

South
West
Shropshire
Historical and
Archaeological
Society Journal



No 17

Summer 2006

Published by
South West Shropshire
Historical and Archaeological Society
2006

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Typeset and Printed at Enterprise House, Bishop's Castle

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Editorial

Contributions to Journal 17 have produced a common theme – People and Places.

I am indebted to Stephen Meyer for agreeing to posthumous publication of the work of Diane Jacks on the Shropshire dialect. A lifetime of Change: Part 2 Place Names. (Part 1: Language, was published in Journal 16, 2005). The article by James Lawson (with introduction and commentary by John Smyth and David Preshous) on the work of Philip Barker has provided another most welcome profile of a Shropshire personality connected with archaeology (see Journal 12, 2001 Jean Withers article on Lily Chitty: Her life and legacy). My thanks go to Chris Train for contributing an intriguing article of detection concerning family morals, crime and punishment in seventeenth century Bishop's Castle.

In October 2005 Liz Gardner gave a talk to the SWSHAS membership on research sources for family history. To date no articles on family history have been published in the Journal and I am grateful to Malcolm Redgrave for sharing some of his own family history researches. Whilst this article does not deal with family connections in South-West Shropshire, it does touch on universal family problems of survival in the eighteenth century. I hope that this will encourage members researching their own Shropshire families to make a contribution to the Journal. My appreciation goes to Mike Wise and John Smyth for their interesting and thought provoking reviews of two excellent books published in 2005. An update on the important work carried out by the SWSHAS Research Group has been contributed by Marion Roberts. This edition includes a report from Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre and a retrospective dip into Journal 1 1989 which I hope readers will find interesting. Journal 17 also covers news of Society events and activities.

Finally, my thanks to John Smyth for his generous advice; to Janet Preshous for proof-reading the final draft and to Sarah Ellison for producing Journal 17 in its completed form.

Patricia Theobald

From the Chairman

The Society has enjoyed - the word is used advisedly - another good year. Membership stands at 177. The Main Hall of the Community College has been well filled for all our lectures – indeed for the Rutherford lecture, given by Madge Moran, it was full to the point of bursting. Our planned outings are oversubscribed. The Research Group meets regularly and effectively (a fuller report of its work is to be found elsewhere). The Michaelmas Fair Exhibition – *Pride of Place – Bishop’s Castle Market Town* attracted a record number of appreciative visitors. The Society has participated in a number of history days elsewhere in the county, earning compliments at each of them for the variety and interest of its work. And the SWSHAS Exhibition Project, supported by the Local Heritage Initiative Grant, moves towards a successful conclusion this summer. If all this was not enough, another varied programme of lectures, events and outings is planned for the coming season.

For all this we have to thank the support, the enthusiasm and interest of our members, the good sense of our Committee, and the competence of our Secretary, Joye Minshall, of our Treasurer, Nick Downes, and of our Membership Secretary, Kent Tomey. The success of our exhibitions derives from the unfailing energy and imagination of Janet and David Preshous and from the willingness of Patricia Theobald to present our wares to a wider audience.

Last year’s Journal, Number 16, was Patricia’s first as editor. Looking back at previous editions since I took over as chairman five years ago and beyond that, I have been struck by the quality of the contributions to the Journal in terms of their historical content, their variety, their relevance to the history of this district and their presentation. It seems to me a body of work of which the Society can be justly proud. John Smyth, to whose editorship we paid due tribute last year, must take the credit for that. But the transition between editions 15, his last, and 16, Patricia’s first was seamless.

During the year, faced by the problems which an excess of potential articles for the Journal had caused our new editor, the Committee considered whether any changes in size or format were desirable. But, in light of the circumstances which I have outlined in my previous paragraph and working on the well established management principle that one should not mend things which are not broken, they decided against change. I hope that our readers will agree with this decision, since I feel sure that they will find this edition well up to the standard of its predecessors.

Chris Train

SWSHAS Events: September 2005 - June 2006.

Sept. 2005: The tenth annual SWSHAS Exhibition at Bishop's Castle Michaelmas Fair attracted over 600 visitors. It featured pictures of the present-day shops and businesses in Bishop's Castle, together with their owners, mirroring the SWSHAS collection of old photographs of Bishop's Castle premises from the 1900s to the 1950s. A continuous slide-show and albums of photographs, bills, letterheads and advertisements demonstrated the importance of the town as a market and trade centre, and its proud civic status. The displays attracted a great deal of interest, particularly from shopkeepers, and much additional information was received.

Oct. 2005: Liz Gardner, of Shropshire Archives, gave a most lively talk on the ways of tracing ***Families and Friends in War-time***, through Imperial War Museum records, medals and family memoirs, stressing the need for commonsense and a knowledge of contemporary history as well as painstaking research. A case-history from her own family records brought the advice to life.

Nov. 2005: At the AGM the Chairman reported another successful year and congratulated Patricia Theobald, new editor of the Journal, on the 2005 issue. He warmly thanked Alan Hurley and Caroline Earwood, retiring from the committee, and commended the work of the Lydbury North Field Group. Seven members of ***Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre*** had mounted an interesting display, and Bernard Edwards, Sue Mascord, and Sally Chappell gave a presentation on the history, facilities and a selection of the diverse collections held by the Museum and the Resource Centre: ***History, Heritage and Hatpins***: They were presented with the first two collections to be documented and deposited on behalf of SWSHAS - photos from the late Miss Molly Puckle, and the late Emmanuel Beddoes.

Dec. 2005: Chris Train gave his Chairman's Lecture on '***Blue Remembered Hills - A Walk Through Housman's Shropshire***', skilfully blending readings of the poetry, fine slide illustrations, and a scholarly presentation. He used references in the poems to develop fascinating insights into the Shropshire of Housman's day including executions at Shrewsbury Gaol, plans for a railway linking Presteigne, Clun and Bishop's Castle, and clog-making in the Clun Valley. The large and appreciative audience enjoyed seasonal refreshments after the lecture.

