

Diary Dates

Monday 20 May to Saturday 25 May

Bridgnorth History Week

Talks, walks, displays and workshops.

Please contact Bridgnorth Library for details.

Tel: 01746 763358

Email: bridgnorth.library@shropshire.gov.uk

Thursday 13 June

Friends of Shropshire Archives AGM

Followed by 'Shropshire Archives 2013 update - a look behind the scenes and into the future'

Mary McKenzie, Team Leader, Archives and John Benson, Project Manager, Volunteering for Shropshire's Heritage.

7pm at Shropshire Archives.

Wednesday 10, Tuesday 16 and Thursday 25 July

Summer Visits Programme

Join the Friends of Shropshire Archives this summer for visits to three of Shropshire's most fascinating houses.

2pm see leaflet and booking form for more details.

Saturday 14 September

Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society - pre history day

Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

Further details at www.shropshirearchaeology.org.uk

Saturday 28 September

Facets of Ludlow

An all day symposium covering nine centuries of the town's history from the Norman Conquest until the 1960s. Organised by the Ludlow Historical Research Group.

10am - 4.45pm at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Mill Street, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1AZ.

Cost: £5

Further details at www.ludlowhistory.co.uk

Saturday 12 October

Whitchurch History Day

Talks, walks, presentations and music.

10am-4pm at Brownlow Community Centre, Claypit Street, Whitchurch, SY13 1LF.

News Extra...

Do you have any stories to tell about Shropshire's history or have any news about Shropshire Archives? If you have, the editor is waiting to hear from you now. The contact details are below and photographs are always welcome.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The newsletter of the Friends of Shropshire Archives is edited by Alison Mussell and designed by Nat Stevenson, Shropshire Archives' Image Services.

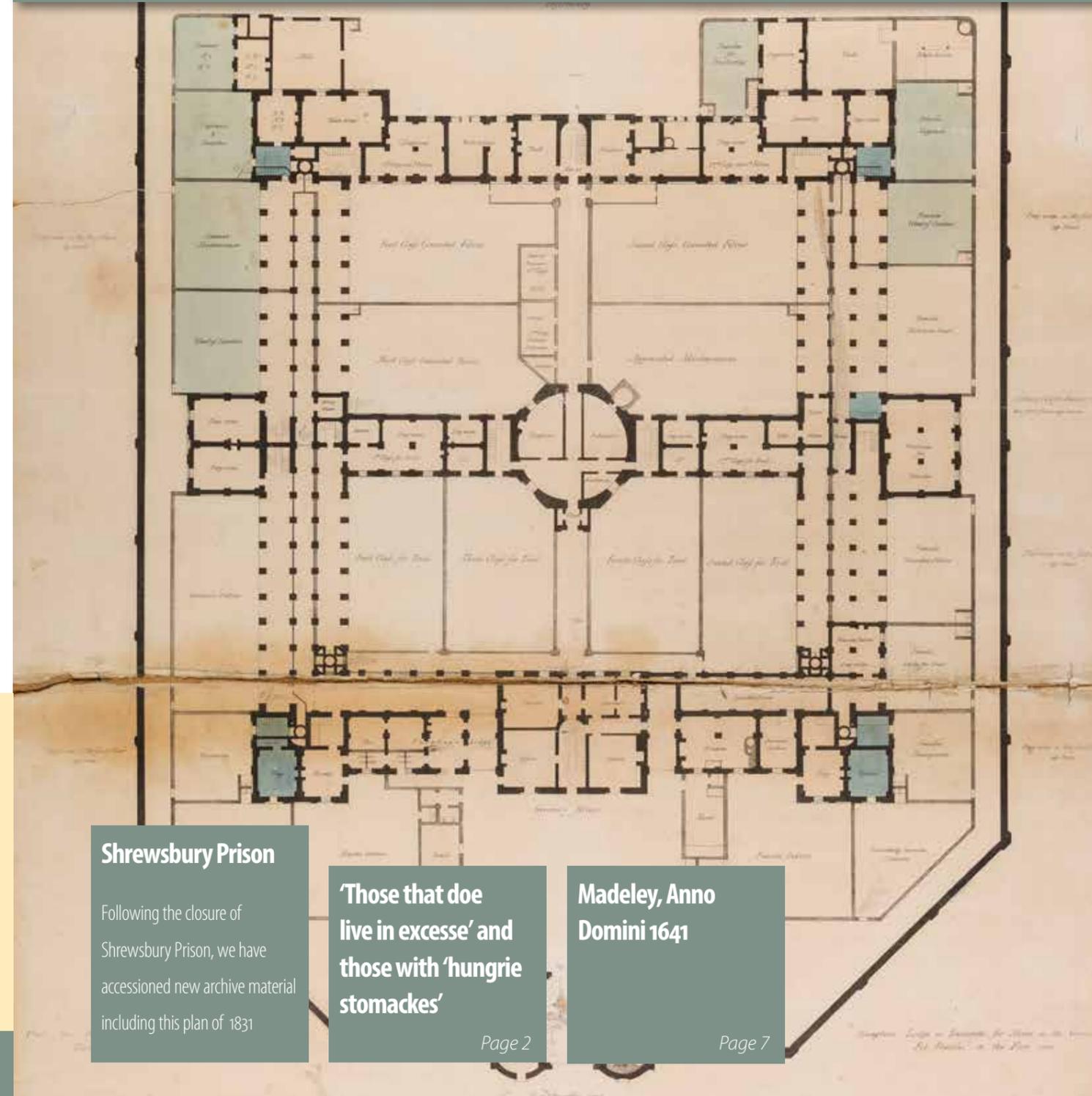
There are three issues per year, paid for by the Friends. The contents are provided by friends and well-wishers. If you would like to join the contributors, please contact the editor at the address below. Copy for the next issue needs to be submitted by 15 August 2013.

