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COMMITTEE NEWS

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Welcome to the first Heritage News of 2025. Below you will read a vivid account from our membership secretary of our activities so far this season. Once again, I am amazed what our relatively small but hard-working committee achieves in their spare time. But as a committee we are understaffed and if you think you have talents, skills and energy to offer please get in touch.

Over the last couple of years, we have been interested in the history of Lower Corve Street- an area of Ludlow often neglected by visitors and historians dazzled by the mediaeval and Georgian splendours of the upper town. But if you walk down that street now and pause at the horse trough you will see an information board erected by the Civic Society based on the pioneering work of Jonathan and Rosemary Wood that highlights the fascinating features of this area of Ludlow. We gratefully acknowledge the help of Ludlow Town Council in facilitating this and of course the work of our splendid graphic designer Mark Ansell.

This issue provides you with two articles focussed on central Ludlow. This first is by your chairman and concerns the work of that prolific but somewhat enigmatic visitor to Ludlow in the Tudor period Thomas Churchyard. Quotations from Churchyard tend to be dropped into histories of Ludlow since he provided some useful snippets of information about Ludlow following his visit of 1585. This article sets Churchyard in a wider context whilst at the same time focussing in on the chantry chapels of St Laurence's. Regarding St Laurence's, around this church we find a well preserved set of iron railings. But who made them and where were they fashioned? Eric Griffiths hammers

out this problem in a highly original article on the ironmasters of Ludlow.

We end this issue on a sad note with an obituary to Jane Hunt who as most of you will now know died suddenly in June of last year. Jane was a much-loved lady, and her passing is a great loss to Ludlow, her friends and family and of course to the Civic Society – to which she contributed so much. Our thoughts are with her husband Michael and the rest of Jane's family. Jane's service of thanks giving was held in St Laurence's on 23rd August.

John Cartwright

MEMBERSHIP AND EVENTS

It's hard to imagine we are already halfway through the Civic Society calendar. It all began in September with a wonderful day out to Hellens Manor – a house that remains a home and not a museum although it contains a wealth of period furnishings, paintings and decorations.

Hellens was founded in the 13th century and there are additions from Tudor and Stuart times. The house has connections with the Black Prince, Queen Mary and the Civil War. The next stop was St Mary's Church, Kempley which was probably built in the early 12th century by Baron Hugh de Lacy, owner of Kempley manor. This simple Norman building is adorned with the most outstandingly complete and well preserved mediaeval wall paintings in England. Those in the chancel, dating from the early 12th century, are particularly rare, and are the most complete set of Romanesque paintings in northern Europe. The final visit was to St Bartholomew's Church in Much Marcle. One of the best monuments there is from the 14th century and is thought to be of Sir Hugh Audley and his wife Isolde. They lie in the Kyrle Chapel, where there are many monuments to the Kyrle family who have lived at nearby Homme House since 1580. In the north aisle is another famous monument: that of Sir Walter de Helyon;

made of oak, his effigy dates from about 1360. Such wooden effigies are very rare, all the more so in this case since it so well preserved. We were also offered afternoon tea, which coming after lunch at Hellens House was rather too much.

The next day (25th Sept.) was a joint Civic Society and The Society for the protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) forum to discuss building conservation. Over eighty people attended and it was fascinating to hear about the regeneration project that has been undertaken in Oswestry. This was a joint project between the local populace, Local and Shropshire Council and Government who provided a grant. Perhaps it is time for Ludlow to consider a regeneration project? Four local craftsmen were awarded heritage certificates by Ludlow Civic Society recognising their use of traditional skills in local buildings.

Following this energetic start, there have been exciting, interesting and varied talks including local conservation projects,

and the journey from wardrobe assistant to becoming principal tenor at The Royal Opera House- an afternoon concluding with Kim Begley (accompanied by David Gawkroger on piano) leading and the audience singing "Mud Glorious Mud". The Christmas party with Palmers' Guild was in St Laurence's and we were treated to a lovely spread of food and plenty of wine too!

The year 2025 began with a presentation of Industrial Ludlow- Lower Corve Street – a talk that tied in nicely with the new information board there provided by the Civic Society. There are lots of exciting talks to come this season and a visit to Shelsey Water Mill in June (sadly the planned visit to Weston park has been cancelled due to the high projected costs). The committee is always happy to hear your suggestions re talks, visits or other matters relating to the Civic Society.

Wendy McCracken (Membership Secretary)

LITERARY LUDLOW 3.

THOMAS CHURCHYARD

(1529-1604): SOLDIER, COURTIER, AND POET

John Cartwright

By any number of metrics Thomas Churchyard led a remarkable life. As a soldier and courtier he served under five monarchs: Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, Elizabeth I, and James I; and as an author he published a considerable volume of poetry and prose over a fifty-year period. Sometime in 1585 Churchyard passed through Ludlow as part of his journey from Monmouthshire to North Wales. His observations on the town appeared in his long descriptive poem *The Worthines of Wales* published in 1587, and his account gives a fascinating glimpse of the buildings and monuments of Ludlow in the Tudor period. Yet to understand the wider narrative purpose of this work we need to consider Churchyard's own circumstances, the government of Wales under the Tudors, and in particular Tudor fantasies about their Arthurian heritage.

Early Life

Churchyard's father, Richard, and grandfather, Thomas were both prominent citizens of Shrewsbury. His mother, however was Margery Cooke, daughter of Thomas Cooke, and the Cookes were born and raised in Ludlow. Churchyard's mother, Margery Cooke, married Richard Churchyard of Shrewsbury and Thomas Churchyard was born in Shrewsbury sometime around 1529 (Figure 1).

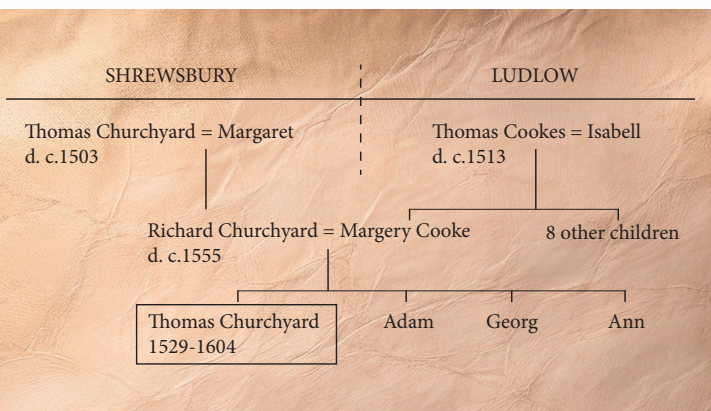


Figure 1 Ancestry of Thomas Churchyard
(based on information from Woodcock, 2016)

In the early 1540s Churchyard entered the service of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey as a courtier and soldier (Figure 2). Howard was a renaissance politician and poet, and first cousin to Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard. He had the unenviable distinction of being the last person executed on the orders of Henry VIII in 1547. Alongside Thomas Wyatt, Howard was the first person to write in the sonnet form later used by Shakespeare and the first English poet to publish iambic pentameter blank verse. It is likely that Churchyard learnt the art of poetry from this patron and his literary circle, and some of his early poems (published after Howard's death) may date from this period.

Following the death of Howard, Churchyard fought in a bewildering variety of campaigns in Scotland, Ireland and the European mainland either for his country or as a soldier of fortune



Figure 2. Henry Howard Earl of Surrey
c.1542 painted by Hans Holbein.
Churchyard served Howard from about
1540 to 1547.

for various European protestant causes. He was captured many times and threatened with execution but somehow always managed to escape. Churchyard married around 1562, but the name of his wife is

unknown. In 1579 appeared his poem 'A Pitefull Complaint in Maner of a Tragedie, of Seignior Anthonio Dell Dondaldoe's Wife. Ostensibly the poem is a translation of an Italian story, but it is most likely an autobiographical account of his own marriage, in which he suggests he was happy for about seven years and then his wife had various affairs whilst he was fighting abroad leading to three illegitimate children. Churchyard also claims she tried to poison him.

