stained glass department at Pilkington Brothers of St. Helen's, Lancashire. It continued in business until 1890 under his son James.

18 Reginald Easton began work as an engraver but later took up watercolour and miniature painting. He exhibited at the Royal Academy from 1835 until 1887, and was sufficiently rated to paint King William IV.

19 1867 Hereford Times - Saturday 28th September.

20 1878 Eddowes's Shrewsbury Journal - Wednesday 23rd January.

21 They had two children, one of them; Captain Cavendish Bryan Sherlock Kent RO/3305. Royal Indian Army Service Corps. Died 16th March 1942 aged 29.

22 Prince Frederick Victor Duleep Singh, MVO, TD, FSA (1868 – 1926), also known as Prince Freddy, the younger son of Sir Duleep Singh, the last Maharaja of the Sikh Empire. Interests: archaeology, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, author, Portraits in Norfolk Houses & Portraits in Suffolk Houses. East Anglia rep. for the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

23 Ludlow Advertiser 21st April 1894.

24 Purchased the Hotel in 2008 for £1.75 million.

25 Ref. No: 20/04260/FUL | Validated: Mon 19th Oct 2020 | Status: Granted.



EV Charging points in Mill Street: ugly obstruction and trip hazard or essential infrastructure?

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS ON LUDLOW STREETS: UGLY STREET CLUTTER OR GREEN NECESSITY?

Over the last year the issue of EV charging points has exercised the minds and energies of residents in the centre of Ludlow. Amid much confusion and resentment two points were installed in Mill Street. It is an issue that the town will face again. Here Heritage News asked two people to air their views: a local resident (Malcolm Perrett) who writes on behalf of many residents in Broad Street, and our Shropshire Councillor Andy Boddington.

EV charging points should not be placed on the historic Streets of Ludlow

**From Local Resident:
Malcolm Perrett.**

There are several areas where on street installations would create severe negative impacts for Ludlow: the visual appearance of the streetscapes, the maintenance of the historic buildings, the day to day lives of the town centre residents, and the visitor experience of the town.

The streetscapes, the buildings and architecture of Ludlow are nationally recognised and attract visitors from across the UK and the world. The economy of the town is dependent on visitor numbers and tourism. Besides the ugly posts sticking out of the listed streets and cables scattered across them in this defined conservation area, the proponents have failed to consider the impacts on the maintenance and repairs of our fine buildings. All our historic buildings require constant and often extensive repairs. For the essential works to be carried out we always need close access for contractors, heavy materials, and equipment. Taking already limited parking spaces for EV charging bays means that it would be more difficult and sometimes impossible to achieve close enough access for the required work to be carried out. This was certainly the case with the Broad Street proposal.

The proposed on-street points would be slow trickle chargers tying up the already limited parking

spaces for extended periods of time. Reduced parking availability would mean that elderly and infirm residents frequently would not be able to park near their homes making it increasingly difficult for them to get around, fetching shopping or making hospital appointments. The number of town centre residents with cars greatly exceeds the number of parking bays. Slow Trickle charging points on the street means that residents even with electric vehicles would struggle to access a charging point when required and would be forced to go to one of the car park / commercial high speed chargers.

Both the RNIB and Guide Dogs for the Blind are constantly running campaigns to try to reduce or eliminate street clutter to enable the visually impaired to get around safely. Posts and cables scattered through the streets would make life extremely difficult for them. The government guidelines clearly state that councils must demonstrate demand from residents for on street charge points to obtain funding. This applies explicitly to residents, not visitors or self-serving pressure groups. The town centre residents overwhelmingly don't want them located on our streets so there is no demand from the residents.

The government guidelines also recognise the pressures that may be faced by Local Authorities when allocating parking spaces for EVs on residential streets and will consider applications for charge points situated in car parks owned by the local authority. The residents overwhelmingly believe that the right location for EV charging points in Ludlow is the town car parks where they would be readily

available for residents and visitors alike. We routinely go to a garage to fill up our vehicles so there is no difference to go to a central location i.e. the car park to charge our EV.