DISCLAIMER: We have made every effort to ensure that the information in this publication is correct at the time of printing. We cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.



Salopian Recorder

The newsletter of the Friends of Shropshire Archives, gateway to the history of Shropshire and Telford



Shrewsbury Prison

Following the closure of Shrewsbury Prison, we have accessioned new archive material including this plan of 1831

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'Those that do live in excess' and those with 'hungrie stomackes'

Madeley, Anno Domini 1641

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Contact... For further details or to pass on your comments, please contact: Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ • Tel: 01743 255350
Email: archives@shropshire.gov.uk • Website: www.shropshirearchives.org.uk



Feature

Ralph Collingwood

'Those that doe live in excesse' and those with 'hungrie stomackes'

One of the projects started at the Shropshire Archives as part of the Volunteering for Shropshire's Heritage, funded by the Heritage Lottery to which the Friends of the Archives have donated £4000, is to catalogue the bailiffs' accounts of Shrewsbury, dating from the 13th to the 17th century, in rather more detail than when they were first done in the late 19th century, in order to make them more accessible. These accounts record the bailiffs' annual receipts and expenditure, often in minute detail, and include bills for repairing buildings, the town walls, for paving the streets and maintaining the bridges and the Welsh, the Stone and the Castle gates.¹

The Lord President of the Council of Wales and the Marches is frequently mentioned in the accounts. The Council of Wales and the Marches was established in 1472 by Edward IV to advise and act on behalf of his infant son, Edward, the Prince of Wales. Its jurisdiction covered the whole of Wales and Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire.

It was finally abolished in 1698. The Council consisted of the Lord President and his Vice-President and twenty other members all appointed by the king. When the Lord President came to Shrewsbury to dispense justice, he and his lady lived in the Council House, which stood by the castle. Their stay could last from a few weeks to a couple of months or more and the town benefited greatly from the increase in business generated by the presence of the Council. The bailiffs were so keen to ensure the Council came to the town that, in January 1611/12, they offered a 'gratuyteye not exceeding twenty nobles be bestowed on the Right Honourable the Lord President if it please him to keepe Lent term next in this towne or els not'.² A seventeenth century example of cash for favours!

The Council House, built at the end of the 15th century, still exists but is now hidden behind the Council House Gatehouse, which was built much later in 1620. Charles I stayed at the Council House when he came to Shrewsbury in 1642, as did his son James II in 1667.

A painting of the Old Hall of the Council House has survived while details of the interior occur in the accounts of 1582.³ In that year John Clay presented a bill for xxxiijs iiij^d for decorating the Council House⁴:-

ffor Colleringe of the halle with blacke yellow xiiij^s iiij^d
& reed

ffor Colleringe the grett stayre the gallarye & viij^s
my lordes ij chambers with the postes therin

ffor Colleringe my ladyes ij chambers with viij^s
yellow and Reedd and all the postes &
wyndowes theerr

ffor Colleringe my ladis gallarye with ij par v^s
of stayers the on goinge downe to the kychine
and the other in to ye garden

ffor Colleringe the entreye going out of the ij^s
grett chamber unto my Ladis chambers

ffor my paynnes and travel with dyvers dayes
my servants as well men as maydes what
shall pleas your worshopes

Richard Powell, one of the town's bailiffs, did not seem at all pleased with the bill, and John Clay was only paid £1 for his work and seemingly nothing for his 'paynnes'.

