

Diary Dates



Salopian Recorder

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

Saturday 27 October 2012

Ruling and Dividing

Old Oswestry Landscape and Archaeology Project, sixth annual seminar.
10.15am - 3.45pm at the Marches School and Technology College, Morda Rd., Oswestry, SY11 2AR. Tickets £10.00, to include morning and afternoon tea/coffee and a sandwich lunch.

Wednesday 14 November 2012

Shropshire Soldiers who fought for Parliament, 1642-1660

Friends of Shropshire Archives' annual lecture

A talk by Prof. Malcolm Wanklyn, Emeritus Professor of Regional History at the University of Wolverhampton, focusing on the supporters of Parliament during the Civil War.
7.30pm at Shropshire Archives.
Tickets in advance only - see leaflet for details.

Attention all Friends!

We would like to collect more email addresses to keep you up to date with news and events as they happen. If you would like to be contacted in this way, please send your email address to Pat Kiernan at patk1@blueyonder.co.uk

Monday 19 November 2012

Archive Conservation: who cares – why bother?

A talk and demonstration. Tutor: Andrew Davidson.
2pm - 4pm at Shropshire Archives.
Cost: £7.50

Monday afternoons, 4, 11, 18, 25 February 2013

Historic Gardens of Shropshire

This course will explore four key periods in the history and development of gardens, with particular reference to gardens in Shropshire. Tutor: Fiona Grant.
2pm - 4pm at Shropshire Archives.
Cost: £32.00

Saturday 20 April 2013

Ken Jones Local History Day

A day to celebrate the life and studies of Ken Jones, a local historian of Ironbridge and its environs, collector of oral memories, railway enthusiast and volunteer.
10am - 4.15pm at the Glass Classroom, Coalbrookdale, Telford, TF8 7DQ.
Tickets in advance only - see leaflet for details.

Medieval Books

Our cover photograph, by Frances Frith, shows St. Cuthbert's Church, Donington.

St. Cuthbert's was one of the many churches which were altered as part of the Laudian reforms during the seventeenth century. This programme of beautification is the subject of one of our articles in this issue.

Inside this issue

Beautifying Shropshire's Churches

Page 2

Sparrow Clubs

Page 6

Paving the streets of Shrewsbury

Page 8

News Extra...

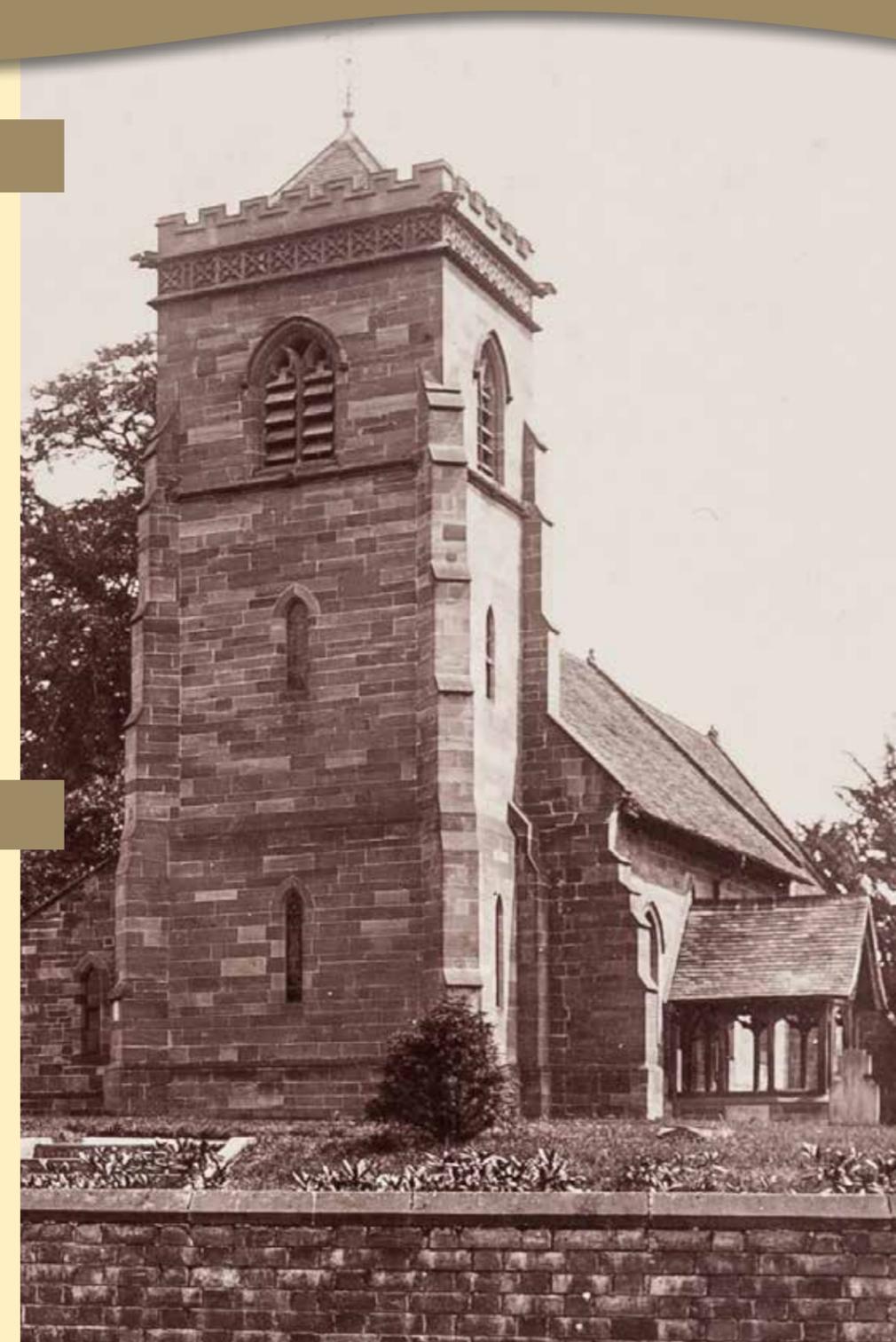
Do you have any stories to tell about Shropshire's history, or any news about Shropshire Archives? If so, the editor is waiting to hear from you now. The contact details are below and photographs are always welcome.