The Worthines of Wales

The *Worthines of Wales* is one of Churchyard's most interesting works. He wrote it in 1587 by which time his fighting days were over and in it he reflects on his journey through Wales in 1585. Copies of the 1587 publication are incredibly rare with only about ten known. The book was reprinted, however, in 1776 by Thomas Evans of London - a venture probably designed to capitalise on the popularity of Wales as a tourist destination that arose after about 1770 for travellers in search of the sublime and picturesque.

He begins in Monmouthshire, moves to Brecknockshire then up through Shropshire to Denbighshire. He falls ill on the border with Flintshire and finishes the work with the suggestion that he will complete it in another volume (which he never did). The structure of the work is quite odd. Although often categorized as a descriptive poem it is a curious mixture of verse, prose, digressions in Latin and lists of sights that Churchyard has witnessed. It is also peppered with comments by the author in the margins. The subject matter is very varied: he describes historical towns, rivers, castles, churches, the pedigree of notable families, and throws into the mix Arthurian legends and historical reflections on the origin of ancient Britons. Over about 128 pages he devotes eleven to a description of Ludlow.

The title is apt, and we are left in no doubt that Wales is very worthy indeed: its people, landscape, history, buildings and monuments are all afforded high praise

In 1585 the journey he describes would have been an arduous and hazardous one for an aged ex-soldier not in the best of health. So, what were his motivations? The answer seems to be that the text serves to praise Elizabeth's reign, authenticate her ancestry, celebrate the success of the Tudor assimilation of Wales under English rule by Henry VIII, whilst at the same time drawing attention to the author's own plight as a loyal subject of The Crown seeking recognition and financial support (Oakley-Brown, 2012).

Hence right from the opening paragraph Churchyard sets out to flatter the monarch and link her Tudor ancestry to Wales (all quotations from *The Worthiness* are henceforth from the 1776 reprint and we should note that even though spelling was not standardised in Churchyard's day his own spellings are more eccentric than most):

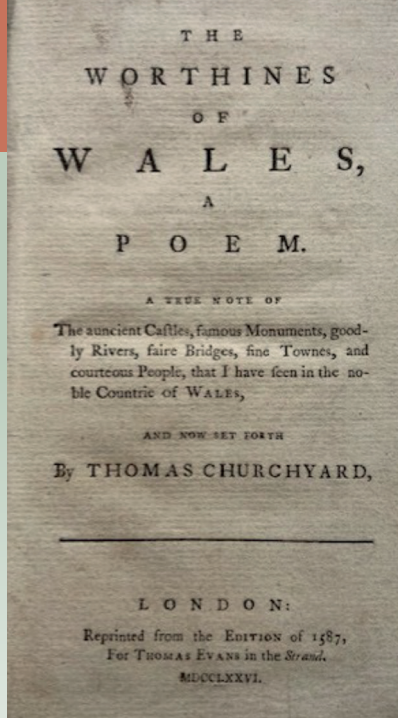
"To the Queenes most excellent Majeste Elizabeth, by grace of God, Queen of England France and Ireland &c.... Thus Gracious Lady under your princely favour I have undertaken to set forth a worke in the honour of Wales, where your highngnes ancestors tooke name." (p. v)

He then heaps praise on the Welsh people: they love their Queen, they abhor traitors, they help strangers, theft is rare or non-existent, they revere their betters and have a kindly disposition. They have these virtues because: "from birth some grace were bred../Which shewe they rise, from ancient race and line" (p.4).

He justifies the work by arguing that the goodness and nobility of Wales has been overlooked by other writers: "...that it seemeth a wonder of the age..that no one man doth worthily according to the countries goodness set forth that noble soyle and nation" (p.vi).

As noted earlier, despite the title, most of Wales is not covered at all by his travels. What is also interesting is that three of the five counties (Monmouthshire, Brecknockshire and Denbighshire) through which he travelled were in Churchyard's time recently created by the Laws of Wales Acts of 1535 and 1542 under Henry VIII, and Shropshire, of course, was the county where the Council of the Marches was based in Ludlow. This choice by Churchyard is probably highly significant to his broader purpose. Churchyard's description of the Welsh as happy, contented, law-abiding, loyal, and well fed is designed not only to flatter Elizabeth's Welsh and Arthurian heritage but also to suggest that the assimilation of Wales into the Kingdom of England as entailed by the Laws of Wales Acts has been successful.

There is also a personal dimension to the work. As an ex-soldier Churchyard was aware of the hardships faced by veterans. Elizabethan professional soldiers only received payment whilst on active service and a common problem in the late 16th century was what to do with veterans once their services were no longer required. In several places in his poetry Churchyard touches on the fact that soldiers face harsh conditions and uncertain income. In *The Worthiness*, for example, he applauds rewards to those who serve The Crown



Title page of the 1776 edition of
The Worthines of Wales

No Soueraine can, forget a Subiects troeth,
With whose good grace, great loue and fauour goeth:
Great gifts and place, great glorie and renowne,
They get and gayne, that truely serues a Crowne.
(p.10)

The Journey

Churchyard begins his journey at Monmouth ("a happie Seate it is../Buylt auncient wise in swéete and wholesome ayre", p.6) and moves northwards along the Welsh border. He may have started at Monmouth for several reasons. Just before his journey in 1585 he had been appointed muster-master for troops in Kent, so Monmouth may have been an obvious place to start for someone coming from the south east. It is also the birthplace of Henry V: the "peereless prince" who "conquered France" and a monarch who was idolised by the Tudors.

An additional reason might be that the town is strongly associated with Geoffrey of Monmouth (c.1095-c.1155) and starting from here enabled him to quickly expand upon the foundation of Britain and the Arthurian legends as described by Geoffrey in his *The History of the Kings of Britain*. This book was widely popular in the Middle Ages in Britain and Europe and was given historical credence right until the end of the 17th century. Geoffrey's fantastical account describes how Aeneas fled Troy as it was sacked by the Greeks and sailed to Italy where he founded the city of Rome. Brutus, a descendant of Aeneas (not to be confused with the much later assassin of Julius Caesar), is later exiled from Rome and together with a group of Trojan exiles he finds in Greece he sails westward through the Straits of Gibraltar and lands at Totnes (in modern day Devon) where he founds a dynasty of rulers and gives his name to the island – formerly known as Albion and now named as Britain (Britain being a supposed corruption of Brutus). Geoffrey then describes a long sequence of British Kings and fantastical adventures stretching through the period of Roman colonisation and later withdrawal leading up to the reign of Arthur. Under the sovereignty of Arthur, the Saxons are kept at bay and Ireland and Iceland conquered. Arthur then embarks on a remarkable sequence of conquests, including Ireland, Iceland, the Orkneys, Norway, Denmark, and Gaul, before he returns to Britain.

During his celebrations at Caerleon Arthur receives a delegation from the Roman Lucius Hiberius who demands that Arthur pay a tribute to Rome for taking the Roman province of Gaul. Arthur refuses and defeats Lucius in battle in Gaul. He intends to become Emperor of Rome but is recalled to Britain to defeat the rebel Mordred. Arthur dies and is carried off to the Isle of Avalon. But the line of British kings continues to Cadwallader (who probably was a real historical figure and a king of Gwynedd in Wales from c.655 to 664 or 682).

The assimilation of Geoffrey's *History* into mediaeval culture led to many mediaeval monarchs claiming descent from Cadwallader. When Henry Tudor landed in Wales in 1485, he adopted the Red Dragon Flag symbol of Cadwallader and claimed to be returning to fulfil the prophecies of Merlin that the Red Dragon would be victorious. When Henry knew that his wife was pregnant, he moved the court to Winchester – then identified as the place of Camelot - so that their hoped-for son could be born there. In keeping with this symbolism, he named his son Arthur, who was declared Prince of Wales in 1489 and moved to Ludlow in 1493 to take command of

the Council of the Marches where he died in 1502. The Tudors were especially keen to stress an ancestry reaching back to the ancient Britons since their own claim to the throne stemming from Henry Tudor's victory over Richard III in 1485 was somewhat tenuous.