Shropshire council completely ignored our concerns around the severe negative impacts on the streetscape, buildings and only responded when we examined the compliance to government guidelines and their legal obligations to instal charging points in Ludlow on street locations.

Charging up Ludlow

**From Andy Boddington.
Shropshire Councillor,
Ludlow North.**

The electric era is rapidly approaching. In the nine months to September 2022, 42% of new UK registrations were for electric vehicles or hybrids. By 2035, all vehicles manufactured in the UK will be electric. But at present, sales of electric vehicles are outpacing the installation of charging points.

Petrol and diesel will not go away any time yet, but we have to plan for the transition to electric. We must ensure that we have sufficient EV charging points for those that live and work in the town, and those that visit.

Although more street clutter is always unwelcome, the EV charging points currently being installed are low profile.

There has been resistance to EV charging on town centre streets. That thinking is short term. If people in the town centre don't own an EV vehicle now, they will in the future. Even if current homeowners don't want EV chargers nearby, the next owners will. It is obvious that having an EV charging point nearby or on a property will add to their sale price.

There will be no charging points on Broad Street after local objections. Residents may need to

leave their electric cars to charge on Galdeford car park. There will be ten charging points in that car park shortly. Given the number of homes without off-street parking in the area, we can expect these points to be in demand. Town centre residents make need to look further afield to get their juice.

I am pressing for Smithfield car park to become the town charging hub for cars, vans, buses and trucks. The Eco Park also urgently needs charging points. At present, Castle Street car park can't be used because of the cost of upgrading the power supply to each parking space.

Future funding for EV charging points is uncertain. The government is currently subsidising schemes but, as with all government initiatives, it will withdraw funding once it believes it has kickstarted the market. It will be then down to the private sector to install charging points. It concerns me that some of these installations may not be sensitive to our historic town. They will probably only be in the most profitable locations where installation is easy and a good turnover of vehicles is expected. Places like the Squirrel and Sainsbury's, which already have charging points, along with M&S Food should it be built.

Charging points do not need planning permission, even in conservation areas. There is no legal requirement for consultation with the community. I think that is wrong but only ministers can change that.

The current approach to installing charging points in Ludlow and elsewhere is disorganised. We need to improve on that and have local plans specifying the best locations for points.

As always in Ludlow, we need to adapt to the changing world while not destroying the character of our historic town.

LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY HAS SPONSORED A REPRINT OF A LOCAL HISTORY BOOK

Ludlow's recorded history begins in 1086, when its castle was built along the Welsh Marches to defend the border. Much has been written about this planned Norman town with royal connections and mediaeval, Tudor and Georgian buildings, but Ludlow's northern, industrial quarter is not so well documented.

Written by Jonathan and Rosemary Wood, *The People and History of Lower Corve Street and St. Mary's Lane, Ludlow* sold out within two weeks. It seemed that many people would be disappointed at not being able to buy a copy.

However, Ludlow Civic Society has produced a second edition, and will be staging an Open Forum in the Autumn when the history of this industrial end of the town will be discussed. Chairman John Cartwright said, "We felt the book complemented the Society's key objectives, viz., to stimulate public interest in the town's beauty, character and history, encourage civic pride in the area, and promote research into Ludlow's built heritage. And we wanted to involve Ludlovians and residents in a discussion session on the history of Lower Corve Street".

The limited second edition costs £25 and is available from Castle Bookshop, 5 Castle Street, Ludlow, SY8 1AS (01584 872562). The authors acknowledge the generous financial support of the Ludlow Civic Society to make this second edition possible, and also thank Ludlow Town Guides for their assistance.