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 November 2012.

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.

Contact... For further details or to pass on your comments, please contact:
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Email: archives@shropshire.gov.uk • Website: www.shropshirearchives.org.uk





St. Michael and All Angels, Lilleshall (1787). Shropshire Archives, 6001/372/1

Beautifying Shropshire's Churches

During the year of their office, 1634/5, John Smith and John Johns, the churchwardens of Donington, near Albrighton, oversaw the restoration of their parish church, St. Cuthbert's. Their accounts record that in rebuilding the nave, repairing the bell house and porch, in plastering, glazing and ironwork, the wardens expended most of the £85 (an exceptionally large sum) they had received that year from parish rates and donations¹. Similar works today would cost tens of thousands of pounds, and this prodigious expenditure by the parishioners of an unremarkable rural community in mid-1630s Shropshire may be seen in the context of the reforms promoted by King Charles I from 1629 to 1640 - the years of his 'personal rule' without parliaments - to reinvigorate the Church of England. In concert with William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1633, and with the, albeit often equivocal, commitment of his episcopate, the king fostered a form of high church Anglicanism which prescribed renewed emphasis on the observance of the ceremonial, liturgical and sacramental aspects of public worship, to which conformity by clergy and laity alike was expected.

To its adherents, a central tenet of this 'Laudian style' was the inherent holiness of the church fabric; 'for this is the house of God, and this is the gate of Heaven', as one clergyman wrote in 1636.² Court sermons exalted the sanctity of churches. In 1633 one declared 'the great estimation which God hath of these houses', another, preached before the king in 1634, described churches as places 'God doth inhabit and possess... as his proper mansion or dwelling house'.³ In 1629 King Charles had issued a proclamation 'for preventing the decay of churches and chapels', yet in 1635 a Suffolk minister alluded to the perceived decay of the church estate throughout the realm when he wrote 'is it not a shame for us to see the houses of knights and gentlemen sweeter kept, and better adorned than the houses of the King of Heaven?'⁴ Two years later, with the king patronizing a national appeal to raise funds for the repair of St. Paul's Cathedral, Sir Marmaduke Lloyd, a judge who sat at the Council in the Marches at Ludlow, doubted 'there be but few ready to build, or repair churches'.⁵

To suggest that the generality of Shropshire's churches were dilapidated at the commencement of Charles's reign in 1625 may be misleading; repairs to windows, masonry and paving at St Cuthbert's, Clungunford, in 1616/7, and the more than £6 spent on maintenance at Kenley in 1623/4, for example, demonstrate that Jacobean churches were often well maintained. Nonetheless, as churchwardens' accounts show, the Caroline rebuilding at Donington

was far from unique. At Chetton, the tower was extensively repaired in 1632/3 and the bell house renewed in 1639/40; the roof at Conover was rebuilt during 1632-5, and similar work at Tong in 1636/7 required more than 2,900 shingles, with over £8 paid there to the carpenter representing some 140 days' wages for such a skilled craftsman. Structural work was ongoing at St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, and St. Alkmund's, Whitchurch, from 1634-40. Restoration at Clunbury in the early 1630s included a new porch and a bell frame to accommodate a peal cast on site. Whilst the surviving churchwardens' accounts, preserved at Shropshire Archives, represent just 10% of the county's 170 parishes of the 1630s, this remnant provides compelling evidence of consistent expenditure on church reparation during that decade, suggesting that for many parish churches, both urban and rural, this work was not only necessary and long overdue, but was inspired and instigated under the aura of Laudian reform.