Jan. 2006: Hugh Hannaford, Community Archaeologist for Shropshire had a most attentive audience of over 100 for his illustrated talk on '***The Stiperstones Archaeological Survey***' carried out in 2003/4 after forestry clearing. This

established (with help of global positioning system equipment) the locations of many previously unknown Bronze Age cairns and barrows and 'stone rows'. Castle Ring Iron Age hill-fort has been examined as well as many lead and barytes mining sites, and 'squatter' settlements. It was exciting to know that further ancient sites and trackways may still remain to be discovered so near at hand.

Feb. 2006: Over 100 members and visitors welcomed Roger Edmundson, well-known authority on Shropshire pottery and porcelain to talk on '***Coalport and Caughley Porcelain Manufacturing in Shropshire, 1775-1920***'. He gave a beautifully illustrated lecture on the development of the two potteries in the mineral-rich Ironbridge Gorge. He had brought many examples from his own collection to show the various styles and methods of decoration, and he identified pieces brought by the most enthusiastic audience.

March 2006: Toby Driver of the RCAHMW Aerial Survey for Wales, delighted a large audience with an expert powerpoint presentation on '***The Archaeology and Landscape of the Welsh Borderlands from the Air***'. He demonstrated the techniques and equipment used in the survey, the detailed use of maps, and the ways in which new technology helps the archaeologist to focus on tiny details of landscape. It was most exciting to see familiar sites such as Dolforwyn Castle, Montgomery and Bishop's Castle itself from the air, with close-ups of special features, and some fascinating views taken in snow, highlighting the archaeological features.

April 2006: 130 people welcomed back Madge Moran, author of the definitive book on Shropshire Vernacular Architecture to present the **Sixth Ritherdon Lecture, 'How Old Is Your House?'** She described the break-through of Dendrochronology dating which had enabled her small team to date 210 houses in the county and identify a further 160 sites. She illustrated her lecture with drawings and photographs of houses dating from 1247; important Halls such as Plowden and Longnor, as well as unremarkable street houses and small cottages whose interiors and roof-spaces had revealed cruck-beams and ancient timber-work. Finally Mrs. Moran challenged the Society to raise the money to help her pay for the 'dendro-dating' of what is possibly Bishop's Castle's original market -hall on the site of the Railway Museum.

June 2006: The Society's Summer Outing. Some forty members of the Society, led by David Preshous and Chris Train, visited North Shropshire - Haughmond Abbey, Moreton Corbet Castle and the adjacent Church of St Bartholomew, and finally the splendid church at Tong. Members enjoyed a leisurely picnic in the beautiful gardens of Hodnet Hall.

Janet Preshous

A Lifetime of Change: Part 2 Place Names

This is the second part of an article written by the late Diane Jacks. Part one, which dealt with the local dialect and language, appeared in Journal 16 2005 together with notes and bibliography for both parts.

Place names are an interesting sub-set of local speech. They have long been written down, unlike the rest of local speech – in deeds and wills, on road-maps, in Acts of Enclosure, and on tithe-maps, even before the railways and universal travel came along – so there is pressure towards conservatism. An example of the effect of spelling is that the words which the Victorians pronounced “weskit” and “forred” are now said as they are written, “waistcoat” and “forehead”. Many people are aware, with pride, that there are old “dialect” words, but do not look for evidence of local speech among place-names, especially minor place-names. I will describe some of the changes I have heard since coming home in retirement.

I have always kept up my connections with the south-west corner of Shropshire, although I have worked elsewhere for most of my life. On retiring in 1999, I came back here with my husband, who grew up in Bristol. Two things happened: I started to point out “We don’t say it like that here. We say ‘Stokesay’, not **‘Stokesay’**, with at least equal, if not stronger, stress on the second syllable”. “We say ‘The Snead’, not ‘Snead’, or ‘The Squilver’, not ‘Squilver’, never mind what’s on the sign-posts”. Then we started to listen harder to the people around us, and I was usually right about what the local people said. But there are so many newcomers that the local forms are rapidly disappearing. Recently I had a conversation with an incomer who insisted that he was right to say **Welshpool** because “that’s what everyone says” and I thought, but didn’t say: “And whose mother went to school in **Welshpool** and whose grandmother used to take the dairy produce to sell in **Welshpool** market? Mine!” Some people still even say “Pool” as they did before the railways came.

Other places have the stress on the second syllable : Banks**head**; Bridgnorth; Crav’narms; Hemford; Marshbrook (written Marsh Brook on the sign at the level crossing, an indication that the builders of the railway heard two words); Newtown (Powys); Spring **Head**; Hopesay. Many of these are, or sound like, two words. Also note Chapel **Lawn** and Lydb’ri **North**. On the other hand, “Churchstoke”, where we might expect Church**stoke**, is quite clearly **Churchstoke**.

Many place-names - mostly names for small places - are preceded by “the”. Sometimes this sounds logical to a non-local speaker (as with farms and houses called The White House, The Red House, The Pines, etc) and easily survives, but often it does not and is omitted from maps, sign-posts, and increasingly from the spoken language. Examples of villages, farms and districts are: The Anchor; The

Beckjay; The Betton; The Bog; The Cabin; The Coppy (Coppice) House; The Down (but Lower Down); The Gravels; The Grit (but White Grit); The Groton; The Heblands; The Hem; The Hurst; The Lynchgate; The Mainstone; The More; The Novers; The Roveries; The Snead; The Spoad; The Squilver; The Vron; The Wintles. “The Novers” and “The Wintles” in Bishop’s Castle have recently been subjected to development, and “The Sheet” just outside Ludlow has recently been so named on a new signpost, so these forms will probably survive for a time. “The More” was new to me in the 1990s – I only found out about it when asking a local man about The Snead. He said he’d never thought about it, but that was what he said, and he said “The More” too. “The More” appeared in the Clun Forest Deanery Magazine (June 2004). “The Mainstone” was new to me in the 1980s, but heard from some local speakers, including one who was born there.