The visits of the Lord Presidents of the Council of Wales to Shrewsbury were met with much pomp and ceremony. The book of orders of the corporation sets down for 20th September 1611 that the Lord President be

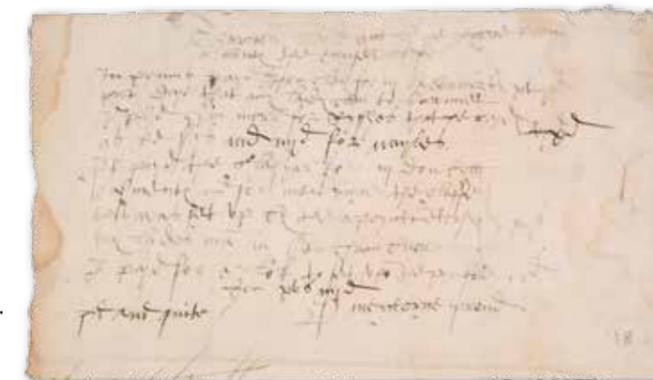
'entertayned in this sorte viz. Mr Bailiffs, the aldermen and the common council shall attend to meete him at his cominge in their beste suytes next to their robes of scarlet and the wardens of companies likewise in their best gownes and the Bailiffs and the Six men shall bestowe such chardges as they thincke best for the enterteynment of my Lord President, his lady and the rest of the council'⁵

In August 1608 Ralph, 3rd Baron Eure, was the Lord President, and he and his lady and the Council were welcomed to the town with a sumptuous feast attended by probably about 50 people of which about half were townsmen.⁶

'24 August 1608 Monney layed out by Thomas Wolley for the entertaynment of the Lord presidente'⁷:-

	£	s	d
Imprimis for 2 calffes	1	9	0
Item 10 peeces of boylde beeffe & a neats tongue	0	18	0
Item for Roſt beefe	0	14	0
Item for 5 shippe	2	16	0
Item for 18 Foynts of mutton	0	18	0
Item for 4 lambes	1	1	4
Item for a swann	0	6	8
Item for 14 duckes	1	9	4
Item for 18 cappons & capnetts	0	16	0
Item for 8 poollettes	0	4	7
Item for 6 Turckies	0	12	0
Item for 4 dussen of chickhenns	0	16	0
Item for 6 grouses	0	4	0
Item for 5 dussen of piggeins & halfe	0	12	6
Item for 2 partridges	0	0	10
Item for 20 cupple of Rabbettes	0	18	4
Item for 6 neates feete	0	2	0
Item pd to the keeper that brought in the 2 buckes	0	13	4
Item halfe load of faggotts	0	2	6
Item for Rosewater & Waffers and for making the Marchpane	0	5	0
Item 11 pound of suet	0	4	0
Item for 1 round of ſturgion	0	5	0
Item for fresh fish	1	4	0
Item for an old lingue	0	4	0
Item pd to Farves the cooke	0	3	?
Item pd Thomas Hussey cooke	0	5	?
Item pd to John Samon cooke	0	3	4
Item pd to a under cooke	0	1	6
Item pd for Wafers	0	1	2

Some is 16 16^s 0^d



Council House Bill, 1582. Shropshire Archives ref. 3365/521/18

Wine, of course, was needed to do justice to such a meal and it was provided in plenty :-

	£	s	d
Imprimis 5 gl of sacke	1	0	0
Item 12 gl of clarritt	2	10	0
tem 2 pottells of hypocrisse	0	8	0
Item 4 qts 1 pt of vinnigar	0	3	0
Item 5 gl of clarrett wyne	0	16	8
Item 3 gl 1 quart of sacke	0	13	0
Item 1 gallane of clarrett	0	3	4
Item 2 gallanes of sacke	0	8	?
Item 1 gall of sacke 1 gall of clarrett	0	7	4
Item 1 gall of sacke 1qt of sacke	0	5	0
Item 1 gall of clarrett wyne	0	3	?
Item 2 gl of sacke	0	8	?
Some	7	3	8
Summa totalis	24	2	4

And finally to finish off there were the sweetmeats⁸:-

Item half a lb preserved cherries		xx ^d
Item candied Roses and quinse plate	vj ^s	
Item one box of marmalet 3lb	v ^s	vj ^d
	xiiij ^s	ij ^d

Features of this bill, apart from the huge cost, which amounted to a good deal more than a labourer, paid 6d a day at that time, would have earned in three years, are the gallons of wine drunk, the quantity and variety of meat and fish eaten and the complete lack of vegetables. Vegetables did not figure highly in the diet of the rich in the 16th and 17th centuries, but in this instance the lack of a bill for vegetables was because the Council House had its own garden and grew its own. The garden was a fair size judging from a map of 1644/5⁹ and from the quantity of seed bought to stock it. We know this because the same John Clay, whose bill for decorating the Council House has already been seen, at the same time sought payment for the work he had done in the garden there¹⁰:-