Lower Corve Street - Then and now

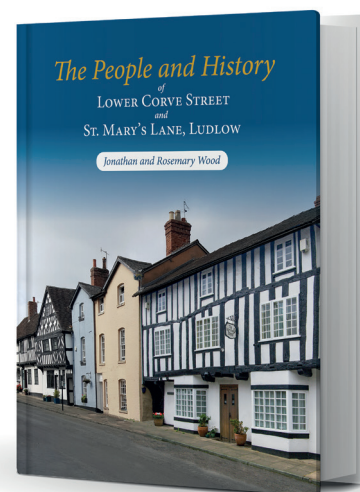
Sponsored by the Ludlow Civic Society

An Open Forum to celebrate and explore the people and recent history of the lower Corve Street area of Ludlow.

Wednesday 13th September 2023, 10.00 am,
The Parish Room, St Peter's Church,
Henley Road, Ludlow SY8 1QZ.

The programme includes:

- A Power-Point presentation about some of the men and women living and working in the industrial, northern quarter of lower Corve Street in the C19 who made their mark as successful entrepreneurs, and whose descendants still live in the town.
- A 'Conversation' between Garth Reynolds, son of renowned furniture maker, Arthur Reynolds, and Roy Thwaites, Ludlow resident and passionate collector of Reynolds' furniture. Roy will invite Garth to share memories of his father, the furniture, the people who created it, and life in St. Mary's Lane.



- An interactive session created and performed by Simon Bolton and Paul Sayers of Rooftop Theatre, featuring Jules Woodman and Paul Kemp, which introduces the men and boys living in lower Corve Street and St. Mary's Lane who left Ludlow to fight in WWI.

There will be audience-participation and displays of Reynolds' Furniture, artefacts characterising lower Corve Street's industrial past of dyeing, tanning, glove-making, malting and brewing, and memorabilia and photographs from WWI.

Tickets, costing £5 for the Open Forum, or £10 for the Forum and a lunch of French bread and cheese, should be booked in advance. Email rosemary.wood3@gmail.com or phone 01584 875438 to reserve your tickets. Payment may be made by cash, cheque, or via BACS.

Review of the book by Janet Gough

The People and History of Lower Corve Street and St. Mary's Lane, Ludlow.

The book sets a new standard in local history publishing for its outstanding design and breakthrough quantity and quality of illustration. I should straightway declare an interest as I've backed the book from the off and know at first-hand how consistently tenacious the writers have been both in their enquiries and research - and their battling against the odds to get their work published.

The opening drone photography is eye catching and revealing; in conjunction with the maps you're given new perspectives on a familiar patch of townscape just as the number of old and modern photographs of the street scene and various nooks and crannies throw light on the palimpsest that is this part of Corve Street.

The focus is on the section of Corve Street Without, i.e. north of the former Corve Gate, and the development of this area as an industrial suburb from early days when the proximity of the river Corve made burgage plots leading to the river bank highly desirable premises. Winding from the old Corve bridge southwards the street can still look like a typical village lane leading

towards a church; any latter-day gentrification is relatively recent and photographs demonstrate clearly the extent of structural and qualitative variety in the buildings.

The book gives a vivid sense of just how noxious the neighbourhood would have been when tannery was the main trade; how substantial several of the main houses were; how many were the maltings and beer houses; how poverty stricken were many households; how various were the trades and small industries; how recently the elements of a rural economy were present - and just how many are the surviving relics of life here in preceding centuries.

The book is also thorough in its detailing of

property ownership by prosperous families living elsewhere in the town and the many rentals existing here from early days. Like Lower Broad Street this part of Corve Street was a slum, indeed a red-light district - hence no doubt the readiness of 20th century local authorities to condemn properties and push for their demolition.

Noteworthy is the interest taken in this history by the many local residents who have contributed their recollections. It's no surprise that the first edition sold out so quickly since many native Ludlovians welcomed the book as 'their' history.

Stylish in design and absorbing in its material, the book offers new viewpoints in every sense.

Janet Gough

Ludlow High School 1951-1959, sometime High Mistress, St Paul's Girls' School, London, and Lower Corve Street resident.