On the farms where my cousins and I grew up, almost every field-name was preceded by “The”: The Barley Field, The Barn Field, The Christian Field, The Close (one on each farm, and with the vowel pronounced in southern English roughly like that in “force”), The Cow Pasture, The Claypits, The Copies, The Criftins, The Hill Field, The Knaps, The Mangold Field, The Rocky Gate Field, The Sale Meadow, The Staplings, The Stockings, The Sycamore Field, The Tiny Meadow; The Three-Square Piece, The Twelve Acres, The Well Field, etc, are just normal field-names. We also had The Outtrack, The Ox Leasow, and The Slang (a long, narrow field).

In Shropshire we have both the Long Mynd near Church Stretton and the Long Mountain near Welshpool. The stresses are “The **Long** Mynd” and “The Long **Mountain**“. Many of the local hills are preceded by “The” as in: The Bent Hill, The Clee Hill (that is, Titterstone Clee, not The Brown Clee), The Lawley, The Stiperstones, The Wrekin. Most of these “The”s can look forward to a long life because they are authenticated by tourist maps and guides. On the other hand there are also Corndon, Todleth, Stailey Hill, Rorrington Hill. Ranges of hills elsewhere may be The Malverns, The Chilterns, The Mendips, but not usually individual hills. Rivers, here and elsewhere, all tend to have “The”.

There have been other changes: Long Meadow’s End was not “Long Meadow End” as it now is in speech and on sign-posts. We always spoke of “View’s Edge” not “View Edge” and not “Yeo Edge” in speech. “Worthen” was pronounced as though spelt “Worthin”. Ratlinghope, Diddlebury and perhaps also Edenhope and Westhope get spoken in full now, but fifty years ago were “Rat’chup”, “Delb’ry”, “Edn’up” and “West’up”. People say “Shelderton” where we said “Shellerton”. The same trend can be seen today, as the BBC carefully says “Leominster” in full for “Lemster” and authenticates the spelling pronunciation. Church Stretton was usually called “Stretton”, although an incomer recently scolded me for using only part of the name.

One of the first differences between speech and writing my husband and I noticed was “Ass’n-on-Clun” near Craven Arms, especially when compared with “Weston-super-Mare” near his home. “Priest Weston” near Chirbury had two examples of older form in “Prees Wess’n” with no “t” and “Prees” to rhyme with “fleece”, not “fleas”, and the stress on “Wess”. Salopians have long had several ways of saying “Shrewsbury”, partly depending on how smart they are – plus Salop. **Shrowzb’ri** is used by outsiders and people moving away from home. **Shrewzb’ri** is slightly less posh, **Shoozb’ri** even less so, and some people just say “Salop” to avoid trouble. All four forms were in use at home when I was a child, and I wasn’t even aware of it. For Craven Arms you might hear Crave’**narms** or Tha’**Arms**, and for Bishop’s Castle, The Cas’le. (See Note 2 on the vowel “a”). (As children we learnt to sing “tha” in a stressed position – as in “God save tha Queen”.) Montgomery is pronounced “Munt**gumri**”, not “Mont**gomeri**”. We have always said “**Wotherton**”, near Chirbury (and one of my great-grandfathers used to work in the mine there), with the first vowel pronounced more or less like that in “wool”. Only recently did I realise that it could be read differently – it doesn’t rhyme with “mother” or “bother”.

Farmers

Farmers used to be little kings, responsible for their land, their family, workers and animals, and running a business too. The farms were largely self-sufficient, and the farmers saw to transport, especially in winter when they would keep open the deeply sunken lanes in snow and ice. They even had a ready-made title. Every farmer was “of” the name of his farm or village. So there was Mr Sanders of Cookridge, Mr Hughes of Wooton, Mr Marsh of Stoke, Mr Evans of Wotherton Hall, Mr Hughes of Marton Hall. Not everyone had “of”. There was Mr Price the New House, Mr Bywater the White House, Mr Wainwright the Groton. The whole family would be Pughs of Aldon Court. The custom is still alive, and every son and daughter is titled as well, so I am told that the daughter of a cousin has just got engaged to James Evans the Dairy. In this country of Morris and Evans and Hughes, it is obviously useful.

Pubs

Pubs are often “at” a particular village, sometimes to distinguish them from a neighbour. (I use “at” because some now even write it so, but based on hearing alone it could be “o”) Thus there are The Sun a’ Clun, The Sun a’ Marton, The Cock a’ Forden and The Cock a’ Brockton. The Drum and Monkey has, in local speech, survived many years of being known as the Callow Inn on signposts. Even more intriguing is the Lowfield Brook near Marton. When my parents first knew it, the pub was “The Loaf”. Over the years the name has changed - even to The Lowerfield Book, and The Marton Pool Hotel - but now it is back to The Low Field.

One thing that is certain about language is that it changes and will keep changing. All we can do is note the changes, even over a single lifetime, and rejoice in the power of language to change and stay the same.

Diane Jacks

APPENDIX : OS Grid references for some places described in the article.