In overseeing these parochial building projects the churchwardens acted as fundraisers, site managers and accountants. Warden Thomas Cheese claimed 14 shillings for '4 weeks attending on the work' at Chetton in 1632/3, and Richard Rowley and John Bache supervised roofers, masons, glaziers and plasterers at Worfield during 1636/7. The wardens reported on their progress, or otherwise, by regularly attending the diocesan inspections, or 'visitations', made by the bishops and archdeacons of Hereford, or Coventry & Lichfield, depending in which see their parish lay. At these meetings the churchwardens gave their 'presentments', written answers to questions concerning all matters of Church conformity set



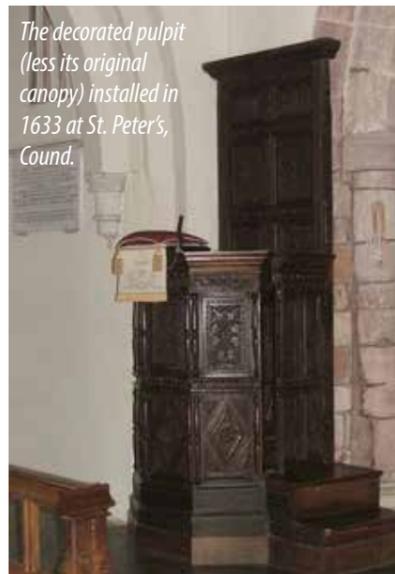
St. Cuthbert's, Donington (1791). Shropshire Archives, 6001/372/3

down in the Books of Articles issued by the bishops; in 1639, the fifth of 80 articles 'to be inquired' of the churchwardens in the Archdeaconry of Salop, within the Hereford Diocese, was: 'is your church, chancel or chapel decent and comely kept within as without, well tyled, well glazed, well paved?'

Expenditure on glazing and paving was certainly widespread, 43 feet of 'new glass' being fitted at Shrewsbury Holy Cross in 1634/5, whilst at Kenley, in June 1637, the wardens, 'with the consent of the most part of the parish', levied a rate to finance repaving the church. With the structural work complete, the interior - and probably at some churches the exterior also - was lime plastered and whitened to emphasise the purity of the building. St. Mary's and St. Bartholomew's, Tong, was plastered using the 'best lyme' in 1635/6 and at Lilleshall in 1635, '3 strikes [48 gallons, dry measure] of lyme for the church' was purchased. At Uffington, in 1634, 36 shillings was disbursed 'for painting the church', and two years later



St. John the Baptist's, Kenley (1786). Shropshire Archives, Ref. 6001/372/1



The decorated pulpit (less its original canopy) installed in 1633 at St. Peter's, Cound.

at Donington, 'painting the church and whitening the walls' cost £2. Frequent, similar references to painting - as distinct from simple whitening - suggest that the interiors of many Shropshire churches were now decorated in a fashion not seen since the Reformation. In 1635 the puritan-leaning Sir William Brereton found St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, 'of late gaudily painted, wherein you may find many, idle, ridiculous, vain and absurd pictures, representations and stories', and other churches in the county town were similarly decorated.⁶ At St. Mary's, in 1634/5, the arches and pillars were coloured and scriptures painted on the walls, whilst at the Church of the Holy Cross in 1636/7 the painter received almost £12 for 'adorning and beautifying the church'.

Expenditure on fittings focused on pulpits - new at Chirbury, Clunbury, Cound, Kenley and Worfield, heightened at Chetton, and refurbished at Lydbury North - and, more controversially, on altar rails: timber balustrades enclosing the communion table. Historians have identified this 'railing in' of previously open communion tables, and

the receiving of the Eucharist at the rails, as one of the more divisive reforms of the Caroline Church, an innovation too far for many churchgoers - not just non-conformist puritans - who perceived in it an emulation of the despised ritual of Roman Catholicism. Other scholars, however, have interpreted the altar rail 'policy' more prosaically, as reflecting worldly concerns to protect the sanctity of the communion table from such profanities as urinating dogs (wandering canines being frequent, unwelcome visitors to the churches of early Stuart England, the churchwardens of St. Lawrence's, Ludlow, were not alone in employing caretakers such as John Hoyland, whose duties in 1636/7 included 'whipping dogs'). Evidence from churchwardens' accounts in both diocese suggests that altar rails were installed or repaired in the majority of Shropshire churches, including at Cound and Uffington in 1634, Lilleshall, Ludlow, Tong and Worfield in 1635/6, and Shawbury in 1640. At Whitchurch - where Laudian refurbishment in the county appears to have achieved its acme - the decorative scheme for St. Alkmund's in 1634/5 included painting the new rails.