After praising Monmouth (as he does of every place in Wales) Churchyard quickly moves to consider Caerleon and explains how this was once the seat of King Arthur: "In thee hath bene King Arthurs golden hall...King Arthur sure was crowned there" (p. 21-22). In keeping with his aim of highlighting the Welsh and Arthurian ancestry of the Tudors, he takes issue with those who would criticize the reliability of Geoffrey of Monmouth. He has in mind the work of the Italian humanist scholar Polydore Virgil (c.1470-155) who in his *Historia Angliae* (1514) had dismissed the Arthurian stories as myth. Churchyard rejects Polydore's claims:

"This Pollidore, saw never much of Wales..
So Pollidor, oft tymes might overweene,
And speakes of soyles, yet he came never there." (p.17)

He adds weight to his own arguments by suggesting that although many others have written on Wales an authentic account can only be given when "the eye be a witness to their works". Hence, he says, "for which cause I have travelled sondry times of purpose through the same and what is written of I have beheld and thoroughly seen" (vi).

This section on Caerleon is probably to the modern reader the strangest in the whole poem. There follow lengthy prose passages where Churchyard translates accounts given by Geoffrey of Monmouth about the coronation of Arthur at Caerleon, the confrontation with ambassadors from Rome, and orations from Cadur Duke of Cornwall, Howell King of Little Britain, and Angusell King of Albania. The upshot is that Arthur, having already conquered whole swathes of northern Europe is now encouraged to attack Rome. The King of Albania, for example, suggests "we wreke upon them, those bloodie slaughters, which heretofore they inflicted upon our ancestors and countrymen" (p.38). After this the same speeches and text are repeated in Latin.

The subtext here is that Churchyard, like other protestant Tudor writers, is using Arthurian stories to both glorify the reign of Elizabeth and justify ecclesiastical independence from papal control (Britain should resist demands from Rome just as Arthur did), whilst at the same time giving precedents for overseas imperial expeditions.

Although it is impossible to trace a precise sequence for Churchyard's journey, after considering Monmouth he wanders south to describe Newport, Chepstow, Tintern Abbey and Usk and then moves northwards taking in Abergavenny, Brecon, Ludlow, Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Chirk, Wrexham and finally Denbeigh where illness takes hold and he is forced to end his journey.

Churchyard in Ludlow.

Ludlow and the Sidneys

In *The Worthines* Churchyard devotes more space to Ludlow than any other town he visits. This may be due to affection for the town of his mother and grandfather or perhaps a reflection of his relationship with Henry Sidney. During his journey through Ludlow he was possibly a guest of Henry Sidney who as President of the Council of the Marches from 1560-1586 was in Ludlow for much of 1585 (Figure 3). Certainly, Churchyard gives due praise in *The Worthines* for the improvements to Ludlow and the Castle under Sidney's tenure. His closeness to this notable family is indicated by the praise he bestowed on Lady Mary Sidney in his *A Farewell cauld, Churcheyards, rounde* (1566). He was also one of the first to write an *Epitaph* to Sir Philip Sidney (Henry's son) when he died in 1586. Significantly, Henry Sidney had a strong interest in Welsh history and culture. Whilst President of the Council of the Marches, Sidney created an archive of historical literature at the castle curated by his chaplain David Powel. Sidney also encouraged Powel to translate and augment Humphrey Llwyd's collection of mediaeval Welsh chronicles resulting in Powel's *The Historie of Cambria, Now called Wales* published in 1584 just one year before Churchyard's journey (Maley and Schwyzer, 2015). So Sidney too was caught up in Tudor notions of the nobility of an ancient Welsh ancestry.

The lost chantry chapels of St Laurence's

Churchyard's underlying goal of flattering Elizabeth, celebrating the successful assimilation of Wales into the Kingdom of England by the actions of Henry VIII, legitimising the Tudor dynasty by demonstrating its descent from Arthur and the ancient Britons,

whilst tactfully reminding the monarch that loyal servants deserve recompense, does not detract from the fact that he also provides valuable information about the places he visits. In Ludlow he describes the castle, the circular chapel and its now lost set of arms, the structures of local government, monuments in the church of St Laurence, grand houses in the town, and the hospital of St John. All this is of great interest to local historians. Here we consider just one set of features: the lost chantry chapels of St Laurence's.

The interior of St Laurence's church today presents a very different sight to that which would have greeted a pre-Reformation visitor. One obvious difference being that before the Reformation a good part of the nave and both aisles would have been taken up with chantry chapels. It was common practice in the 15th and early 16th centuries for the deceased to leave in their will provision to endow a chantry chapel and provide funds to pay priests to pray for an early release from the pains of purgatory for the souls of the testator and his family.



Figure 3. Sir Henry Sidney (1529-1586) portrait by Arnold Bronckorst 1573.

Churchyard served with Sidney in Ireland in the 1570s. Sidney was interested in Welsh history and culture and as President of the Council of Wales supported writing on these subjects. Churchyard may have stayed with Sidney in 1585 in Ludlow.

Henry Weyman (1904) estimated that St Laurence's at any one time contained about twenty or so chantry chapels in the late Middle Ages. Many of these would have been made of wood and so easily dismantled after the Abolition of Chantries Acts of 1545 and 1547. Three are described by Churchyard.

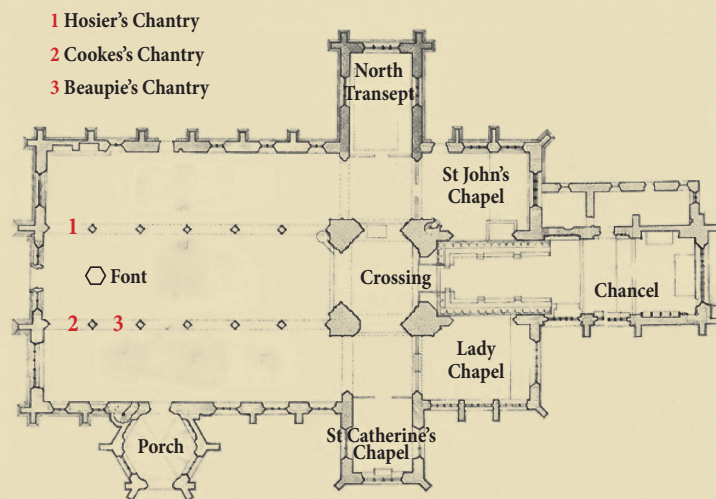


Figure 4. Plan of St Laurence's Ludlow showing the lost chantry chapels of Hosier, Cookes and Beaupie.

The surprising thing about these lines is that Churchyard visiting the church some forty years after the Chantries Acts says: "yet full plaine the Chauntrie standing is". One possibility is that whereas the Chantries Acts were probably immediately effective in confiscating the assets and endowments that supported the chantries, the physical remains persisted for some years later.

The Chantry Chapel of John Hosier

It seems that some vestige of Hosier's Chantry survived when Churchyard visited Ludlow since he writes.

"Amid the Church, a Chantrie Chappell stands,
Where Hozier lyes, a man that did much good:
Bestow'd great wealth, and gave thereto some lands,
And helpt poore soules that in necessitie stood". (p. 77)

In a marginal note Churchyard says that "*On the left hand Hozier lyes in the bodie of the Church*". This chantry is interesting since the name John Hosier lives on in the almshouses that he founded opposite the west end of the church around 1482. The original almshouses were pulled down in 1758 and the Hosier's Almshouses we see today are the result of a redesign by Thomas Farnolls Pritchard. Hosier's Will of 1463 survives and the provisions he makes are an interesting example of how a chantry chapel was founded. In his will he specifies that a chantry chapel at the Altar of the Holy Trinity should be established and that:

"I will that my Executors provide immediately after my decease 2 fit chaplains to celebrate for my soul and for the soul of my wife Alice for two years thence next following at the aforesaid Altar of the Holy Trinity. I will that my Executors provide with all possible haste after my death that a thousand masses be said for my soul" (Quoted in Weyman, 1904 p. 356)

It took some years for the Chantry to appear but eventually a license was granted by Richard III in 1485 to the executors of Hosier's will to found a Chantry at the Altar of the Holy Trinity to be called the Chantry of John Hosier.

The Chantry Chapel of Thomas Cookes

The next chantry Churchyard mentions is that of Thomas Cookes, his grandfather. In a marginal note he tells us: "*On the right hand Cookes lyes. This man was my mothers father*" (p.78).