Anchor, The	SO 175852	Lynchgate, The	SO 375858
Bankshead	SO 307899	Mainstone, The	SO 277876
Beckjay, The	SO 393775	Marshbrook	SO 442899
Betton, The	SJ 691367	Marton	SJ 288026
Bog, The	SO 356979	More, The	SO 343916
Cabin, The	SO 315895	Novers, The	SO 317879
Chapel Lawn	SO 316765	Onibury	SO 456791
Chirbury	SO 261985	Priest Weston	SO 292973
Churchstoke	SO 273900	Ratlinghope	SO 402967
Clee Hill	SO 592750	Roveries, The	SO 326925
Diddlebury	SO 508854	Sheet, The	SO 531742
Down, The	SO 337 848	Shelderton	SO 406777
Edenhope	SO 275889	Snead, The	SO 315920
Gravels, The	SJ 335001	Spoad [Hill], The	SO 254808
Grit, The	SO 326982	Squilver, The	SO 372974
Heblands, The	SO 325903	Stiperstones	SO 367986
Hem, The	SJ 235002	Stokesay	SO 436818
Hemford	SJ 324003	View [Yeo] Edge	SO 425805
Hopesay	SO 390832	Vron	SO 283878
Hurst, The	SO 316806	Westhope	SO 475867
Lawley, The	SO 495975	White Grit	SO 315975
Long Meadows End	SO 410822	Wintles, The	SO 315896
Long Mountain	SJ 265058	Worthen	SJ 328047
Long Mynd	SO 415944	Wohton	SJ 282005
Lower Down	SO 337846	Wrekin, The	SJ 629081
Lydbury North	SO 352860		

The Zaccheus Boole Affair

2nd August 1628 "Whereas Zaccheus Boole, one of the inhabitants of this town, hath incestuously begotten a bastard child upon Jane Durning, his wife's sister's daughter, to the great displeasure of Almighty God and offence to the godly; and whereas also not only a great charge is like to grow in time to come upon the expense of this parish of Bishop's Castle if the said bastard be not maintained being here born; but also if the said Zaccheus hold on this wicked course of life in committing this fearful and crying sin of incest, the wrath of God is like to be kindled if it be not quickly prevented; wherefore we, the Justices of the Peace underwritten, having had due consideration of the king's majesty's laws and statutes in this case made and provided, and by reason thereof do order and decree for the maintaining of the said child and avoiding of the like offence hereafter the said Zaccheus shall enter into securities with two sufficient securities to provide at all times and from time to time hereafter for the maintenance and education of the said bastard child of his that she be not at any time chargeable upon the said parish and also separate himself henceforth from that wicked woman Jane Durning, his wife's sister's daughter, the mother of that child so that he never hereafter have any carnal knowledge with her; all which the promiser, the said Zaccheus, promised to observe and perform. To which said order we the said justices have subscribed this day above written." There are appended the initials R. S. bailiff and E. M. justice, respectively Rowland Sayce and Edward Mason.

1st September 1628 "And forasmuch as after the publishing of this order above written and made known to the said pledger, the said Zaccheus, the reputed father of the child, and the said mother upon notice given to them have not for their part observed or performed the said order but remain still and dwell together and seek not to be reconciled to the church and to be freed from excommunication but refuse to be reformed in contempt of all good government, therefore a precept be directed to the Sergeants of the Mace of this Borough to attach the said Zaccheus and the said Jane and them safely to keep in custody until they find sureties for their good abearing and to appear at the next Leete or Sessions of the Borough."

22nd day of September 1628 "Whereas Zaccheus Boole of this Town of Bishop's Castle hath incestuously begotten a bastard female child upon the body of Jane Durning being his wife's sister's daughter to the great displeasure of Almighty God and whereas also a great charge in time to come is like to grow upon the inhabitants of this town and parish if the said bastard child be not maintained being here born and baptised; whereupon the said Zaccheus Boole and Jane Durning being called before Rowland Sayce gent, Bailiff, and Edward Mason gent, justice of the peace within the said Borough, according to his majesty's laws in that case made and provided to find sureties to maintain the said child, and to save the said town and parish harmless for any charge thereby arising. Thereupon the day and year aforesaid came the said Zaccheus Boole, and Ambrose King gent and Richard Tomlins before the said



bailiff and Edward Mason justice and jointly and severally did faithfully assure and promise for themselves and only of them and only of their executors and administrators to pay to the Bailiff and burgesses of the said town of Bishop's Castle in the county of Salop the sum of forty pounds of lawful money of England, if they the said Zaccheus and the said Ambrose and Richard and their executors and assigns shall not at all times hereafter save and harmless keep the said Bailiff and burgesses and parish and inhabitants of the said borough of Bishop's Castle and parish of and from all charges, expense and indemnities which may hereafter happen to the said parishioners of Bishop's Castle or any of them by reason of the said child."

These entries are to be found in the seventeenth century Corporation minute book of the Borough of Bishop's Castle. Apart from the somewhat elevated language which is employed and the close and dubious affinity of father and mother, the particular reason they caught my eye during the study which the Society's Research Group is making of the burgesses and Borough officers of Bishop's Castle is that this is the only occasion in the eighty or so years which we have examined so far in which an incident of this kind has warranted mention in the minute book. Why should this have been so?

It is only from 1622 that it is possible at least to infer - or at best to be sure - that a particular recorded baptism in the Bishop's Castle Parish registers is of a child born out of wedlock – before then usually only the name of the father being recorded. In the twenty years until the run of the registers is broken after 1641 there were 14 certain or inferred instances of the baptism of such children; in only one case, in 1638, did the vicar record it as the baptism of a 'bastard'. The first instance, in March 1622/3, interestingly given the name of the mother, was the baptism of Thomas, son of John Price Typpyn and Ann Durning; the second, when both father and mother were named, was on 27 July 1628 when Mary, daughter of Zaccheus Boole and Jane Durning, was baptised. During the whole period there were 495 baptisms, that is to say that roughly 1 in 35 were illegitimate, or, again roughly, there was a baptism of an illegitimate child every other year (there had been three in the six years up to 1628). The birth of children out of wedlock was, therefore, not an altogether exceptional event in Bishop's Castle at this time. But the closeness of the relationship between the couple undoubtedly was and, although there was no genetic connection between them, the measure by which in most societies acts of incest were and are defined (the closer the blood relationship between two people the stronger the sanctions prohibiting or discouraging sexual relations between them), it was clearly close enough in contemporary minds in Bishop's Castle to warrant being described as incest and to being roundly condemned. Accordingly the church and the town officials used the remedies available to them. The couple were excommunicated (their offence falling within the ambit of ecclesiastical law) and the justices, using powers available to them under various statutes made over the preceding fifty years, took the necessary steps

to secure that the offence ‘against God and man’ should not be repeated, and, as important, to ensure that the child would be provided for and the cost of its upkeep and its education in due course would not fall upon the town.