Sources

1. Shropshire Archives, **P94/B/1/1**.
2. *Concerning Public Prayer and the Fasts of the Church...* (1636), p. 23.
3. *The Honour of Christian Churches...* (1633), p. 9; *A Sermon Preached before the King at Whitehall...* (1634), pp. 21-2.
4. *Five Pious and Learned Discourses* (1635), p. 12.
5. Huntington Library, EL 7412.
6. *Travels...* by Sir William Brereton, Bart (1864), p. 186.
7. Churchwardens' account books cited (Shropshire Archives parish refs.): **P59; P62; P75; P76; P81; P83; P161; P176; P177; P250; P256; P257; P281; P303; P314**. Also: **SRO 2310/1**, Kenley; *Shropshire Transactions* (1900), Uffington.

Dutiful churchwardens maintained the sanctity of their church and also its precinct, the churchyard. Widespread payments for gravel, walling, paling and gates indicate concern for the appearance, boundaries, and entrances of churchyards as sacrosanct holy spaces. At Whitchurch, the wardens paid 'to clear and dress the grounds' in 1634/5, and funded a new Lych gate the following year. At Shawbury, a new Lych gate and porch were erected and the churchyard was landscaped in 1636. Exceptionally, a cross - a familiar sight in pre-Reformation churchyards - was set up at Cound in 1638.

Much care and expenditure was devoted to the purchase and maintenance of bells. In excess of £12 was spent on bells and supporting timberwork at St. Julian's, Shrewsbury in 1638/9, and a peal was cast at Chetton in 1639/40. A new chime loft was installed at Whitchurch in 1640. Clear and distinct in the quiet pre-industrial landscape, the peal of these bells would have been a resonant symbol of Shropshire's newly beautified churches.⁷

Jonathan Worton



Juckles Ironmonger, 3 Mardol, Shrewsbury. Ref. PH/S/13/M/6

Volunteering Project Progress

Volunteers who have joined us as part of *Volunteering for Shropshire's Heritage* have made tremendous progress in the cataloguing of archive collections. This has been particularly evident with our photograph collection.

As regular users of the archives may be aware, we have a large photograph collection made up of images from various photographers and sources which are arranged by place and date from the 1860s to the present day. None of these photographs had been catalogued and we could only guess how many images we had. A few years ago a small group of volunteers started

the Herculean task of listing and describing the estimated 45,000 pictures. Their numbers have been boosted with about an additional 20 volunteers per week. Most of the county has now been catalogued and will probably be finished within the next few months. To mark this achievement we show a selection of the photographs here.

The work however, is not over. We now aim to digitise 23,000 of these images; thumbnails of these can then be linked to our online catalogue. Volunteers will now be trained in digital photography and editing to help us with this next phase of the project.



Claremont Street, Shrewsbury. Ref. PH/S/13/C/18



Clee Hill quarry. Ref. PH/C/21



Canal aqueduct near Buttery, Lilleshall. Shropshire Archives Ref. PH/S/14/3

Sparrow Clubs

In 1908 the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries was so concerned about the losses of grain due to house sparrows that they issued a leaflet urging the formation of clubs devoted to their destruction¹. How Shropshire reacted to this initiative is not known at present but these concerns were repeated during the 1914-18 War, at which time it was estimated that the minimum annual loss to Shropshire farmers was £55,822². In 1933 the concern was repeated, this time by the Salop County Council who wrote to all the parish councils about the great amount of damage done to crops by sparrows and urging them to initiate the formation of sparrow clubs suggesting that all those suffering the depredations should '*subscribe a definite sum in proportion to the amount of damage they are likely to suffer*'³.

The minutes of 28 parish councils have survived for 1933, which reveal that 19 parish councils either did not discuss the county council's letter or if they did, decided to '*let it lie on the table*'. Clive Parish Council failed to see it was a matter for them and suggested it should be referred to the Farmers' Union. Worfield Parish Council felt the matter of some importance and agreed to write a piece for the parish magazine urging the formation of a sparrow club. Cheswardine Parish Council wrote to the county council asking what had been done in other parish councils but no reply was minuted. They appear to have formed a club but no mention was made of the numbers caught or costs involved or how the money to pay for the sparrows was raised.