Item ffor ffallowinge the garden ij men ij dayes	ij ^s
ffor on that did sett Rose trees ffor a daye & halffe	ix ^d
ffor a woman ij dayes to weede therr	vij ^d
ffor ij men eacher of them vj dayes to dresse up the garden carrie earthe & marke the banckes therr	vj ^s
ffor a woman to weed therr & to carrye out Ramell & sett banckes ij dayes	xij ^d

ffor xiiij ounces of onion seed iijd an ounce	iiij ^s vj ^d
ffor ij ounces of porrett seed jd obulum [1/2d] the ounce	iiij ^d
ffor porcely seed a pynte	ij ^d
ffor Cabbyshe seed & Lettis seed	ij ^d
ffor Endyffe spynnache and sockereye	iiij ^d
ffor Cowcomber seed	ij ^d
ffor Carragon skyrrettes and Rockett	iiij ^d
ffor garlycke	viiij ^d
ffor Reddyshe seed	ij ^d
ffor Clarre seed & sorrel seed	ij ^d

Either Rychard Powell, the bailiff, was a very hard man or John Clay was on the make, for again he was paid only a fraction of what he asked. He seemingly came off very badly in his transactions with the bailiffs for of his two bills which totalled £2 12s 5d he was paid only £1 6s 8d. Was this the way the bailiffs usually did business in the early 17th century?

This is the only garden bill known to have survived for the Council House and is of interest in that roses appear to have been the only concession to flowers. They were however grown in fair number, as it took one man a day and a half to 'set' them, however it is possible that their prime purpose was not for decoration, but to provide delicacies such as rose water and candied rose, items consumed at the feast.

Seedsmen were not common in the 17th century; the first seed catalogue to survive is that of William Lucas, of London, in c.1677¹¹. Shrewsbury however had its own vegetable seedsman; Richard Gardiner, a dyer, market gardener and philanthropist, who in 1603 wrote the first pamphlet published in England devoted solely to growing vegetables¹²:-

'Profitable instructions for the manuring, sowing, and planting of kitchin gardens Very profitable for the common wealth and greatly for the helpe and comfort of poore people'

The pamphlet was written to provide advice and encourage the cultivation of vegetables so that

'the poore [be] the better releevd with Garden stufte whereas yet in this countie of Salop Gardening stufte is to small purpose'

It advised on the cultivation of cabbages, carrots, parsnips, turnips, lettuce, beans, onions, cucumbers, artichokes and leeks and particularly emphasised how

to harvest good seed. Richard Gardiner says he could have described

*'divers roots and hearbes for sallets... which do not serve my purpose for I rather desire to provide sufficient victuals for the poore and greateſt number of people to relieve their hungrie ſtomackes then to pick dainty sallets to provoke appetite to those that doe live in excesse, the which God amend.'*¹³

Richard Gardiner relates how during the dearth of the 1590s

*'many hundreds of people were well refreshed... for the space of twenty days when bread was wanting' and 'they had nothing to eat but onely carrets and cabedges which they had of me for many daies and but onelie water to drinke.'*¹⁴

All of which he had grown in his four-acre garden and he sold to the poor at a penny for 'sixe waxe pounds of small close Cabedges'. This philanthropic act was celebrated by Edward Thorne, gentleman, in the preface to Gardiner's pamphlet,¹⁵

The poore which late were like to pine and could not buy them breade In greateſt time of penury Were by his labours fed

Richard Gardiner quotes the price of some seeds:-

Carret seedes is after the rate of two shillings the waxe pound Cabadge seeds after the rate of iiij^d the ounce Turnep seedes after the rate of xij^d the pound Beans ij^d the quart

And he goes on to say that for the 'better helpe and comfort of the poore' he is selling carrot seed at ij^s a pound whereas in 'al this land' he could not buy seed to compare with his at less than vs a pound and he will continue to do so till the people produce their own seed 'which is my desire, if it may so please God'. The importance of the poor producing their own seed is obvious when even his cheap offer of seed is compared with the daily wage of a labourer of 6^d a day.

The difference between how the rich and the powerful fed in 1608, admittedly at a time of plenty, contrasts sharply with the lot of the poor apparently surviving on carrots and cabbage with only water to drink for the space of twenty days during the dearths of the 1590s. ■

References

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3. Champion, Bill, Everyday Life in Tudor Shrewsbury, Shropshire Books, 1994, p.96
4. Shropshire Archives [henceforth SA] 3365/521/19
5. Owen, H. and Blakeway, J.B., A history of Shrewsbury, 1825, Hardy, Lepard and Co., London, p.403
6. Shrewsbury Chronicles, 1372-1603 transcribed by W.A.Leighton, Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society [henceforth TSANHS], 1880, vol. 3, p.296
7. SA 3365/550
8. SA 3365/550/7.1
9. Owen, H. and Blakeway, J.B., AS history of Shrewsbury, 1825, Hardy, Lepard and Co., London, p.451
10. SA 3365/521/19
11. Harvey, J., Early Gardening Catalogues, Phillimore, Chichester, p.65
12. TSANHS Series II, Vol. 4, p. 244
13. TSANHS Series II, Vol. 4, p. 260
14. TSANHS Series II, Vol. 4, p. 260
15. TSANHS Series II, Vol. 4, p. 246

Cabbyshe, cabadge, cabbage.