MEET YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATION OFFICER

**An interview with Rebecca Jones BA(Hons) MPlan PGDipHEC PGCMS
Senior Conservation & Design Officer (South)**

**Address: Historic Environment Team, Shropshire Council,
PO Box 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ**

Could you tell us something about your educational and career background that led you to your current position?

Following my first degree I was working for a small planning consultancy firm whilst studying for my Masters in Town Planning. After completing my Masters I began working at Shropshire Council as part of their Graduate Scheme and was able to work within the planning policy and sustainability teams. At that time I worked closely with the Historic Environment Team and became interested in that specialism and was able to undertake some volunteering opportunities with the team. I was later able to join the Historic Environment Team initially as a technician while I worked for my Post Graduate Diploma in Historic Environment Conservation. I have now been with the Historic Environment Team for 11 years working as Conservation Officer for the Bridgnorth Area for 5 years and now Senior Conservation Officer for South Shropshire for the last 4 years.

What activities do you undertake in a typical week?

In a typical week I deal with an ongoing caseload of listed building consent applications, pre-application enquiries and consultations on planning applications, taking up a significant portion of my time. I liaise closely with other area conservation officers and colleagues in archaeology, planning and ecology, amongst others. On a daily basis I deal with queries from property owners, prospective purchasers, solicitors and agents regarding specific listed building and conservation area

issues. I work closely with our enforcement and empty homes teams on active enforcement cases and buildings at risk. I undertake site visits in relation to active applications, pre-application enquiries and other issues such as enforcement.

What is the most satisfying aspect of your work?

I enjoy working with people who care about the conservation of historic buildings and areas. I find it satisfying when we can engage with owners and agents to find pragmatic solutions to issues affecting heritage assets.

What are typical frustrations and challenges that you face?

The job involves dealing with a lot of competing factors and objectives and the key is finding the right balance and coming to a reasonable resolution, this can sometimes be challenging but also rewarding. There are many challenges when dealing with listed buildings in particular and the sometimes opposing desires of preservation versus modernisation, currently this is particularly acute in relation to addressing climate change and energy costs.

What architectural style or period fascinates you most?

I don't have one favourite period, in fact the interesting thing about most buildings is trying to understand their evolution over time, the different phases of development and how these have been influenced by the styles, materials and techniques of the time. Reading the history of buildings and preserving the legibility of the historic phases of development can be an important factor in conservation.

Do you think current legal and statutory frameworks offer adequate protection for our historic environment?

This is a really interesting question because the answer depends on a subjective interpretation of what is meant when we talk about protection. My work is currently focussed on our built environment and you could make a case that protection in that context should mean that we strive for stasis, but as with everything: change is inevitable and unavoidable. Controlling change is essentially what legal and statutory frameworks are in place to achieve but they can only deal with the reality at the time of writing, they cannot predict the future and we are already navigating the conflict between the value of historical fabric and the threat of climate change. My point is that this cannot possibly be a "yes" or "no" answer. Adequate protection for one person might mean solar panels or air-source heat pumps, but for another it might mean getting as close to stasis as possible. It remains for the



Government of the day to set an agenda and framework based on the priorities as they see it at that time.

Any recent case studies that you have found particularly interesting?

I am very interested to see the progress at The Castle Lodge, Ludlow, it's a very interesting building with a layered history, not least due to the previous owners habit of bringing in historic pieces from elsewhere. It has made it an interesting building to unpick the history of. I look forward to seeing it back in full use.

How could Civic Societies (such as Ludlow) help enhance and protect our historic environment?

I mentioned before that a lot of this discussion is subjective, so as tempting as it may be, I don't think that it's appropriate for me to try to comment on a Civic Society's approach as so much will depend on the context. Local Authorities have to work with severely limited resources to try and achieve the biggest impact so priorities cannot always be exactly in line with those of a given Civic Society. It may be that greater understanding of the competing priorities vying for resource would enable effective targeting of effort at the issues left unattended. That said, I think that Civic Societies and Local Authorities have a very similar view of what success would look like.