W.E Tate in *The Parish Chest* (CUP, third edition 1969), p. 217, discussing the handling of bastardy cases, observed, “Until about 1750 it seems that the parish officers dealt with the problem without much fuss. It seems that few cases were brought before quarter sessions. The most general method was that of making the father responsible by bond for the keep of his child: another similar practice was to allow him to pay a lump sum in discharge of all responsibility.” And, after some initial recalcitrance on the part of the offenders which perhaps points to their relationship being something more than a casual one, so it was settled in this case. I return therefore to my earlier question. Why should this particular case, and this one alone in this period, have earned a place in the Borough records?

Maybe it was the asserted depravity of the relationship and Zaccheus’ continued adherence to “*that wicked woman*” Jane Durning, (Jane was, in fact, only just eighteen, having been born in February 1609/10), which gave the affair sufficient notoriety to warrant exemplary record, or perhaps it was because the justices were exercising for the first time powers conferred upon them by an Act of 1627 and therefore thought it appropriate to record the case in the minute book. But neither seems a sufficient reason; so did something else lie behind it? Was it the position the Boole family held in the town which gave the affair so high a profile? That could be the answer, although one has to be cautious in using parish records at this time in order to establish relationships between people of the same name. During this period Henry Boole gent. was one of the town’s leading members. He had been Constable in 1611, Sergeant at Mace in 1612, was created one of the fifteen head burgesses in 1614, made Chamberlain in 1617, was a churchwarden in 1621 and Bailiff (the town’s chief elected officer) in 1619, 1625 and 1633. Henry was the son of a David Boole, being baptised in February 1574/5. A David Boole had a son, John Boole, in 1559. Whether this was the same man as Henry’s father is not clear – Alice, wife of David Boole, is recorded as dying in July 1572, but the baptisms of children of David Boole continued through the 1570s and into the 1580s, so the first David may have remarried. If he did, then Henry and John Boole were half-brothers. Zaccheus Boole, baptised in 1592, was the son of John Boole.



From a Seventeenth Century Woodcut

So he could have been directly related to one of the great men of the day in Bishop's Castle. And even if the relationship was not that of uncle and nephew, the likelihood is that there was some sort of family connection between them. This supposition is borne out not only by the attention which the case got in the town records but also by one other feature of it.

One of the two men who stood surety for Zaccheus was Ambrose King gent. Over these years he, like Henry Boole, had held all the senior offices in the town: Constable 1611 and Chamberlain 1612, 1613, 1619 – 1622, 1627, 1628 and 1630; he was created one of the fifteen head burgesses in 1618 and was elected Bailiff 1623; and, also like Henry, he had close connections with the church, being churchwarden in 1636 and 1637. Did the great and the good of Bishop's Castle rally round to support an erring member of the Boole family?

I cannot give the story a tidy ending. Both Zaccheus Boole and Jane Durning feature no more in the parish registers, nor did Mary, their daughter (it is to be noted that apart from 1651 and 1652 the registers are defective or missing from 1641 to the early 1660s). Perhaps they died in Bishop's Castle within those years having "*observed and performed*" the injunctions of the town justices, or perhaps they left the town in order to "*remain still and dwell together*" – to continue the affair of Zaccheus Boole.

Chris Train

Philip Barker Distinguished and Influential Field Archaeologist

My contacts with Phil Barker were brief and superficial. I remembered him as the presenter of the first SWSHAS Celebrity Lecture in April 1988, his subject, "Timber Castles of the Welsh Border." Eleven years on when I was faced with the task of writing the chapter on Mottes and Baileys for 'The Gale of Life', the SWSHAS book to mark the Millennium, I was fortunate in being able to consult "Timber Castles", the definitive work on the subject, written by him (in association with Roger Higham). Phil showed great kindness in agreeing to check through my draft, and his comments were most helpful. One of my great regrets is that I never met him personally. I am delighted that David Preshous and James Lawson, who knew Phil well, have agreed to record some of their memories of this remarkable man.

John Smyth, Journal Editor 1989 - 2004

Philip Barker, the Schoolmaster

In the Nineteen Fifties, the Priory Grammar School for Boys, Shrewsbury was unashamedly selective, traditional, and academic, with a pronounced bias towards Classics. Art was viewed as a recreational rather than cultural subject. However, in Philip Barker the school had an Art teacher of much greater vision. Sadly, he was not fully appreciated. Exhibition locally of his 'modern' paintings, which were not understood by Shrewsbury's rather stodgy artistic fraternity, earned him the nickname 'Pablo'.

I loved Art - a relief from the daily diet of Latin and Greek - though I had no particular talent. 'Mr Barker' was a gentle, encouraging teacher who allowed us a fairly free rein in our choice of subject. I remember two of my own efforts - one a hyper-exotic jungle scene, inspired by Douanier Rousseau, and the other an immense battle-scene swarming with war-painted Zulus which must have had Lady Butler somewhere behind it! But more than the pictures, I remember the kind praise and gentle guidance of 'Mr Barker' which gave me a special sense of purpose and achievement.

On Friday afternoons (the Graveyard Slot), 'Mr Barker' had to take the Sixth Form for something called Art Appreciation. He tackled this not only with Stoic fortitude but with enthusiasm and vision. He showed lots of slides - a rare treat for a Grammar School - and I remember being spellbound by lectures on church architecture with many local references.

He was gentle, unassuming, almost timid, alongside other staff who could be extrovert, brilliant, arrogant, eccentric, or just plain dotty. He surprised us all one day when he joined the Combined Cadet Force Air Section as an officer, and appeared in full RAF uniform wearing the ribbon of the Distinguished Flying Cross, won as a wartime navigator on Lancaster bombers.