Capnett, a caponet, a young or small capon.

Carragon, possibly caraway seed?

Clarre, clary, a labiate plant, *Salvia sclarea*, a native of the south of Europe.

Syria, cultivated in English gardens as a pot-herb. Also, the name of Meadow Clary (*S. pratensis*) and Vervain or Wild Clary (*S. verbenaca*): both British plants, and one of them may be the plant mentioned here.

Cowcumber, cucumber.

Faggotts, bundles of twigs and/or broom for firing the ovens.

Hypocrise, hippocrase, a cordial drink made of wine flavoured with spices, formerly much in vogue.

Lettis, lettuce

Lingue, ling, a marine fish related to the cod.

Marmalet, firm quince jelly flavoured with rose water and musk or ambergris and cut into squares.

Marchpane, originally a flat disc of marzipan mounted on wafers and usually decorated with motifs made from a similar paste or other materials.

Neat, cow, bullock or ox.

Noble, 6s 8d.

Porceley, parsley.

Porrets, leeks or possibly spring onion, as leeks are mentioned separately.

Pottle, half a gallon.

Reddyshe, raddish.

Rocket, an annual plant, *Eruca sativa* of the cabbage family, with edible, deeply lobed leaves with a peppery taste, commonly used in salads. Formerly one of several similar plants including the yellow-flowered hedge mustard. The precise identification of the plants in early documents is often uncertain.

Skyrret, skirret, a perennial umbelliferous plant, *Sium sisarum*, a species of water parsnip, formerly much cultivated in Europe for its sweet, white root.

Sockereye, succory or chicory and endive, succory and chicory are two common names of *Cichorium intybus*, which was grown for the leaves for salads and the roots which were dried and powdered. Endives are *endivia* which was grown for its blanched leaves.

Sorrel, *Rumex acetosella*, the leaves have a sharp acid taste.

Wax pound, ten wax pounds weighed a stone, that is 14 lbs.

Spies

This document was found amongst the records of Ellesmere Home Guard. It gives advice on how to detect potential enemy spies. Today, some of its points may read as comical but at the time it was written, in March 1941, the threat of invasion was very real.

Shropshire Archives
ref: 4861/3/109

To all Companies. - Spies

Spies may be expected at any time, and it is probable that Home Guard will be called upon to hunt them.

The following points are worth noticing:-

1. Spies in these parts are likely to have arrived by parachute, rather than by small boat; and are therefore likely to be youngish men.

- Minor injuries such as scratches, a bound up wrist, or a sprained ankle may be worth a second look.
- A foreign accent may be worth enquiry: though there are large numbers of refugees in England.
- A stranger who does not know where he is should be regarded with suspicion.
- A foreign or unusual cut of clothes is worth noticing, also anyone carrying a small portable wireless set, which may be disguised as a suitcase.
- The spy will almost certainly be in possession of considerable money: so any unusual generosity on the part of a stranger may be worth following up.
- Foreign chocolate or wrappings, foreign cigarettes, maps or compass may attract attention.
- A spy's identity card may be ostensibly in order. It may be however that the names will be written in on both pages in the same handwriting or a foreign letter or figure may inadvertently appear.
- Anyone with two identity cards is very suspicious.

Feature

Bob Kiernan

Madeley

Anno Domini 1641

It's amazing what you find when you are cataloguing documents. In 1641 the parish of Madeley petitioned the High Court of Parliament over the behaviour of their vicar, and the following is a transcription of that petition, with the original grammar and spelling!

Articles exhibited and preferred to the Right Honorable and Highe Court of Parliament now assembled Agaynst Richard Phillips vicar of Madely in the County of Salop

The said Phillips before he was admitted to the order of the ministry was a person that for divers yeares lived a disordered Course of Life, sometimes a wandering souldier, sometimes a servingman, and sometimes Lead a worse course of Life, not havinge any degree at all in Schoole and never did himselfe preach nor can preach neither doth he procure about three or foure Sermons in a whole yeare to be made in his said parish Church only sometimes he readeth other mens Sermons in the Church in the reading whereof he comonly interrupteth raylingge and rouilinge speeches against such of his parishioners which he distasteth or hath any difference withall.

That since hee hath bene admitted to the order of the ministry beinge no preachinge minister, he hath bene a very turbulent person amongst his neighbours and parishioners, a greate swearer a vile drunkard and suspected to lie incontinently with one Joyce Buttler (the wife of Bartholemew Buttler) when he keepeth in his house, her husband livinge eyght or tenne miles distant and no one resident with them in the house exceptinge a small childe or two of the aforesaid Joyce Buttler.