Wem Parish Council also appear to have set up a sparrow club and its formation came to the notice of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds who wrote to the council expressing their concern. Firstly

that boys should not be encouraged to steal birds' eggs or '*to take fledglings from their nests and destroy them in any ugly fashion they like*' as it encouraged them to be cruel, quoting John Ruskin, that '*He who is not actively kind is cruel*'. Secondly that, while the house sparrow was the only small bird against which a charge could be made, it was often the case that hedge sparrows and even warblers, both of which were beneficial to the farmer, were indiscriminately killed and rewarded.⁴ Examination of the Wem Parish Council minutes for the years 1933 to 35 failed to find any payments made for sparrows⁵. It is not clear therefore if Wem did form a sparrow club in 1933. Possibly they took heed of the concerns of the RSPB or there were insufficient farmers prepared to subscribe to such a scheme.

Walkers, a Shrewsbury printer, produced a poster advertising the rewards for the destruction of house sparrows, namely, 4d for the heads of a dozen sparrows; 2d for a dozen fledglings and 1d for a dozen eggs.⁶ At the head of the poster a space was left for the name of the parish to be inserted so it would appear that the printers, perhaps at the behest of the county council, were expecting that many parish councils would be forming sparrow clubs.

In some parts of the country sparrows were eaten, though this does not appear to be a Shropshire custom, possibly the belief that that sparrows were an aphrodisiac had not reached Shropshire⁷.

I am currently researching the destruction of sparrows in Shropshire from the 18th century onwards and I will be most grateful to receive any information on sparrow clubs or of local farming clubs that encouraged sparrow culls.

ralph.collingwood@gmail.com or 01952 505593

References

1. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, Leaflet 84 'The House Sparrow', 1908
2. County of Salop War Agricultural Committee, Shropshire Archives SC1/1A1/1-6
3. Salop County Council Minute Book for 1933-4, Shropshire Archives SC1/1A1/54, p.44.
4. Shropshire Archives CP325/6/19/2 & 4
5. Shropshire Archives CR325/3/6/16,18,20,22.
6. Shropshire Archives CP325/6/19/3.
7. The secret life of sparrows, The Independent, 2nd August 2006.

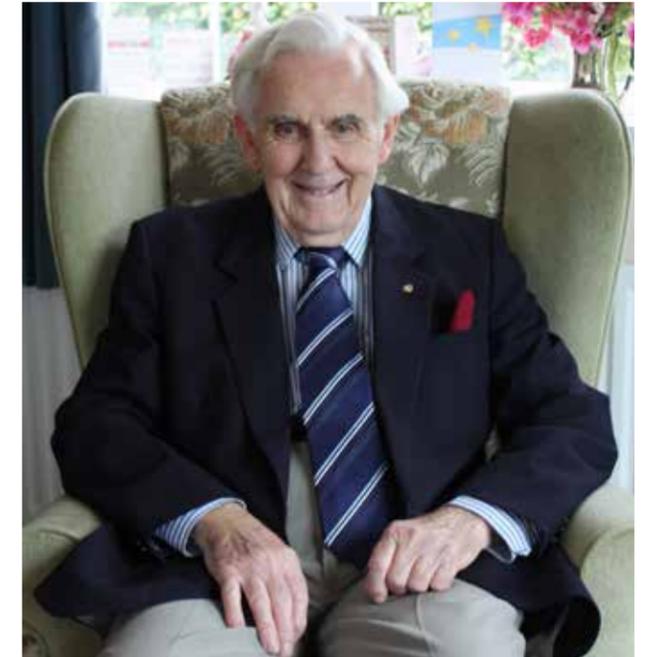
From the Chairman

Our past year has seen ups and downs but, looking back, the positives outweigh the negatives. In no small measure is this due to the fortitude, determination and good humour of the staff of the Archives who have had changes to their situation set to try a saint and we are grateful to Mary and her team for finding a way through the upheaval and keeping the Archives progressing and running smoothly.

The Drapers' Day in October, held jointly with the Drapers' Company, was very well attended in St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury and was enhanced by guided walks around the town pointing out buildings with Drapers' connections. The Annual Lecture, by Dr Brian Davies, gave us a detailed and scholarly look at medieval books and how they were made. Our Church Stretton Day in March was held in glorious sunshine and one of the best days of the year which enhanced the guided walks round the town. Excellent speakers took us from pre-Cambrian times to the age of the railways.

Over the year the Volunteering Project has been funded by the Heritage Lottery, to which £4,000 is contributed by the Friends. An archive co-ordinator, Alison Mussell, has been appointed and a project manager in the person of John Benson. Work is now well underway in cataloguing and digitising documents and photographs. Recruitment was, apparently, helped by a piece the BBC Midlands Today programme ran about the project in which John, Mary and I were interviewed. Somewhat nerve-wracking, from my point of view, for eight seconds of fame!

A number of opportunities have risen to develop partnerships with other Friends groups. Tim Greenhous and I joined Mary in Hereford for a meeting of Friends of Archives and archivists where problems were aired and approaches to them suggested. Our magazine, the Salopian Recorder, was much admired! We have talked about links with Friends of Shrewsbury Museums and a link has also been made with Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums of which more below. And a special mention must be made of the Friends of Much Wenlock Museum as our hosts for the AGM and our guide round the town later. Thanks to them.