(John Cartwright in communication with Becky Jones)



RICHARD HURLOCK 1951-2023

We were all greatly saddened by the sudden death of our Chairman, Richard Hurlock, in February 2023. Richard was a highly effective Chairman of our Society guiding us through the complex paths of planning regulations of which he had deep knowledge. Most recently he was working on information boards and several of these have been erected around the town and more will follow. He played a major role in the construction of the Jubilee Garden, even to the extent of driving a digger on site to get the groundwork done. He will be a huge loss to the Civic Society, and we wish his wife Miranda and family our heartfelt condolences.

Below is an obituary written by his lifelong friend Patrick Groves.

Richard was born in Iraq to an RAF family. He lived in a number of bases including Fontainebleau near Paris. Prep school in Windsor was followed by his next boarding school, a Victorian Gothic Revival country mansion, in Devon. The architecture of all three of these places had a lasting impact on him. As a schoolboy he was rebellious, independent and anti the strict authority of the school system. This characteristic in him was heightened by the revolutionary culture of the 1960s. He excelled at Art - in its broadest sense. His interests included overall vision and taste, fine art, 3D art, design, fashion, opera, and social history. At school, he stood out as a boy of culture and learning. He was able to flourish in the austere school regime through his excellent humour, wit and charm. I remember him designing and creating the scenery for four or five school plays, and in the school holidays I recall him being asked to design a discotheque in the Officers Club of an Allied Forces HQ in Germany. After school he completed one year of a Stage Design degree at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and then he very quickly started and left a job with a leading London Estate Agency. It seemed that the rebellious youth could not easily fit into the confines of the adult world. His next steps were to shape the adult world to fit his exact passions and skills. In a nutshell, he came to visit me in Lampeter, the relative Wild West of Cardiganshire, a sparsely populated and economically

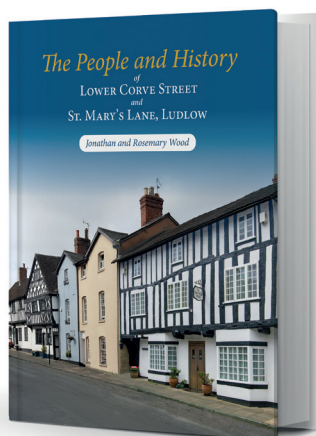
poor land of farmers, hippies and students. This suited him and he stayed for 36 years. Initially he moved into a crumbling country mansion owned by Caio Evans, a leader of the then-active Free Wales Army. He then made ends meet by renovating and living in ruined farm houses. This developed into an upwards trajectory of bigger and more profitable projects. All this time he added to his practical skills and background knowledge. He was a self-taught and motivated academic, designer, draughtsman, accountant, site foreman, project manager and planning application expert. I fondly remember the pub he rebuilt near Newcastle Emlyn and a mansion outside Fishguard that also received the skilful Richard treatment. Following the demise of his first marriage he continued his project-to-project lifestyle and eventually crossed paths with his second wife-to-be, Miranda. This gave him the impetus to finally emerge from the cocoon of Ceredigion and move east, first to Ludlow, and then Presteigne. This location was carefully chosen by Richard, of course, for the beauty of its location and architecture. Richard emerged from these projects with a wealth of experience, knowledge and skill. He threw himself into one or two final grand projects and involved himself with the Ludlow Civic Society. He was a one-off, self-taught, self-motivated, talented, and driven to make things happen. His legacy lives on in his talented children, Kathryn and Thomas, his many achievements and in the hearts of those who were lucky to know him.