That since he came to be Viccar of Madely aforesaid he hath exacted and extorted from divers of his parishioners divers sumes of mony and so by that meanes is now become a covetuous and griping usurer.

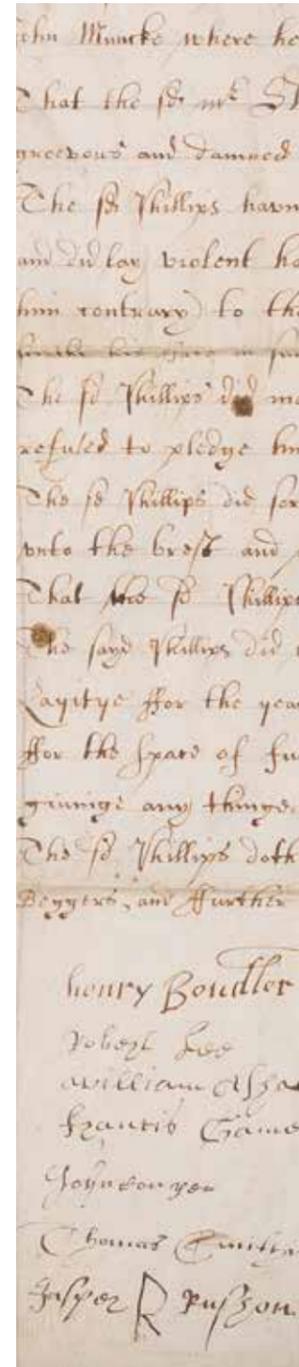
The said Phillips beinge in company of one Mr. Shuker a learned divine and beinge by him reprovod for his ill course of life beinge called to the ministry hee the said Phillips did make an assaulte and affray upon him and did Lay violent hands upon him flung him in the fyer in the house of one John Wincke where he had bene burned, if he had not bene speedily taken out of the fyer and rescued from the said Phillips.

That the said Mr. Shuker beinge rescued from the said Phillips further mischeevinge him at that time hee the said Phillips did then swear with most greevous and damned oathes that if hee had his sword there that he would have cutt the said Shukers head from his shoulders.

The said Phillips havinge invited one Oliver Crumpton one of his neyghbours to his house hee did then and there make an assaulte and affray upon him and did lay violent hands upon him and did thruſt him out of his house givinge him divers blowes and afterwards challenged him to fight with him contrary to the Kinges Edict. Moreover the said Phillips comming att the house of the aforesaid Oliver Crumpton did Lay violent hands upon him and scratch his face in such manner that he the said Crumpton was ashamed to go out of his house for the space of a month after.

The said Phillips did make another assault and affray upon one Thomas Yorke one of his parishioners in the house of one Richard Estop (in regard he refused to pledge him a cup of beere) and did beate him and pull a great parte of his hayre of his head, the said Yorke beinge a man of cyvill government.

The said Phillips did sore beate and hurt one Morrice Davyes a poore man his next neybour, and with a Piked Staffe did thruſt him into the shoulder neere unto the breast and much indangered his Life.



Articles exhibited to the High Court of Parliament against Rich'd Phillips, vicar of Madeley.
Shropshire Archives ref. M14925/1

That the said Phillips did come into the house of one Richard Strutton a butcher in Madely aforesaid and did make an assault and affray upon him.

The sayd Phillips did without consent eyther of the Bishop or Ordinary Lett and assigne over the aforesaid vicorage to one Mr. William Webbe being a man of the Lgyitye for the yearly sume of forty pounds (reserving in his owne hands the garden and backside withall edifices and buildings thereunto belonging) and hath for the space of five or six years received the aforesaid Anuall rent, keepinge no house upon the said premises for the releife of any poore, neyther giving any thinge att any time to any of his majesties Letters Pattents to him Dyrected.

The said Phillips doth call his parishioners beinge persons of good ranke and quality pervired persons and damned villaines damned doggs, base nitty and lowsy beggars and further doth call the customs of the parish most base lowsye and rotten customs.

Henry Bowdler, Roger Evans Churchwarden, Robert Lee, William Ashwood, Francis Gannes, John Couyer, Thomas Smithiman, Jasper Rysson

You might well ask why they did not approach the owner of the advowson requesting the removal of the vicar. According to Professor Malcolm Wanklyn, this was because the owner of the advowson was a Roman Catholic, and presumably had no interest in the souls of protestants. ■