Ken Jones, a local historian and collector of audio memories

A word about two future events for the coming year. On 29 September the biannual Discovering Shropshire Day will be held in Shirehall where the Volunteering for Shropshire's Heritage will be celebrated, local history and heritage groups will be in attendance and Nigel Baker, archaeologist and author will give a talk about medieval Shrewsbury from archives and from archaeology. There will also be talks from some of the other groups taking part.

On 20 April 2013, in conjunction with the Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums, we will be holding a day celebrating the life and work of Ken Jones, a local historian and collector of audio memories of people who worked in or grew up among the industrial areas of the East Shropshire coalfield. This promises to be a popular event with some significant speakers, including Barrie Trinder, John Powell, Neil Clarke and John Lenton. A walk round Coalbrookdale will be included in the day.

Finally, it is noticeable that the number of Friends is falling and we need to get the message out that we have a role to play in the work of Shropshire Archives. Go out and spread the message and recruit anyone you can.

John Ravenscroft

Paving the streets of Shrewsbury

Thanks to the volunteer project currently underway at Shropshire Archives, a small group of volunteers is spending time on checking and expanding the listing of Shrewsbury borough documents. The borough archives, which had accumulated since the 13th century, were sorted and listed by a committee in the 1890s, a mammoth task as there are many hundreds of documents.¹ However, many of the entries in the listings are very brief, just saying, for example, 'bailiffs' accounts' and a date.

In the mid 13th century Shrewsbury was governed by two of the leading burgesses of the town who were elected to be bailiffs for a year, beginning on the first Sunday after the feast of St Giles (1 September). Many account rolls recording the income and expenditure of the bailiffs survive. Some of these accounts, however, are not general accounts but were the record of the bailiffs' weekly receipts of 'murage' and what they spent the money on in that week. 'Murage' was a toll which the king granted to a town authorising it to collect money to be spent on the walls (from the Latin word for wall, 'murus'). Shrewsbury had some defences from an early date, but these were obviously inadequate as in 1215 Llewellyn the Great, Prince of Wales, managed to enter the town from Abbey Foregate. Henry III ordered Shrewsbury to strengthen its defences and in 1220 granted it the right to collect murage to enable it to do so. The walls are thought to have been complete by about 1242, when Henry III ordered the bailiffs to give 200 cartloads of surplus stone to the

Dominican friars who were constructing buildings near St Mary's Water Lane. However, murage continued to be collected until the late 15th century. Some of the money was spent on repairing the walls and gates and building extra towers, but some was diverted to general expenditure and much in the 1260s and 1270s was used to finance the paving of the main streets of Shrewsbury.

The bailiffs' accounts of their collection and expenditure of murage in the 13th century begin in 1256, and despite their great age are for the most part in excellent condition; the parchment on which they are written has lasted amazingly well. A simple list of items of expenditure does not sound very interesting or informative, but in fact it can be surprisingly revealing.

The accounts for 1264-5 show that the murage was collected weekly at the three gates of the town, called at the time the Gate below the Castle, the Gate towards the Abbey and the Gate of St George. The Gate towards the Abbey would have been near the present English Bridge and the Gate of St George a little way from the site of the Welsh Bridge at the end of Mardol. The Gate below the Castle was near the Gateway education centre where a bridge crossed a small stream (which still runs below the Gateway) close to its junction with the river Severn. This gate would have stopped people entering Shrewsbury from the north. The money collected at these three gates was handed over to the bailiffs every Sunday (in the 14th century on Mondays). The sum varied from week to week, but usually amounted to between four and ten shillings from the Gate below the Castle and the Gate towards the Abbey, but consistently less from St George's Gate. The keeper at each gate was paid 9d a week for the work of collecting the money.²