Another man, whose name was Cookes for troth,
Like Hozier was, in all good gifts of grace:
This Cookes did give, great lands and livings both,
For to maintaine, a Chauntrie in that place.
A yéerely dole, and monthly almes likewise
He ordaynd there, which now the poore doe mis:
His wife and he, within that Chappell lyes,
Where yet full plaine, the Chauntrie standing is.. (p. 78)

Churchyard's description of his grandfather's Chantry is consistent with both a deed of 12th August 1512 made by Thomas Cookes just before his death and his will dated 1513. In the deed he specifies that for the "honour of God, Our Lady and St. Catherine, and for the wealth of my soul" two "Copes of cloth of gold" be given to St Lawrence's "on the condition that the warden of the Guld together with bailiffs, stewards and representatives of the crafts guilds of the town attend and celebrate High Mass and Evensong each year on the day of the Invention of St Catherine" (Weyman, p.358). In his will he requests that his body be buried in the parish church "Behind the Font near my chantry of St Catherine". The invention of a saint usually refers to the day of finding of the body after their martyrdom. St Catherine's day is 25th November. She seems to have been a popular saint in Ludlow since there were two chapels to her in St Lawrence's and one on Ludford Bridge. He also directs that profits from his land and property to the yearly value of nine marks (£6) should go to "the finding of a convenient and honest priest to pray for his soul, Isabel his late wife and all his children for 95 years". He continues that "I will that my priest in my Chapel called my Chantry priest sing for me Trentalls daily all the year following after my decease". He also supplies details of his tombstone: a stone about seven feet long and four and a half feet wide with a memorial brass showing images of himself, his wife, his five daughters and three sons, together with an image showing the dance of death. (Weyman, 1904).

The Chantry of Piers Beaupie

Piers Beaupie was a cofferer (a type of treasurer) in the royal household of Edward IV, Recorder of Ludlow 1466-1480 and an MP for the borough in 1472. He died in 1480 and in his will he left ornaments for the Church, clothing for the poor, funds to provide glass for the Carmelite Priory in Ludlow (now the site of St Leonard's in Corve Street, and rent from his lands and tenements so that "one fit priest shall continually celebrate masses in the Chancel of the Salutation of the Blessed Mary...for 40 years... for my soul and for the soul of Agnes my wife.." (Weyman, p. 353). Eventually a license was granted for Agnes to found a chantry at the Altar of St Mary and St Gabriel.

Churchyard tells us where the Chantry lay when he visited Ludlow:

Yet Beawpy must, be nam'd good reason why,
For he bestow'd, great charge before he dyde,
To helpe poore men, and now his bones doth lye
Full nere the Font, upon the formost side.

The position of the font in Churchyard's time was established by Weyman to be at the west end of the Nave which helps establish the position of these three chantries (see Figure 4).

The tombs of Hosier, Cookes and Beaupie must also have been visible to the English poet and antiquary John Leland (c.1503-1552) when he journeyed round England sometime around 1540 and left notes on his observations. He writes of "a very rich merchant in Ludlowe not long synce called Hosier, buried in the parish church" and says that he "noted these graves of men of fame in the church of Ludlowe... Beaupie, somtyme coferar to Edward the 4 ...Cokkis, a gentleman servitor to Prince Arture. (Toulmin Smith, 1908, p.77)



Figure 5. Churchyard's Coat of Arms (reproduced from Woodcock, p. 201)

Churchyard's Reputation and Legacy

Churchyard understandably sought some sort of recognition for his efforts as a soldier and poet. In 1580 he advanced his claim to be a gentleman by displaying his coat of arms (Figure 5) in two miscellanies called *Chance* and *Charge*. But there is no other evidence of anyone of this name to bear arms, no pedigree and no provision made by the College of Arms to grant Churchyard this right. He seems to have made it up himself. The broken spear (a typical symbol of peace) suggests his warring days are over whilst the laurel wreath points to his other occupations as a poet and author (Figure 5.)

Churchyard was contemporary with Spenser, Shakespeare and Nashe and there is evidence that they were familiar with his work (Woodcock, 2016). Spenser makes a not altogether flattering reference to Churchyard in his poem *Colin Clouts Come Home Again* composed in 1591 but published in 1595. Spenser describes a pastoral vision of Elizabeth's court where shepherds pipe to gain affection of their queen Cynthia. The shepherds represent various literary figures of the day but there appears a particularly aged shepherd:

And there is old Palemon free from spight,
Whose carefull pipe may make the hearer rew:
Yet he himselfe may rewed be more right,
That sung so long untill quite hoarse he grew.

The "carefull" (i.e. sorrowful or care ridden) pipe alludes to Churchyard's complaints about his cares in his poems, that evoke "rew" (i.e. pity) in the hearer and yet the piper should also be pitied since he (Churchyard) wrote so much over a long period of time.

On a more positive note, Churchyard was rewarded with a pension from Elizabeth I on 1593 of 18d per day – an unusual achievement for a poet of that period, although the pension may have been for his other services. The notoriously parsimonious Elizabeth only gave a pension to one other poet, Edmund Spenser, shortly after he presented his *Fairie Queen* to her in 1590. Interestingly the *Fairie Queen* was a romance also drawing heavily on Arthurian legends. Churchyard was also chosen to process in the funeral of Elizabeth I in 1603.

Considering his long life, his martial experience and his prolific literary output Churchyard seems to have left little in the way of

material goods and there is no mention of a wife or children in his will. Today there is no plaque to mark his burial place, and his precise resting place is unmarked. The passing of Churchyard was hardly mentioned by writers. The only reference to any epitaph comes at the end of Camden's *Remains* (1605) with lines ascribed to one John Hoskins seemingly pointing to the financial perils of trying to earn a living from poetry.

Come Alecto and lend me thy torch,
To finde a Church-yard in the Church-porch.
Poverty, and Poetry this tombe doth enclose,
Therefore Gentlemen be merry in Prose.

Thomas Nashe (1567-1601) has left a more favourable opinion. In his *Four Letters Confuted* he wrote of Churchyard:

I love you unfaindly, and admire your aged Muse, that may well be grand-mother to our grand-eloquentest Poets at this present.....Shores wife is yong, though you be stept in yeare, in her shall you live when you are dead (Nashe, 1593).

Shores Wife is Churchyard's poem about the fate of Jane Shore, mistress of Edward IV, it was popular at the time and is generally agreed by modern critics to be his finest poem. So Nashe was right: he does live on in *Shore's Wife* and of course *The Worthines of Wales*.

John Cartwright

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LET'S IRON THIS OUT...

AN 'EXPLORATION' OF THE ORIGINS AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE GRADE 1 LISTED IRON RAILINGS OF SAINT LAURENCE'S CHURCH LUDLOW

Eric Griffiths

This table provides a 'sequence of events' for some of the episodes described in the text that follows it:

TIMELINE:

1835 – Hodgson & Cooper ironmongers at 3 Castle Street	1868 – Edmund Bluck mayor of Ludlow
1836 – Joshua Cooper marries Jessey Bluck	1871 – Edmund Bluck acquires 142 Corve Street
1839 – Castle Foundry opens at Dinham	1875 – Edmund Bluck advertising as an 'ironmonger and iron founder' at 141, Corve Street
1841 – Edmund Bluck joins Joshua Cooper, his brother-in-law, as an ironmonger	1879 – Edmund Bluck amalgamates with Thomas Everall
1844 – Styled as Cooper & Bluck ironmongers in Castle Street	1881 – Thomas Everall, an ironmonger, recorded at 137 Corve Street / Edmund retires and Timothy Bluck is living at the address
1848 – Edmund marries and living in Corve Street as an ironmonger	1885 – Bluck & Everall (Timothy Bluck) advertising at 141 Corve Street / William John Roberts is foreman at the Castle Foundry, Dinham
1854 – Cooper & Bluck form the 'nail manufactory' in Upper Linney	1890 – A partnership between Bluck, Everall and Roberts is dissolved / Roberts takes over the Phoenix Works and closes Castle Foundry
1859 – Cooper & Bluck partnership dissolved	
1861 – Edmund Bluck operating as an ironmonger at 141 Corve Street	

Introduction

The beautiful Parish Church of St Laurence, in Ludlow, became a Grade 1 listed building on 15th April 1954 (Historic England List Entry: 1202794). Not unusually for such buildings but perhaps easily unnoticed, is the fact that the Victorian iron railings 'attached' to the outside of the church are included in that protective listing. (Figure 1) Prior to 1954, the railings would not have been 'protected' and so one might wonder how they survived the nationwide requisition of metal products to make munitions during the Second World War.