New accessions

- Parish registers and records for Hadley, Wellington Christchurch, Lineal-cum-Colmere, Astley Abbots, Bridgnorth St Mary, Oldbury, Quatford, Tasley, Monkhopton, Cound (various).
- Attingham & District Ploughing Society account book, **1927-1938 (8597)**
- Clun Trinity Hospital records, **17th-20th cent. (8603)**
- Parish council minutes and papers for Kinnerley, West Felton, Ruyton XI towns, Llanyblodwel, Lydbury North (various)
- Deeds re Chetwynd estate, Newport, **19th-20th cent. (8604)**
- Deeds held by Telford Development Corporation, **18th-20th cent. (8623)**
- Shrewsbury Baptist church plans, **1877-1923 (8638)**
- Photos of brass bands, Red Cross nurses, colliery and misc. Wellington events, **20th cent. (8642)**
- Shrewsbury Prison – governors’ journals, staff registers, plans, **20th-21st cent. (8644)**
- Letter re wartime requisitioning, Minsterley, **1943 (8651)**
- Communications Workers’ Union, Shrewsbury branch records, **c 1990-2010 (8654)**

New books

- Tavinor, Michael **Saints and sinners of the Marches**
- Rolfe-Smith, Barney **A Gilded Cage: Lucien Bonaparte, prisoner-of-war at Ludlow...**
- Hammond & Forsaith (ed.) **Religion, gender and industry**
- Nicholle, Dorothy **Ludlow through time**
- Fletcher, Malcolm **The long and the short of it: 100 years of the Green Bowling Association**
- Dobrzynski, Jan **The Severn through Time; Plynlimon to Bridgnorth**

It has been a quiet few weeks, at least as far as ‘Friends’ events go, and with the snow disrupting activities for a longer period than we are used to, perhaps it is just as well. The Archives has been able to battle on despite it all and the volunteers have continued to make good progress with cataloguing, digitising and image processing. Your committee has also been preparing for the months ahead with plans for Summer visits, instead of walks, history days and the annual lecture. You will see details elsewhere in this issue.

I am pleased that Whitchurch has been chosen for the autumn history day; it is a town that sometimes seems remote being on the northern extremity of the county but it has an interesting history with influences from across the Welsh and Cheshire borders. I hope many of you will be able to attend. We have booked the

From the Chairman

John Ravenscroft

John Ravenscroft reflects on a very successful Ken Jones Day and talks about the continuing importance of the Friends’ fundraising work

Brownlow Centre for 12 October.

The other history day of this year happened only a few days ago, as I write. In a previous issue, I wrote of Ken Jones and his contributions to local history research, especially the area covered by the old Madeley Union. The day was a recognition of his work and we had some excellent talks from John Powell about his life and work, Barrie Trinder about his research into squatter communities, John Lenton about Methodism in the area and Neil Clarke who guided us



Ken Jones Day

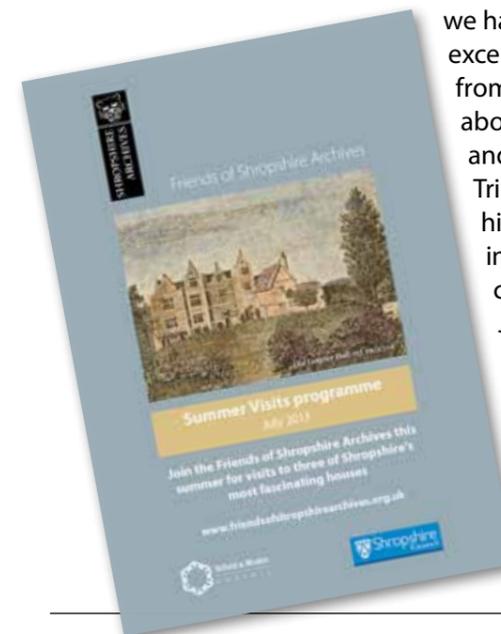
through the development of the railways associated with the Ironbridge/Buildwas power stations. The weather smiled on the four walks in the area which were guided by some of the most knowledgeable people connected with the Museum. This event, organised jointly between the Friends of Shropshire Archives and the Friends of Ironbridge Gorge Museum, was enjoyed by all and a fitting tribute to Ken Jones and his legacy.

I mentioned in the last issue of the Recorder the sterling work the people in the Volunteers Project are doing to keep the Archives in business, as it were, but the ‘Friends’ bring together users of the Archives to support development and progress. By raising money, the ‘Friends’ are able to purchase items that the Archives would find it difficult to fund out of their seemingly ever-shrinking budget, including part funding of the Volunteers Project itself. In these financially

difficult times the money we raise from our events and appeals is needed all the more and greatly valued. Thank you for maintaining your membership, despite the increase, but we are also in need of your physical presence.

In addition to your attendance at our events, please consider joining the committee. We are due to lose three of our members when this year ends at the AGM in June. And here I would like to thank Mike Raynor, my predecessor as chairman, Sylvia Watts, who has spent many years involved in the ‘Friends’ in a variety of roles, and Ralph Collingwood who has provided solid support. They are going to be missed but please consider how you might be able to help; come along to the AGM and maybe you would find you could spare the time as a committee member.

I look forward to seeing you at some of our events. ■



See our leaflet for the 2013 programme of Summer Visits

Attingham cataloguing project

Shropshire Archives are currently working in close partnership with Attingham on the Attingham Archives Cataloguing Project and are grateful to the National Trust for providing the funding for this.