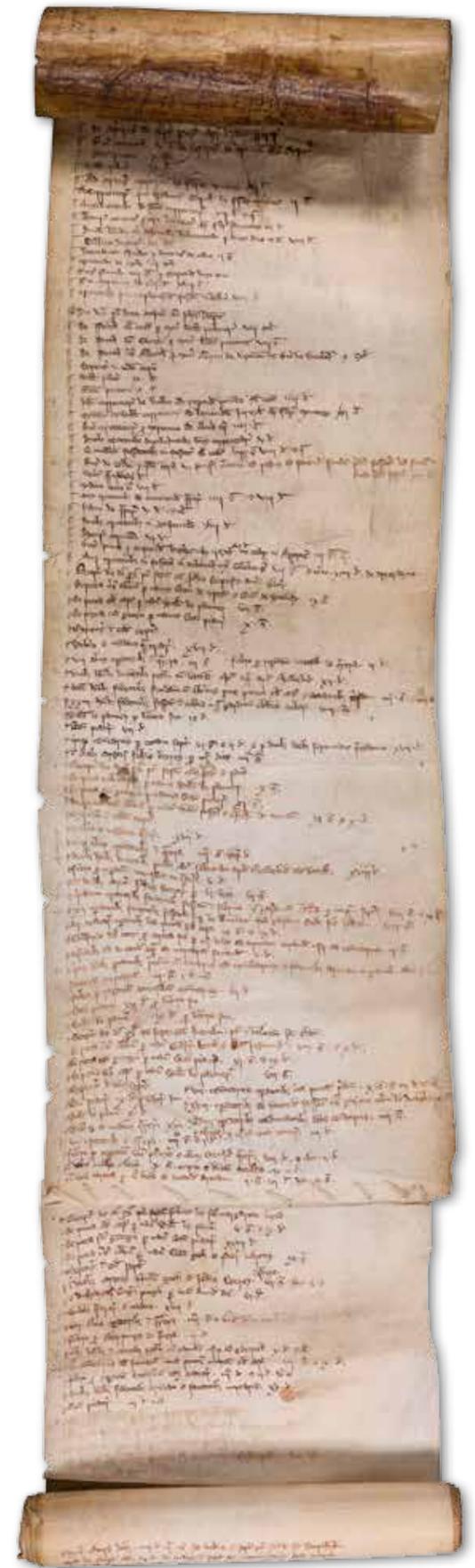
The bailiff's expenditure of this money during the 1260s and 1270s show that they were spending most of the murage money on materials and labour for laying paving on the streets of the town. There were regular payments to men working at the quarry digging and splitting stone. It is clear from the accounts that the quarry used was at Downton Cliff below Haughmond Hill. The stone is a very hard pre-Cambrian sandstone, sometimes brown and sometimes of a purplish colour. The stone was split into rough slabs which were fitted together rather like crazy paving. Shrewsbury was exceptionally fortunate in having such stone close to the town as it is known today as one of the best road stones in the country, being very hardwearing and non-slip even when wet.

One Walter Madoc seems to have been the overseer at the quarry and was paid 17d a week, with six other quarrymen receiving 27d between them. A smith was paid 3½d a week for the repair of the quarrymen's tools and the tools of the masons working in the town and for 'sharpening' them. (The clerk who compiled the accounts does not seem to have known a Latin word for sharpening.)

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Once quarried, regular payments show that four carters were employed to take the stone from the quarry to Uffington, a small village about a mile away on the river Severn. Further regular payments to boatmen show that the stone was then taken upstream to the town. William Senet appears to have owned the boat and was paid 13d for its use. Six men took the boat up to Shrewsbury and were paid 4s 6d a week between them. Sometimes a boat specifically named as a barge of Tewkesbury was used. Revd C. Drinkwater said that the men rowed the boat, but the wording used in the documents implies that they hauled it. It seems that they took two or three days to cover the distance of about four miles. In 1269 it was recorded that the same type of pre-Cambrian stone was also gained from a quarry at Bayston Hill, but this quarry was used for only a short time, probably because of problems of transport as there was no access to the river.

Once in Shrewsbury the stone was unloaded at various places depending where it was needed, sometimes at St Mary's Water Lane, known at the time as Frerelode, or sometimes Chadlode which was near the present Crescent Lane. (According to Margaret Gelling, a 'lode' was a lane leading to the river Severn.³) At the riverside the stone was loaded on to carts for transport into the town. In November 1264 William the Burgess was paid 18d for three days work unloading and transporting stone from a wharf below Meadow Place named the Garewald after a tower nearby. The Garewald tower stood on a spur of the main circuit of the walls running from



Shrewsbury Borough Bailiffs' Accounts, Shropshire Archives Ref. 3365/310

Castle Gate and then along the Severn. Nigel Baker speculates that there may have been a wall here before the defences of the early 13th century were built, particularly as Margaret Gelling points out that Garewald was an English name. The Garewald was known as a 'castellum' which seems to imply something more substantial than a mural tower.⁴ In February 1270 stone was unloaded at the postern gate of St Romald near the present Barker Street.⁵

Payments to men to clear the streets of dung and other refuse in preparation for the masons to begin setting the stones suggests that before the work of paving the streets of Shrewsbury must have been in a deplorable state. The earliest streets mentioned as being paved were those near the castle. It is not clear how many paviors were working at any one time, but two or three masons and two labourers assisting them seems to have been common. In 1276 John Pavier was the mason in charge and received 30d a week; his deputy Richard Bond was paid 14d a week and a varying number of labourers were paid 8½d.