The Defence (General) Regulations 1939 empowered the government to take various actions it deemed necessary for the defence of the realm. This encompassed the 'seizure' of metal in its many forms, including iron gates and railings. Such actions were widely supported, despite compensation being limited to 25 shillings per ton (£1.25), meaning you might receive pennies for your expensive garden gate. However, in their

ardour, much of the metal taken by the workmen employed was found to be unsuitable for weapons or munitions but the government pursued the policy regardless. Now, in some quarters, the practice is questioned due to emerging evidence of unused stockpiles being hidden or dumped at sea. Indeed, as early as 1943, Lord Hemingford raised the issue in the House of Lords asking the Minister for Munitions, Lord Portal, why railings and gates unsuitable for munitions continued to be taken, particularly as in some areas it caused hardship due to theft and damage to crops. In his response, Lord Portal acknowledged the difficulties but insisted on its necessity. However, he also mentioned how, under the legislation, owners may appeal to save their ironwork on the grounds of its historic or artistic importance (Hansard – 13th July 1943).

Government records regarding



Figure 1. The railings of St Laurence's



Figure 2.

the requisitioning of metals have apparently been 'lost', so we may never know how or why the railings at St Laurence's survived but how they came to be in the first place, provides an insight into local social history.

Iron Railings

The railings at St Laurence's church include three designs, enclosing the immediate church grounds on all sides. To the east, south and west the railings appear to be Victorian and made of cast iron, with each stretch stabilised by ornate ogee style supports. (Figure 2). Here, the majority of pickets are topped with an example of the fleur-de-lys. Evidence of alteration to the railings can be found near the vestry.

To the north, plain railings with single pin-like pickets, 'hammered' to a spike at the top and likely made of wrought iron, enclose the memorial garden and the remainder of the immediate church precincts. A photograph from 1896, shows them in situ (*Francis Frith* – 38153).

Presently, the age of these railings is undetermined but as they appear to be made of wrought iron, they could predate those made of cast iron. Other, more modern railings, may be found within the 'utility' area on the south side of the church.

Iron Types

Wrought iron has a long history, probably originating in China 'BCE'. It is very strong and has malleable characteristics which mean, when put under stress, it tends to bend. With the advent of steel, from the 1860s, wrought iron was both less favoured and less produced.

The railings, on the north side of the church have no welds and where damaged, have bent rather than snapped. These are indicators of wrought iron. At some point, it is hoped the church archives may uncover the history of these railings.

Cast iron also has a long history, probably beginning in China and first arriving in 'the West' during 13th century. In 1707, patents taken out by Abraham Darby at Coalbrookdale for the manufacture of iron, would begin to revolutionise industry.

Cast iron may be moulded but has a tendency to be brittle and crack, or snap under tension. The finished product may also show traces of 'seams', where it has been extracted from the mould. Where damage has occurred to the fleur-de-lys

railings at St Laurence's church, they have clearly snapped. There are also traces of seams, suggesting these railings are made of cast iron.

Again, the age of these railings has not been determined categorically. It is hoped the church archives may ultimately uncover their precise history but there are clues to indicate their period of manufacture, who made them and where they may have been made.

Ironmongers and Founders

The iron industry has played a significant part in the history of Shropshire, having links to Ludlow and its surroundings both in supply and manufacture. 'Ironmongers' were generally suppliers of metal objects and equipment, providing retail outlets for the 'founders', who oversaw the actual manufacture of the goods in foundries. Sometimes, businesses were styled as 'ironmongers and founders', producing and selling their own products from single, or linked premises. In 1463, Edward IV granted a Charter to the Ironmongers of London, which likely influenced practices throughout the land (*A Brief History of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers* – T.C. Noble 1889). St Barbara, whose portrait hangs in St Laurence's church, is the patron saint of iron founders, whilst St Laurence himself, is the patron saint of those working with 'open fires'.

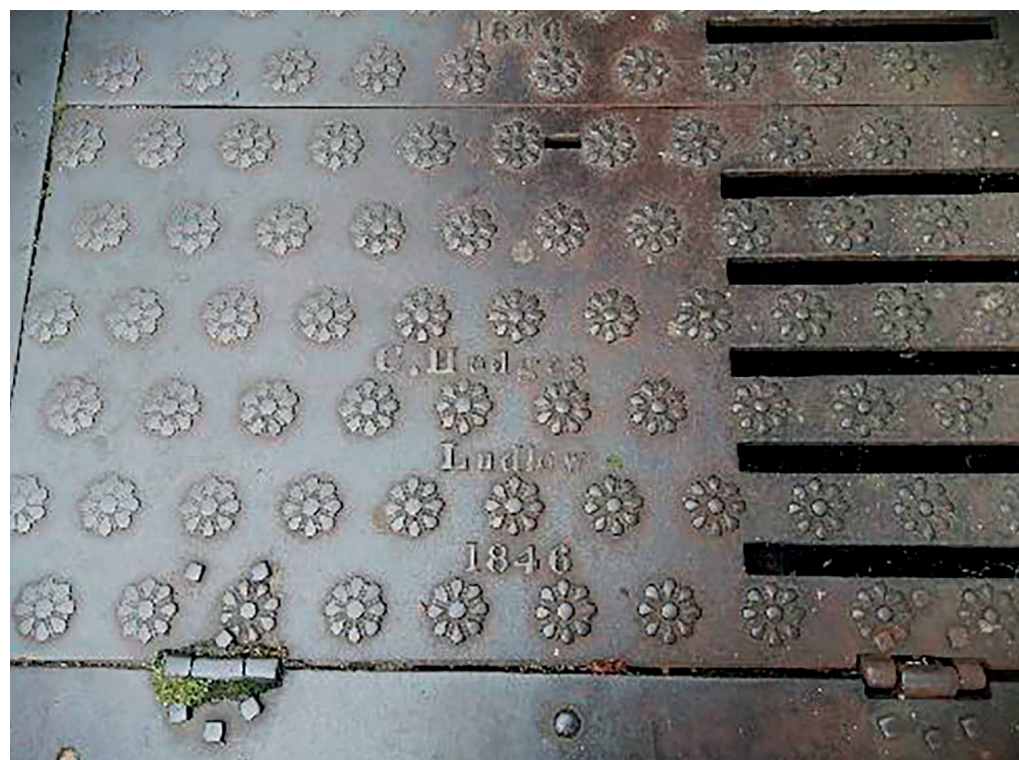


Figure 3. Cellar door made by Hodges, in a Ludlow street

Victorian ironmongers in Ludlow, of whom there were at least five, were among the most prosperous traders in the town, both financially and socially. From 1839, the town also had *Castle Foundry* owned by Mr Chaplin Hodges (Figure 3) and situated beside the river at Dinham bridge. In 1890 this business was taken over by its foreman, William John Roberts, who closed Castle Foundry and moved to another foundry premises known as Phoenix Works in Gravel Hill (*Ludlow Historical Anthology*).

'Iron Families' – Ludlow

Within this industry were the 'nail makers', often working in poor conditions producing nails at their home addresses in the form of a 'cottage industry'. In 1830, in the Black Country, more than 50,000 people were so employed (*The West Midlands Nail Trade – Guy Sjogren*). Before the advent of the mass-produced wood screw, in the latter part of the 19th century, nails were the common 'fixing' and used in abundance, as exemplified in the St Laurence Church Warden Accounts of 1574 -1749.

Timothy Bluck (1763-1855), a farmer near Church Stretton, Shropshire, fathered sixteen children. Among these were sons, Timothy (1796-1876), Walter (1816-1886), Edmund (1821-1901) and daughter, Jessey (1811-1878).