This is the latest chapter in a long history of collaboration with the Trust to ensure the long term preservation of the Attingham archives. In 1947, following the death of the 8th Lord Berwick, the major collection of family and estate papers which had been preserved by the family was transferred by Lady Berwick to what was then the County Record Office at Shirehall, thereby ensuring its future preservation as well as enabling it to be made available for research.



The young Teresa Hulton (later Lady Berwick) aged 10, known affectionately as 'Bim'.

This collection represents one of the more significant private collections held at the archives, amounting to over 400 boxes of papers spanning over six centuries. The collection has attracted widespread interest for its significant research value, not only for the wealth of information it provides on the local, social and political scenes but also its international significance containing as it does material pertaining to military and state affairs in Europe.

The project offers a valuable opportunity to bring the collection up to date by undertaking to catalogue and make available the more recent family papers. The cataloguing work is being undertaken at the house by Ivar Romo supported by a small team of volunteers. So far the project has sorted and catalogued well over a thousand records including personal correspondence and papers of the 8th Lord Berwick as well as newly discovered papers relating to the earlier history of the estate, offering a clearer understanding of events around 1700 when Hon Richard Hill was laying the foundations of the Hawkstone and Attingham dynasties.

Work is now progressing on the correspondence of Lady Berwick herself which is proving a particularly rich source of information about her life at

Attingham and beyond. It is incredibly fortunate for us that she not only enjoyed a lifetime of prolific correspondence with a wide range of family, friends and acquaintances but she also undertook to ensure that this was kept for posterity. Her letters provide a fascinating insight into her world, from her early childhood (the earliest letter is one written to her when she was just 5 years old) through to her marriage to Lord Berwick and subsequent life at Attingham. The cataloguing of the papers of her earlier life as Teresa Hulton (1895-1919) has just been completed. Details can be found on our online catalogue and the original records are now available to view at Shropshire Archives.

To view the catalogue, go to www.shropshirearchives.co.uk and follow the links to the Discovering Shropshire's History website. A search for "The Attingham Collection" will bring you a hit list of records from the collection. Follow the link to any of these to find a more detailed description. You will then be able to browse the rest of the collection by navigating the catalogue at the bottom of the page. All the records detailed in the catalogue are available to view at Shropshire Archives.

There will be an opportunity to find out more and sample a few of the documents from the collection on 18th July as part of our Thursday evening workshops. ■

Digitisation and on line publication of records

Work on digitising parish registers and other records of interest to family historians is now complete. A procurement process is underway to find a commercial partner to make the parish and non conformist registers accessible on line through a subscription service. It is hoped contracts will be signed in the summer with material going on line later in the year. We will keep you informed of progress.

Oswestry cemetery project

This 18 month project lead by Oswestry Town Council and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund will work on the cataloguing, conservation and digitisation of the records of Oswestry cemetery dating back to 1862. The records, which are relatively complete, are currently in poor condition and inaccessible to researchers. The project will also support volunteers who will create a photographic record of the surviving gravestones, transcribe the information on them, and research the lives of those recorded to create an online resource. The oldest stone at the cemetery will also be conserved and interpretation added to the cemetery itself. Work will start on the project this summer.

Arts Council volunteering project

Shropshire Council has been successful in a bid to the Arts Council to support development work across museums and heritage services. Shropshire Archives will be most involved in an 18 month long 'Virtual Volunteering' project which will complement the Volunteering for Shropshire's Heritage project now into its second year. The project will support volunteers who prefer to work on material at home whether for access or geographical reasons. Digital copies of archives and other heritage items will be created to support this work.

Thursday evening workshops

We have been very pleased with the response to our Thursday evening workshops which started in April. So far all the sessions have been fully booked with some very positive feedback from those taking part. If you are interested in coming along to the forthcoming sessions, which run until September, please do book a place as soon as possible. Also, if you have any suggestions for repeats or subjects for additional sessions, please let us know.



Alison Healey

Alison, our longest standing member of staff, retired at the end of March. She had worked for the service since 1968 in a number of roles including most recently as our genealogical researcher, so she has seen many changes in archives and record offices over the years. Alison was always the person we asked when faced with an enquiry or questions we thought no one else would know the answer to. Her research work and delivery of courses and training for staff has benefited so many people in Shropshire and across the world. We will all miss her helpfulness and professionalism, but hope to see her back in alternative guises, including as a member of the Friends, shortly! ■

Please send any comments on these or any other areas to:
Mary McKenzie, Team Manager, Archives, Shropshire Archives,
Castle Gates, Shrewsbury,
SY1 2AQ, tel: 01743 255350
email: mary.mckenzie@shropshire.gov.uk
website: www.shropshirearchives.org.uk



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