I didn't meet Philip again until the Seventies when I visited Hen Domen towards the end of his epic excavations there. He still had the same modest manner, concealing vibrant and passionate enthusiasms. We were thrilled to have the honour of his company twice at SWSHAS for our 'celebrity' lectures. He developed into an engaging and impressive speaker and a scholar of great integrity and distinction. He probably found SWSHAS on a Friday night less harrowing than the Priory Sixth Form on Friday afternoon!

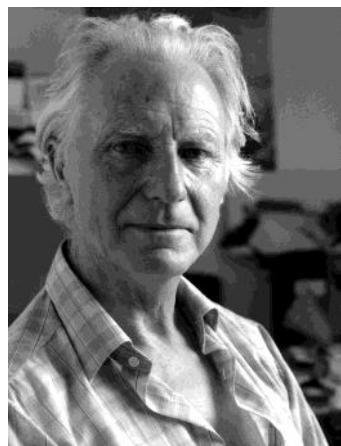
As teacher, lecturer, scholar, and archaeologist, Philip had the gift of touching and firing the imagination: we remember him with gratitude and affection.

David Preshous

Philip Barker, the Field Archaeologist

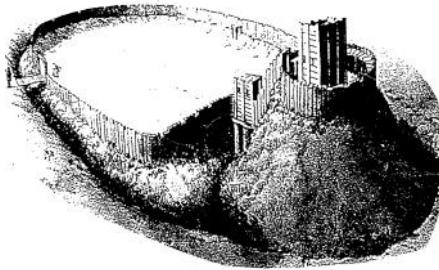
My first sight of Philip was as a spectator when he was digging in the later 1950's at Roushill, Shrewsbury on a waterlogged fragment of the town wall, which had emerged during redevelopment. This was Shrewsbury's first rescue dig, and Shrewsbury's first ever scientific archaeological excavation. There seemed to be no team of assistants but I recollect the Shrewsbury Museum curator, Ron James, snuff box and pipe in hand, pumping out the trenches with a stirrup pump. This was later the subject of Phil's first article in *Medieval Archaeology* and provided the first properly recorded and stratified pottery from the town; the starting point of his later MA thesis on pottery. At that time there were a number of amateur digs in progress in the county including the ill-fated dig at Smethcote castle, which gave Shropshire archaeology a bad name. Phil had been a very minor participant, as a digger, and as he graduated to directing digs he was at pains to demonstrate that *his* digs were conducted in a scientific and tidy manner with proper finds management and record keeping. Amateur archaeology in the late 1950's was a week-end occupation with occasional summer seasons and my first direct acquaintance with him was at his Brockhurst castle dig at Church Stretton in 1959 where I spent several week-ends. His painstaking techniques were already being honed and then, as later, the family (including spaniel), were in evidence.

For Phil this was a "crunch" dig to demonstrate his credentials as a serious field archaeologist and it was seen and approved by "men from the Ministry" as well as Howard Colvin, who was then writing the medieval section of the monumental study on the *King's Works*. I was then still at university but when I came back to the county to work for the Victoria County History (VCH) in 1961 I saw much more of him and he guided my early forays into evening lecturing at Westbury and more to the point at Bishop's Castle, where I contributed a few lectures during a winter season. Philip was then living at Annscroft and he used to pick me up at Pulverbatch in his van, usually with spades and ranging poles rattling in the back. En route for Bishop's Castle we often picked up the odd misadventured rabbit for canine and feline nourishment. His sense of humour on occasions almost got the better of him and I well remember encountering him at Annscroft cross roads when our antique, temperamental Riley had stopped. His "Dear boy. have you stopped?" was deserved, if a trifle ironic. However, when I was "buried" at



Wroxeter - in one of John Houghton's more dangerous trenches in July 1963 - and found myself rigid in bed, Phil proved a welcome visitor at Pulverbach.

During this period, whilst still an LEA lecturer, Phil was active on a whole range of medieval sites in the county as well as the Hen Domen dig, which started in 1960. These were exploited for his ground-breaking study of medieval pottery in Shropshire, the subject of his Leicester MA, which was published by the Shropshire Archaeological Society in 1970. Amongst these was a dig on the site of Pontesbury Castle inside the modern village and the shrunken settlement at Braggington in Alberbury parish, where iron slags were found which may relate to a mid sixteenth-century attempt by Lord Stafford of Caus Castle to recoup his finances by encouraging ironworking.



Motte and Bailey
Artist's impression: Robert Bates 1973

After he moved to Worcester in 1964 I saw less of him except occasionally during his Hen Domen or Wroxeter seasons. Somehow in the late 1960's, I think it must have been when Frank Noble put forward some heretical and erroneous theories denying the identification of Hen Domen as the site of "Old" Montgomery, I became involved with the documentary side of the dig at Hen Domen. Frank's musings, which certainly identified a presumption, "got under my skin" and I found myself deviling in the PRO (Public Records Office) amongst Chirbury Priory charters and at the National Library of Wales in the Powys Castle deeds in an effort to document the immediately surrounding area. This proved fruitful and coincided with the nineteen sixty nine contour survey of the site, which demonstrated that there was ridge and furrow underlying Earl Roger's castle. I was able to provide supporting evidence that the ridge and furrow was Saxon and to identify the sites of two otherwise "lost" Domesday manors of Staurecote and Horseforde in the near vicinity of the castle. This was jointly published by Phil and myself in *Medieval Archaeology* Vol.XV, 1971. Very much later I demonstrated from documentary sources that there had been a borough with burgages at Hen Domen which preceded the borough at New Montgomery and which after 1223 was amalgamated with the foundation and enjoyed its privileges. A spin off from this was further research on other unidentified Domesday manors in the vicinity and the approximate identification of Goseford, which I recently published in this *Journal* (No. 11, p 10-11, 2000).

Phil's activities in Shropshire and at Hen Domen in the later 1950's and early 1960's were the prelude to a notable and very distinguished career as a field archaeologist and campaigner of international repute. His influence was out of all proportion to the academic post he subsequently held; far more than that of formally and academically trained archaeologists in university departments.