In 1835 Hodgson and Cooper (Joshua Cooper b. 1795) were ironmongers and nail makers in business at 3 Castle Street. In 1836 Joshua Cooper married Jessey Bluck at Bromfield. By 1840 Walter Bluck operated as a grocer and tea dealer from premises in 'The Narrows', identified now as part of King Street (Pigot & Co. Directory 1884 – Shropshire).

In 1841, then aged 20 years, Edmund



Figure 4. A Cooper and Bluck cellar door

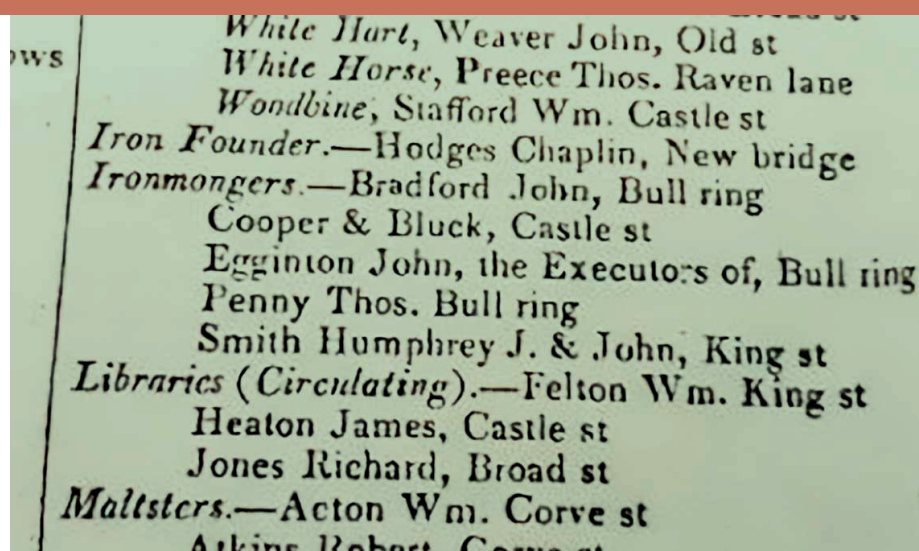


Figure 5. (Pigot & Co. Directory – Shropshire).

Bluck was residing with his sister Jessey and her husband, Joshua Cooper, in Castle Street (Figures 4 & 5).

By 1844 Hodgson had left the partnership and Cooper then partnered with his brother-in-law, Edmund, as *Cooper and Bluck*; styled as 'ironmongers' in Castle Street.

In 1848 Edmund married Frances Williams of Tenbury and by 1851 was recorded as an ironmonger living in Corve Street (Census 1851).

Cooper & Bluck purchased a dwelling at 16 Upper Linney in 1853 (*Shropshire Archives*). It was in Upper Linney that they established their *nail manufactory* in 1854. A wall plaque over a *shut* (alley) at No. 14 Upper Linney marks this place in the town's history. (Figure 6).

The partnership dissolved in 1859 and Joshua died in 1863. Two months later his son Charles, aged 25 years, an ironmonger in the company, also died. Thereafter, the Castle Street business was undertaken by Joshua's widow, Jessey Cooper (nee Bluck), until at least 1868. By 1871 she was living at 135, Corve Street where she died in 1878.

By 1861 Edmund Bluck was operating his own ironmongery at 141 Corve Street, premises known earlier as 'the warehouse' from where goods and passengers would be transported to London, leaving on Mondays and arriving by Saturday (*Ludlow Historical Anthology*). Here, he was able to manufacture much of his own stock in agricultural hardware, nails and cast iron wares. Some of his work can still be seen as metal cellar covers in Ludlow streets and railings on grave memorials in St Leonard's

graveyard (Figure 7). He achieved a level of prosperity and social elevation, serving as the town's Mayor between 1868 and 1869 and in 1871, acquired the neighbouring property at 142 Corve Street.



Figure 6. Cooper and Bluck plaque at 14 Upper Linney

In 1875 Edmund advertised his business as an 'ironmonger and iron founder' at 141 Corve Street (Figure 8). The premises today still shows evidence of workshops at the rear and 'floor to ceiling' shelves and drawers in the retail area associated with ironmongers across the country, exemplified locally at Rickards in the Bull Ring (now sadly closed after trading for more than 150 years) and J.B. Banks & Son in Cockermouth, Cumbria still trading after 200 years.

By 1879 Edmund amalgamated with one Thomas Everall, maintaining premises at Corve Street and The Narrows. In 1881 he was recorded as a 'retired ironmonger' residing at 142 Corve Street (*Census 1881*). By 1891 Edmund was living in retirement at 'Fairview', Rowton Road, Hopesay, not far from his birthplace. He died in 1901 leaving an estate then worth £16,500 (equivalent today to £1,702,000). Embossed iron pillars outside his old shop premises (Figure 9) still announce: 'E. Bluck Maker 1873'.



Figure 7. Grave memorial railings made by Edmund Bluck

Thomas Everall was born in 1849 at Longner, near Church Stretton, Shropshire. His father was a farmer but in 1861, aged eleven, Thomas was apprenticed to Henry Wood, an ironmonger in Church Stretton. By 1871 he was working as an ironmonger's assistant in the parish of St Julian's in Shrewsbury. He married Helen Teague at Church Stretton in 1878 and in the 1881 census he was recorded as an ironmonger at 137 Corve Street employing fourteen men and four boys. At that time, a member of his household was one Timothy Bluck, aged 23 years, the great nephew of Edmund.

In 1885 Thomas Everall was resident at 141 Corve Street, living there as a 'private resident'. In that same year the business at 141 Corve Street was advertised as 'Bluck and Everall' (*Kelly's Directory*), with reference to 'late Edmund Bluck' (Figure 10). Of course, Edmund was not dead so this reference suggests his valued and respected name was still linked to the business.

By then, with Thomas Everall, Timothy Bluck was very much part of that business (*Ludlow Historical Research Group – Rickards 2008*).

Timothy married Fanny Louise White at Ludlow in 1888 and was then living at 140 Corve Street.

Iron Foundry

A map of Ludlow dated 1883 indicates a foundry known as the 'Phoenix Works' (see Figure 11), in Gravel Hill, just south of St Julian's Avenue (*Ordnance Survey – Ludlow Library*). The foundry is now long gone and the retirement flats of Burgess Court have occupied the land since about 2006. Prior to the flats, *Morris, Bufton and Co.*

Ltd, suppliers of agricultural machinery (established 1954 and now at 6 Gravel Hill), occupied the site. A 'change of use' for the site was agreed by the Local Authority in 1960.

William John Roberts was born at Coalbrookdale in 1849. He was the son of an ironworks furnace manager and by 1871 was working as a clerk in his grandfather's ironworks at Madeley. By 1881, married to Mary Anne Williams, he was the foreman of the works. In 1885 he was initiated as a Freemason in the *Ludlow Marches Branch* and around 1890 seems to have acquired the Phoenix Foundry.

At some point and based at 141, Corve Street and the foundry in Gravel Hill, he partnered with Timothy Bluck and Thomas Everall to form *Bluck, Everall and Roberts*. The premises in Corve Street were substantial, extending eastwards from the street to Portcullis Lane (*Victorian Ludlow – Lloyd...*). The space was expansive but the extent of any foundry work undertaken there is not clear.

On 31st December 1890 the partnership was dissolved. (Figure 12). All debts of the partnership were to be paid by Timothy Bluck who would continue as an ironmonger at 141 Corve Street. William John Roberts



Figure 9. (*Thanks to Period House Shop of 141 Corve Street).

(then living at 'The Firs', 1 Julian Road, Ludlow) was to continue his separate business at the foundry (Phoenix Works), whilst Thomas Everall was to move and conduct his separate business from 150 Corve Street (*London Gazette 9th January 1891*).

Why the partnership dissolved is unknown but nothing has been identified to suggest animosity. Indeed, an invoice date 1912 from the Phoenix Works (see Figure 13), clearly suggests that William John Roberts stayed in contact with the Teague (Everall) family for years after the dissolution.**

William John Roberts remained living in Julian Road, Ludlow as the proprietor of the Phoenix Works, working as an iron and brass founder, engineer and manufacturer and employer (Figure 14). In 1894 he was elected as a member of The East Hamlet Parish Council (*Victorian Ludlow – Lloyd...*). He died in 1929 (*Census – 1891, 1901, 1911*).