Only detailed study of all the murage accounts would show when the paving of the streets was complete. In the early years of the work described here only the main streets were paved; it was many years before the minor streets received the same attention. In 1321, for example, most of the murage money was spent on various towers on the walls, but paviors were paid for working at the gates of

Murivance and Shoplatch, perhaps indicating that the next phase of the work concentrated on the gates where wear would inevitably be the heaviest.⁶ Those of us working on the Shrewsbury borough collection are looking forward to future discoveries.

Sylvia Watts

Notes

1. Revd W.D.G. Fletcher, *The municipal records of Shrewsbury*. TSAS, 2nd series, vol.10, 1998.
2. This article is based on the 1264/5 accounts **SA 3365/310**, the 1269/70 accounts in Revd C. Drinkwater, *Shrewsbury paving and other accounts 1269-70*, TSAS, 3rd series, vol.7, 1907, and the 1276 accounts **SA 3365/316**.
3. M. Gelling, *The place-names of Shropshire, part 4*, p.6.
4. M. Gelling, *The place-names of Shropshire, part 4*, p.2-3; N. Baker, *Shrewsbury: an archaeological assessment of an English border town*, English Heritage, 2010, p.130.
5. St Romald's claim to fame is that he was able to speak at the time of his birth and died only three days later but not before he had given instructions for his baptism.
6. **SA 3365/330**.

Recent accessions

- Parish registers for Abdon, Diddlebury, Tugford, Farlow, Cleeton St Mary, Shelton and Oxon, Silvington, Holdgate, Hopesay, Barrow, Benthall, Broseley, Jackfield, Linley, Worfield, All Stretton, Westbury
- Parish records of Abdon, Diddlebury, Holdgate and Shrewsbury St. Alkmund
- Parish Council records for Shawbury, Middleton and Broughton, Acton Burnell and Ruyton XI Towns
- Records of Shrewsbury Unitarian Church **1927-2005 (8458, 8464)**
- High Walton Farm, Bromfield - papers **1860s-1970s (8478)**
- DB Roberts and Partners – records and plans **1960s-1990s (8479)**
- Shelve poor rate books **1879-1923 (8489)**
- Wenlock Abbey estate book **1935-1943 (8499)**
- Fletcher Homes, company records re Shrewsbury and Wellington **1935-1994 (8527)**

News from Shropshire Archives

Local/Community History Centres

The openings of the refurbished Much Wenlock Museum and the new Wellington library this year both included local copy resources from Shropshire Archives relating to these areas as part of local and community history centres.

Funding has also now been received to develop copy local history resources for the Stiperstones area during 2012, as part of the Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership scheme, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The final location for this centre is yet to be determined – it may be on the top of the Stiperstones! We will let you know when this is decided. As part of the local history centre developments, you can also now search over 3,000 photographs of these areas via our online catalogue at www.shropshirehistory.org.uk.

Fordhall Farm Heritage project

Fordhall Farm near Market Drayton is the country's first community-owned farm, one of England's oldest organically-managed farms, and the country's first commercial yoghurt producer. The Fordhall Farm Heritage project, backed by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, will piece together the story of Arthur Hollins, the man who pioneered organic farming in England who died in 2006.

Shropshire Archives will be working on the conservation and cataloguing of the farm's surviving archive collection, dating from the 1940s. This work will start later in 2012 and will result in an online catalogue detailing the range of the farm's activities.

The project will also train teams of volunteers to record the memories of those who worked on the farm over many years, to research and collate material charting the farm's progress and to produce web-pages, a souvenir booklet, and displays. For further information contact the farm email project@fordhallfarm.com or tel 01630 638696.

Mary McKenzie

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
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website: www.shropshirearchives.org.uk



Stock taking Week

Shropshire Archives will be closed for annual stock taking from **Monday 3 December to Tuesday 11 December** inclusive. This is to allow us to work on essential behind the scenes tasks which cannot be done while we are open to the public. We will reopen at 10am on **Wednesday 12 December 2012**.

Christmas closure

Saturday 22 December - **open 10am-4pm**
Sunday 23 December to Tuesday 1 January - **closed**
Wednesday 2 January - **open 10am-5pm**

A selection of new books in the local studies library

- Green, Robert **A Thorn in their Side: The Hilda Murrell Murder**
- Mere Ambles members **Walks in and around Ellesmere**
- Watts, S ed. **Visitation records of Joseph Lymley Part 1 - Shropshire Record Series Vol 11**
- Watts, S ed. **Visitation records of Joseph Lymley Part 2 - Shropshire Record Series Vol 12**
- Sisson, Mark **Wild Shropshire (photographic book published in association with Shropshire Wildlife Trust)**
- Rhodes, Neil **Trains on the border: the railways of Llanymynech and Pant**
- Christensen, Mike **Shropshire and Montgomeryshire Light Railway under military control 1940-1960**