James Lawson

The life and early times of Simon Redgrave, or, How the lawyers always win.

This story, although about a family who lived in Northamptonshire in the mid 18th century, was probably repeated in an exact or similar form all over the country, including south Shropshire.

First, to enjoy the story, may I briefly outline certain aspects of the 'poor laws', a whole series of acts passed from the time of Henry VIII to George III, and which

at their inception were designed to control the costs and problems of dealing with the ever increasing number of vagrants and genuinely poor people. Parish relief, as it was termed, was designed so that each parish looked after its own and thus prevented any part of the country bearing an unreasonable portion of the cost. That the number receiving parish relief was increasing at an alarming rate during the first part of the 17th century was due to an increasing birth rate and climate changes resulting in poor harvests.



*Detail from an engraving
by C Moseley 1797*

The poor law rules, which affect this story, are that people could only be granted parish relief if they could claim close affiliation to the parish: i.e. they were born in the parish, had moved to the parish as a result of marriage or had been an apprentice in the parish. People claiming relief who did not fall into these categories could be arrested by the parish constable and "removed" to their own parish, if indeed they could or were willing to supply this information. Particulars of these removals are often recorded in the county Quarter Session Records.

Much parish relief was given not by being taken into the workhouse, but by out relief: i.e. by families having their income topped up to a living level or, frequently in the case of destitute children, by being boarded out with families and quite often with widows.

Emergency parish relief could be granted by the parish constable and I include this fact because I feel bound to recount an entry from the parish constable's account book for the parish of Stowe Nine Churches, Northamptonshire, that I found while researching Simon Redgrave and which illustrates the realities of rural mid-18th century life. The constable recounts that he was called to deal with a totally blind boy who was "*found jammed in a thicket and starving*". The boy does not know his surname, age, parents or where he has come from and so the constable decides to lodge the boy with a local widow at 2 shillings (ten pence current money) per week until "*it can be decided what is to be done with him*".

Returning to Simon Redgrave, he can be described as a born loser from the day of his birth. The caring rector of the parish of Charwelton records his baptism on the 26th March 1733 in the following manner – "*Simon Baisley, a bastard child begotten on the body of Sarah Baisley, by Andrew Redgrave junr*". Andrew Redgrave was already married and we know nothing more of Sarah Baisley but her son, now known as Simon Redgrave, is lodged by the Overseers of the Poor for Charwelton with widow Jeppasy at two shillings and six pence per week (12½ pence current money).

In 1738, with Simon still lodged with widow Jeppasy, his father sees a way of removing his embarrassment to the next parish. In this adjacent parish, Badby, is a man called Nathaniel Rainbow who owes money and is fearful of being imprisoned for this debt. Andrew Redgrave agrees to indenture Simon to Rainbow in the sum of five guineas, the indenture document being drawn up by Mr Barnfather, a local schoolmaster. This arrangement suits Andrew Redgrave, Mr Rainbow and the Charwelton Overseers of the Poor, although some might call it child slave labour. It is, however, bad news for Simon on two counts. First, as later recounted in the High Court hearing, when Simon arrives at Mr Rainbow's household he is described as 'about 5, was very short and infirm, incapable of dressing or undressing himself, very often fouled his bedding, incapable of doing the least thing'. The second bit of bad news was that Mr Rainbow is a stonemason.

Although he left Rainbow when he was about 14 years old, nothing more is heard of Simon until he marries in 1753 and continues to live in Badby. He continues living as a 'no hoper' as the enraged rector of Badby, in the entries for the baptism of three children, records that he is 'still on parish relief'. By 1771, the Overseers of the Poor in Badby had had enough of keeping Simon and his tribe and at the Petty Sessions at Towcester (the local market town) obtained an order making Charwelton liable for the cost of Simon's parish relief, this order being granted on the premise that Simon was born in Charwelton.

The Overseers in Charwelton were having none of this, claiming that while Simon might have been born in their parish, he married and produced the children in Badby. Charwelton thus appealed to the Northampton Quarter Sessions to have the order reversed. By this time it had become not a case about Simon's welfare but a battle between bureaucrats spending other peoples' money, to the delight of the legal profession.



*Detail from an eighteenth century engraving -
A prospect of Northampton by Samuel and
Nathaniel Buck*

Apart from the residence dispute, the other great query concerned the alleged indenture: it was only legal if it could be proved that the stamp duty had been paid on the document and this could not be proved locally as the indenture had been lost! If the duty had been paid and the indenture was legal, Badby was probably liable for the parish relief. The barrister for Badby, in a preamble to the instructions he gives to a private inquiry agent, bemoans the fact that if the indenture cannot be found Badby will have a job proving the duty was not paid. Thus the inquiry agent is sent to London to search the Exchequer office records from 1737 to 1750 to see if there is any record of the payment and the barrister ends his instruction with the dramatic lines – “*and by the same night by some of the coaches who come thro' Northampton on Tuesday morning or by noon of that day acquaint me with the result of such search without fail or it will be too late for the sessions and write in such manner that I may lay your letter before the Court. Send to me at the George Inn in Northampton*”. The payment of duty could not be found but this round at the Northampton Quarter Sessions was won by Charwelton i.e. Badby to pay the poor relief.

Needless to say Badby was not going to accept this and promptly took the matter to the High Court in London. Thus on 14th January 1772, Mr Justice Hill and Mr Justice Adams delivered their judgement and found for Badby i.e. Charwelton was to pay the parish relief.

To end this tale and to prove Simon really was a born loser, consider the evidence of John Russell, a labourer, who appeared in the High Court to prove that Simon was born in Charwelton. Before giving his evidence, I tell you that deciphering the scribble of the High Court clerk was not easy and my wife and I spent weeks trying to work out what Russell had said when finishing his evidence. Then one day, standing behind my wife as she was again trying to work it out, I suddenly saw what had been written. Russell ends his evidence by saying – “*and remembers that the pauper had like to have been drowned by his mother at his birth in the chamber pot*”. Ah well.