In 1895 Thomas Everall was an ironmonger at 148 Corve Street but by 1901 he had moved, with his wife and seven children, to 36 Wordsworth Road, Aston, Birmingham, a premises previously owned by his wife's family (the Teagues). In 1911 he was recorded as a bed frame manufacturer.

[SHROPSHIRE.] INS 242	
INSURANCE COMPANIES. Salop Fire Office (Edward Tipton, sec.); chief office & fire engine station, Corn market, Shrewsbury Shropshire & North Wales Assurance Company (Edward Elmore, managing director), High street, Shrewsbury. See advertisement	
IRONFOUNDERS. Barker & Son, Underhill st. Bridgnorth Bluck Edmund, 141 Corve st. Ludlow Brown, Lock & Maude, Smithfield road, Shrewsbury Clay William & Sons, Bridgwater foundry, Ellesmere Coalbrookdale Company (William Gregory Norris, general manager), Coalbrookdale works, Wellington Corbett Samuel & Son, Park st. Wellngtn Corbett Thos. Castle foregate, Shrewsbury Edge & Sons, Madeley foundry, Madeley, Wellington Edwards John & Co. Wellington Ellis J. & Son, Victoria ironworks, Victoria street, Oswestry Gower & Son, Stafford street, Market Drayton. See advertisement Hodges Chaplin, Dinham, Ludlow Lewis & Hoole, Castle foregate, Shrewsbury Lilleshall Iron Company (Thomas Ellwood Horton, managing partner; Edward Jones, mining engineer), St. George's, Wellington Littlehales John Edward, Church street, Oswestry Mansell William, Foundry Lane works, Wellington Martin John, St. George's, Wellington Nield John, Castle fields, Oswestry Old Park Iron Company (Thomas W. Plum, man.), Malinslee, Wellngtn Pope Wm. Henry, 53 Mill st. Bridgnorth Roden James, Underhill st. Bridgnorth Rodenhurst John, Shropshire street; foundry, Cheshire st. Market Drayton Rowlands John & Son, Bicton leath, Oxon, Shrewsbury Smith R.T. & Co. Dodington, Whitechurch Stuttell William (exors. of), Coleham, Shrewsbury Underhill William Scott, High street, Newport. See advertisement Walker Charles & William, Donington, Newport; London house, 8 Finsbury circus &c	
IRON MERCHANTS. Foster & Co. Broseley Leighton & Grenfell (William Summers, manager), Hinkesley, Dawley Magna & Malinslee, Wellington Lilleshall Iron Co. (Thomas Ellwood Horton, managing partner; Edward Jones, mining engineer), St. George's, Wellington Old Park Iron Co. (Thomas W. Plum, manager), Malinslee, Wellington, & Stirlchley, Shifnal	
IRON BRIDGE BUILDERS. Walker Charles & William, Donington, Newport; London house, 8 Finsbury circus &c	
IRON FENCE, GATE AND HURDLE MANUFACTURERS. Day John & Thomas, 29 High street & New town, Whitechurch Lewis William S. & Co. Mossey green, Wellington Turner Eliza & Son, Madeley, Wellington Underhill William Scott, High street, Newport. See advertisement	
IRON GIRDER, ROOF AND TANK MANUFACTURERS. Walker Charles & William, Donington, Newport; London house, 8 Finsbury circus &c	
IRONMONGERS. Alltree & Lea, Castle street, Shrewsbury Badeley Thomas, New st. Wellington Benbow & Davies (wholesale & retail), Market square, Wellington Bickerton George Morrall, Willow street, Oswestry Bluck Edmund, 141 Corve street, Ludlow Bowen James Thomas, King st. Ludlow Brayn John, High st. Market Drayton Brotheridge Charles, High st. Ellesmere Bullock John, High street, Shifnal Cartwright Thomas, Northgate, Bridgnorth Cobbin Joseph, 117 Lower Goalford, Ludlow Coffin Thomas, High street, Ellesmere Cooper Mrs. Jessy, Castle street, Ludlow Cowley John Henry, Fox lane, Broseley	

Figure 8. Edmund Bluck advertising as an ironmonger and founder at 141 Corve Street - 1875

Thomas died in 1931 whilst living with his youngest daughter, Dorothy and her husband, the Rector of Bolas Magna, east of Shrewsbury.

Following the dissolution of the partnership with Everall and Roberts, Timothy Bluck continued as an ironmonger in Corve Street and in 1895 was recorded again at 140 Corve Street. In 1901 Timothy was recorded as an ironmonger at 16 The Narrows, Ludlow (*Census*) at (or near) the premises used by his other great uncle, Walter the grocer and tea dealer, in 1840.

In 1906 having recognised the imminent demise of 'natural' horsepower in favour of horsepower provided by the internal combustion engine, Timothy opened his Ludlow Motor Garage at 140 Corve Street. Here he sold bicycles, tyres and spares and later expanded into 141 Corve Street with a motor dealership (*The Period House*

Shop, Ludlow). The business continued until 1970 although Timothy did not: he died in 1927 at Ludlow.

(** Gratefully received from Dan Bufton of Morris Bufton & Co. Ltd., Ludlow.)

Iron Clad Conclusion?

It is not easily seen but on one iron post, among the Grade 1 listed *fleur-de-lys* railings of St Laurence's Church, the maker's name is clearly evident: 'Bluck & Everall Ludlow'.

As we have seen, Edmund Bluck amalgamated with Thomas Everall in 1879, by which time (1875) Edmund had advertised himself as an 'ironmonger and iron founder'. By 1881 Edmund had retired but the name of Bluck was carried on in the business by Timothy. Although the 1885 advertisement for 'Bluck and Everall' alluded to Edmund Bluck and the goodwill his name no doubt attracted, it was by then very much Timothy who was engaged with the business.

In 1881, when Edmund Bluck retired, William John Roberts was still living in Madeley and it is not until around 1885, that he appears to be living in Ludlow working as foreman at the Castle Foundry. In 1890 he began operating the foundry at Phoenix Works in Gravel Hill. Either the Castle Foundry

or the Phoenix Works would have had the facilities to manufacture such a large order as the church railings. However, Edmund's proclamation of being an 'iron founder' in 1875 cannot be ignored and certainly, the premises in Corve Street were so extensive, the manufacture of railings there cannot be discounted.

The report in the London Gazette of the dissolution of the partnership of Bluck, Everall and Roberts in 1890 and the reference that each would henceforth conduct their own individual businesses, indicates that the railings at the church must have been manufactured prior to that date (31st December 1890).

Based on the evidence acquired so far, it is suggested that the *fleur-de-lys* railings at St Laurence's Church in Ludlow, were made between 1879 and 1890, either at the Castle Foundry in Dinham, the Phoenix Works in

Blake William, coal merchant, Railway station
Blakemore Edwyn, attendance officer for the Borough
School Attendance Committee, Bell lane
BLUCK & EVERALL (late Edmund Bluck), general furnishing ironmongers, iron & brass founders, manufacturers of improved hay machines, rakes, ploughs, harrows, chaff & turnip cutters &c. Corve street. See advertisement
Bodenham William, outfitter, King street
Boore Jane (Mrs.), Castle vaults, Castle square
Borough Weighing Machine, Upper Gofford
Botfield Elizabeth (Miss), berlin wool warehouse, 12 High st
Boulton Ann (Miss), milliner, 69 Broad street
Böwen Catherine (Mrs.), earthenware dealer, 55 Broad st

Figure 10. Bluck was very much part of that business (Ludlow Historical Research Group – Rickards 2008).

Gravel Hill or, alternatively, at the back of 140 Corve Street after 1879, when Edmund Bluck styled himself as a 'founder' and he had joined with Thomas Everall as *Bluck & Everall*, the name clearly marked on the railings (Figure 15).

The Grade I listed railings at St Laurence's Church, like the building itself, remain enigmatic but are rooted in the social history of this beautiful town. They have survived war, the elements, alteration and damage. They give an insight to the town's history and its link with the iron industry. In their own way, as part of St Laurence's church, they are special and give us yet another 'window' to local history and the people of Ludlow, who made it.