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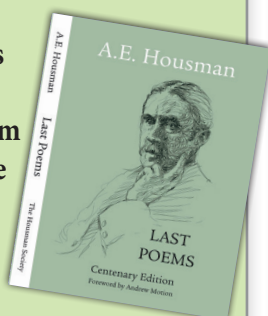
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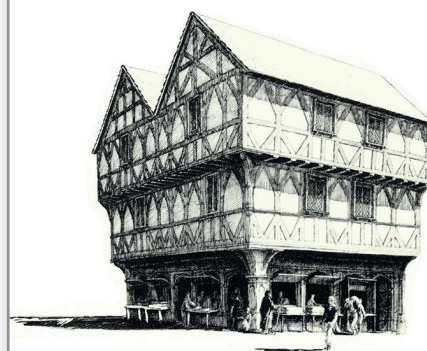
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The Apartment Gallery at 2 Boyne House, Broad Street, Ludlow

Home to the largest collection of Reynolds of Ludlow Furniture (1946-1980). Beautiful examples of the furniture can be appreciated in contemporary room settings, displaying the versatility of the Arts and Crafts designs of Arthur Reynolds and progressive Modernism of Garth Reynolds. They include the now iconic Ludlow Yew Flower/Coffee tables, a selection of which can be purchased.

The gallery is also home to a large collection of oil paintings, watercolours, etchings, maps and books relating to Ludlow, many of which are for sale.

We are working with Garth Reynolds on a book on the history of Reynolds Furniture Company and would love to hear from anyone with furniture, stories to share or the Quaker connections.

To view by appointment only, discuss your interests, or to purchase or sell any Reynolds furniture, please contact: Roy Thwaites 07967 134116 or email: inspiredbyludlow@gmail.com

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COMMITTEE NEWS

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES **Chairman's report for LCS AGM May 2023**

During a year in the life of any organisation, or indeed any individual life, there are highs and lows, and the Civic Society is no exception. Sadly, I want to start with a low that no-one expected and indeed is the source of great loss to many people and of course the Society. I speak of course of the sudden death of our last Chairman Richard Hurlock in February this year. Despite living in Presteigne – some 40 minutes drive away – Richard was a real dynamo for the Society.

He was hardworking, focussed and went about his role with a wry and wicked sense of humour. His knowledge of architectural history and planning procedures was superb. He not only drove the Society but was also a regular contributor to Heritage News. He was also a talented draftsman, and his work can be seen on our new information boards. To mix my metaphors he left many plates spinning and big shoes to fill.

It is sometimes timely to remind ourselves of our constitution, it goes on for 6 pages but in essence our objectives can be broken into two halves: on the one hand celebrating and exploring our local heritage and on the other protecting it. In terms of protecting our heritage a challenge we have faced is the disestablishment of the LCAAC, caused primarily by the fact that Shropshire Council argued it could no longer support it. We have faced up to this challenge by regrouping. We have persuaded the Town Council to email us all planning applications affecting the Ludlow area. The LCAAC has thus

been reborn as the LCSPG (Ludlow Civic Society Planning Group) spearheaded by Juliet and Lynne and we are now making comments on planning approval matters online to Shropshire Council. In this context we have also decided to revive the tradition of issuing Heritage Awards to examples of good building practice and building repair – with one already in the pipeline for a property in Corve Street.

In terms of the other half of our mission – celebrating and exploring our local heritage – there is more to report. Since our last AGM there have been two splendid editions of Heritage News with articles on Temeside, Ludlow Schools, Gravel Hill, Housman, Ludlow Hockey Club and Bodenham. I look after one of the Civic Society's complete runs of this publication since its inception in 1984 and can see a constant and steady improvement in the production qualities of the magazine. Improvements in quality coupled with inflation have resulted, however, in increased printing costs. But we are fortunate (thanks

especially to the negotiating skills of Sylvia Turner) to have secured some sponsorship by Knight Frank estate agents.

Since the last AGM we have had one Christmas party in the church (coinciding unfortunately with a faulty boiler) and three visits to places of interest: the Laskett Gardens (great gardens, disappointing pub lunch), Brynkinault and Meoloe Brace followed by Shrewsbury's Flaxmill Maltings. We have also had some splendid talks over the year. We all have our favourite but mine was probably the talk by Peter Reavill on the Viking Hoard of North Herefordshire just a few miles from here. Just two days ago the national press reported two more convictions related to the recovery of items from this hoard. It is a story of national importance and I think we haven't heard the last of it yet. Last year our Chairman reported on the planned erection of five information boards around the town. We are still pushing this forward. We have just received planning permission for a new one outside Castle Lodge so watch that space.

The Town Walls Trail is selling well – over 400 copies have now been sold. The Society was also pleased to support a second print run of Rosemary and Jonathan

Wood's marvellous book on the history of Lower Corve Street. This too is selling well. A full programme of talks, events and visits for next year is in the planning stage.

To conclude, I want to say that the Civic Society is only as good as its members and supporters. Special thanks of course to fellow committee members who do a fantastic job in all the aspects of the work of the Society. Thanks also to our graphic design contractor Mark Ansell for his work on Heritage News, the Website and our publications – he goes well beyond the call of duty.

Finally, thanks to someone who is always on hand for our assistance. Every time we invite a guest speaker just before they are due to arrive I get nervous phone calls and emails about the AV equipment. "Do I need to bring a screen?", they say, "what about a projector?", "will my computer work?". Its all fine I tell them Mike is here to help. They often come with their kit anyway which Mike ignores and sets up his system which has always worked superbly and flawlessly. Thank you Mike for sitting through all our talks, pushing all the right buttons and often staying longer than planned.

John Cartwright May 2023

MEMBERSHIP AND EVENTS

I have this year handed over the role of Membership Secretary to Wendy McCracken in the certain knowledge she will look after all the members very well, recruit many new members and streamline the existing administration of the membership. I have retained the role of Events Secretary which covers the talks and the excursions. The Events sub committee is now filled by our team of three, Ann Hedges, Gaye Smith and myself.

I will first report on our activities over the past 12 months. The talks have gone well. Our usual time of 4pm on the second Wednesday of the month seems to suit our members quite well. Peter Reavill's talk on the Viking Hoard the treasure trove found near Berrington Hall, was intriguing leaving us with many unknown answers as to the whereabouts of

90 % of the treasure which was dug up.

Max Hunt talked to us in April about Henry Austin and the history of the Austin car factory at Longbridge. Many of South Shropshires' "petrolheads" both members and non-members joined us that afternoon.

We visited the Flaxmill Maltings near Shrewsbury in March which

has a fine museum telling us of the role the Mill played in the industrial story of north Shropshire. By way of contrast we recently visited the stately home, Madresfield in Worcestershire, learning the story over many centuries of the Lygon family who were the family on whom Evelyn Waugh based "Brideshead Revisited".

In 2023 we have plans to visit the castle at Hay on Wye following the opening of the new visitor "experience" there also leaving members to explore the famous bookstores of the town.

A couple of the upcoming talks will expand to a new format

combining a talk with video and other displays, plus participation by the audience and lunch. On another occasion there will be a literary launch combined with a drinks reception. Watch your emails carefully for more of what it is all about and showing you how to book or just join in!

We hope you will join in all that membership offers, also persuading your friends and acquaintance to become members. The Committee wish you another year of rewarding and interesting membership.

*Jane Hunt
May 2023
Secretary for Events*



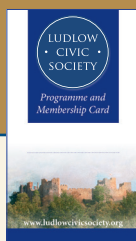
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3. We need your ideas on how we can promote improvements for the town.
4. You can enjoy our social functions, lectures and trips.
5. You will receive our free magazine which comes out normally twice a year.
6. You choose just how much you do for us.

BECOME A MEMBER - JOIN NOW

If you care about Ludlow and its surroundings and if you wish to join, please complete the form below.



To: The Membership Secretary, Ludlow Civic Society,
Diddle Cottage, 21 Dinham, Ludlow SY8 1NN

Please accept my/our application to join the society.

Annual membership subscription is £16 per person. £30.00 per couple - normally due on 1st September. 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.

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Heritage News, 5 Castle Street, Ludlow SY8 1AS

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