Eric Griffiths – August 2024

Telephone, No. 36. PHOENIX IRON FOUNDRY, Ludlow, March 31st 1913

J. League Edgton Aston on Blun.

Dr. to W. J. ROBERTS,
Engineer & General Iron Founder,
IMPLEMENT MAKER & AGENT.
Agent for the Vulcan Boiler & General Insurance Company.

ALL KINDS OF REPAIRS HOT WATER HEATING WATER SUPPLIES	PUMPS MANUFACTURER OF WROUGHT & CAST-IRON WORK Etc. Etc.
1912. Repairs to Engine.	
Oct 30. 2 lb. Smooth On. Jointing Cement	2 3.
3 lbs. Red & White Lead.	1 6.
4 lb. of Asbestos cloth	1/2.
1-1/2" Inche Brass & collar.	3 6.
Rail 3/4" 1/2. Lamage 1/2.	2 3.
Cost in 1890 time repairing engine	
& preparing material 23 1/2 lbs. @ 7	17 1/2.
	£ 1 4 9
Credit by date March returned	3 6.
	£ 1 4 3

Figure 13. Invoice

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Thomas Everall, Timothy Bluck and William John Roberts, at 141, Corve-street, Ludlow, in the county of Salop. and the Foundry, Gravel-hill, Ludlow aforesaid, as Iron-mongers and Ironfounders, under the style or firm of Bluck, Everall, and Roberts, has been this day dissolved by mutual consent. All debts due to the firm and from the firm of Bluck, Everall, and Roberts, will be received and paid by the said Timothy Bluck, who will, in future, carry on the business at the same premises, in Corve-street, Ludlow, on his own account. The said William John Roberts will carry on the business at the Foundry on his own account. The said Thomas Everall will in future carry on business on his own account, at 150, Corve-street, Ludlow aforesaid.—Dated this 31st day of December, 1890.

THOMAS EVERALL.
TIMOTHY BLUCK.
WILLIAM JOHN ROBERTS.

Figure 12. The London Gazette - 9th January 1891



Figure 15. Bluck & Everall signature on the railings of St Laurence's Church

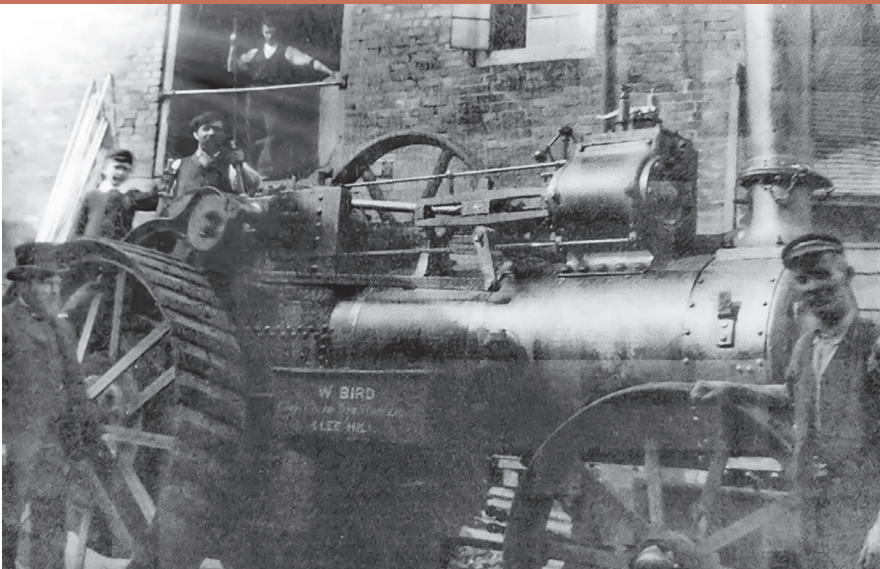


Figure 14. William John Roberts (driver) at the Phoenix Works



Figure 17. Everall railings at Berrington Hall

Addendum: After 1890 Thomas Everall conducted business as an ironmonger from premises in Corve Street and was still there in 1895. By 1901 he had moved to Aston near Birmingham. Iron railings at Berrington Hall in Herefordshire bear the maker's name – THOMAS EVERALL LUDLOW. This suggests these railings were made between 1890 and 1901, possibly at the Phoenix Works, where Everall appears to have maintained relationship with the foundry proprietor, William John Roberts. Berrington Hall has been approached but presently, has no accessible record to clarify the situation.

WILLIAM JOHN ROBERTS,
ENGINEER,
 AND GENERAL IRONFOUNDER,
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT MAKER
AND AGENT.
 Manufacturer of RAIN WATER OUTTERS and DOWN PIPES, Hot Water Pipes and Fittings, Pumps, Ranges and General Castings for Builders; Water Wheels, Pulleys, Shafting and Machinery; Continuous Fencing, Hurdles, Railing, Gates, Tree Guards. Any kind of Plain or Ornamental Work in Wrought or Cast Iron. HOT WATER HEATING for Churches or Private Houses. Water Supplies and Hydraulic Rams and Pumps. Buildings in Wood or Iron. Hay or Grain Sheds.
 DRAWINGS AND ESTIMATES FREE.
 Specialite: White Metal Jaws for Stone Breaking Machines.
 TESTIMONIALS ON APPLICATION.
 GENERAL REPAIRING SHOP. PROMPT ATTENTION TO ORDERS.
PHOENIX WORKS, LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE.

Figure 16. Roberts at the Pheonix Works in 1890



Figure 11. Map dated 1883 showing the Phoenix Works

OBITUARY



JANE MARY HUNT (1947-2024)

We were all greatly saddened by the sudden death of our stalwart committee member Jane Hunt in June of last year. Jane contributed so much to Ludlow and to the Civic Society.

Jane was born in India and had travelled widely with her parents and younger siblings by the time she was eight. The family then settled in Clunbury, Shropshire and Jane spent her school days in Ludlow. From school she went on to study law at Oxford and from Oxford she went to law school and thence to a training contract with Hempsons in London - one of the top medical negligence firms of the day. She progressed to become a lawyer specialising in family law, and eventually trained in mediation.

When she returned to Ludlow with Michael in 2003 she threw herself into the life of the community. This included volunteer work in schools, the local Citizens' Advice Centre, and a charity called Young Shropshire into Work, acting as a steward in St Laurence's, working with Hands Together Ludlow, and working with her husband Michael to support a Ukrainian family.

In many ways Jane was the very heart and soul of Ludlow Civic Society. For many years she was membership

secretary combining managing a computer database with personal knowledge of all our members. Many will remember what an effective team Michael and Jane were at the entrance of the Methodist Chapel for each of our programme of talks. Jane would greet attendees by name with her winning smile and genuine warmth, making it all the more bearable when Michael would then relieve them of their £5 entrance fee.

For many years Jane also played a vital role in recruiting speakers and arranging visits. She genuinely enjoyed meeting our speakers and entertaining them. She also gained enormous satisfaction from her successful trips not only for the experience of seeing a new historic house or venue for herself, but primarily I think from bringing pleasure to others.

Empathy and compassion were two of Jane's outstanding qualities and many will recall her sympathy, advice, understanding and practical help that she gave to others facing their own problems; her warmth, generosity and empathy endeared her to all those she met.

John Cartwright

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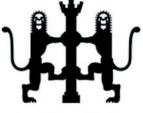
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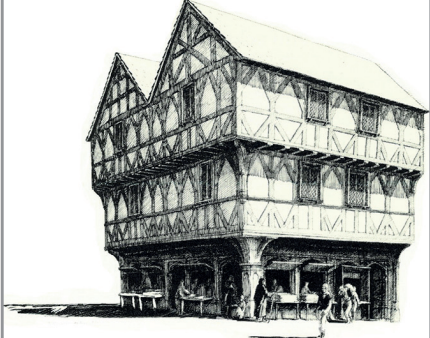
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Coffee tables, a selection of which can be purchased.

The gallery is also home to a large collection of oil paintings,
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We are working with Garth Reynolds on a book on the
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To view by appointment only, discuss your interests,
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