The Sheepe Hath Payed For All: The Ludlows of Stokesay

*Christopher Train/Ludlow Historical Research Group. Scenescasters,
2005 71 pages, 23 illustrations £5.95 ISBN: 1-874200-16-5*

The author's preface explains the interesting background to the writing of this book. In 2004, the Ludlow Historical Research Group was approached by Robin Ludlow, a descendant of the Gloucestershire branch of the Ludlow family, who established themselves in Shipton Moyne in about 1470, to write a short history of the Ludlow family, who had acquired the manor of Stokesay in 1281 and subsequently built what was to later be called Stokesay Castle. Using, in particular, Robin Ludlow's own substantial archive and the documents relating to the medieval history of Ludlow transcribed by Michael Faraday, *The Sheepe Hath Payed For All* is a concise account of the Ludlows of Stokesay.

In noting the relationship between the Ludlow family and Stokesay in the title of his book, Christopher Train is acknowledging the importance of this connection. However, one of the major strengths of his account is the manner in which the fortunes of the family are set within county, regional and national contexts. He has also resisted the temptation to give particular prominence to Laurence de Ludlow and clearly shows, for example, that the mercantile success of the family began with Laurence's father, Nicholas, the account of his rise to national and international standing being interwoven with a lucid explanation of the wool trade during the second half of the 13th century.

The wide-ranging business acumen of the Ludlow family is a recurring theme throughout the book, with wealth initially being accrued from the wool and cloth trade, followed by the purchase of houses and shops, particularly in Shrewsbury and Ludlow. The purchase of land - perhaps, partly, as an investment against the vulnerability of commercial wealth - brought not only further security and revenue but also status and duties and the links between the family's increasingly substantial landholdings and the obligations that accompanied the purchase of these are considered in some detail.

Given the rise and rise of the Ludlow family, did it possess a black sheep? The most likely candidate, if so, would surely be Sir Laurence de Ludlow, the grandson of the earlier Laurence, who had built Stokesay Castle. He did not succeed to the family estates until 1347, at the age of 47, but by then

had enjoyed a colourful life, including being outlawed. In the author's words, "*he was ready to operate on or beyond the very edges of the law*" and the account of his career makes for an entertaining read.

Nevertheless, as a possible measure of atonement, he was later to found a Carmelite friary on his land in Ludlow.

What, then, of Stokesay Castle? The chapter on Laurence de Ludlow introduces the results of recent dendro-dating at Stokesay Castle, with the consequent confirmation of there having been an earlier building on the site. The author argues persuasively the reasons for Laurence's choice of this site and reminds us of the elements in the building's design that effect a balance between domestic comfort and an awareness of a possible return to more disturbed times; it is not unlikely that a number of the deserted village sites on the immediate border were the result of Welsh devastations a little more than a generation earlier.

The content of the final chapters amply demonstrates the continuing contribution made to county and national affairs by the Ludlow family and it is worth emphasizing at this point that these were often of considerable significance. When Richard de Ludlow died in 1498, the male line died with him and his estates passed to his two granddaughters, both of whom had married into the Vernon family. Thus ended a dynasty that had, for some two and a half centuries, remained one of the most notable in Shropshire - and beyond.

One of the problems of writing a family history is that it may easily become little more than a list of names and dates. *The Sheepe Hath Payed For All* is much more than this; Christopher Train has written an informative and interesting history, based upon an impressive command of his source material. The history of the Ludlow family is well worthy of investigation and the author has produced a book that does not disappoint.

M.W.

The Upper Onny Valley

Upper Onny Valley Down to Earth Project Group, 2005
84 pages, 39 illustrations, 8 maps £5.50 ISBN:0-9548606-3-2

This is an excellent, and rather unusual guide book, devoted to an area which is one of the loveliest and unspoiled parts of South Shropshire. What makes it different is that it is a community project, compiled and written by people who, in the main, live in, or close to the valley, some of whose names will be familiar to *Journal* readers.

Following an introduction which sets the area in its geographical and historical context, a chapter on the geology of the Upper Onny takes the reader through from the Pre-Cambrian era and discusses the forces and climatic changes that have shaped the area over some 600 million years.

A chapter on wildlife gives an account of the range of plants and creatures that enrich the area and the measures which are being taken to preserve this diversity. It is encouraging that steps are being currently taken, with the support and involvement of local people, to arrest the decline of species such as the lapwing and curlew.

The sections on “Legends and Literature” and “Road, Rail and Track” are further themes explored in the first half of the book, providing a good deal of entertainment as well as a considerable amount of interest and information. In the remaining sections the reader is asked to follow the separate courses of the East and West Onny rivers from their sources to the eventual confluence at Eaton Bridge. The seven chapters in this section are devoted to the parishes through which the rivers flow, taking the form of a guidebook. Aspects of the history of the villages are touched upon, churches, inns and other significant buildings are discussed, and some of the personalities who have played their parts in the events and scenes of the past are given a mention.

As well as encouraging readers to use their powers of observation, the writers give us every opportunity to get out on our feet and explore the region using the many footpaths and quiet lanes that traverse the area. The clear-cut maps and high quality photographs are an aid and incentive in this respect.

“The Upper Onny Valley in the Hills of South Shropshire”, to give it its full title, is a “must have” for all who know and love this very special area and is thoroughly recommended to all those people who would like to become more acquainted with it. The book is available from several outlets in the Bishop’s Castle area.

J.S.

Research in Progress: 2005-6

The SWSHAS research group has continued to meet monthly in a room at Enterprise House.

Parish Registers

The Shropshire Archaeological & Historical Society has now published parts 5 & 6 of the Bishop's Castle registers consisting of baptisms and burials from 1791 and marriages from 1754 up to 1837 which may be purchased by members of this Society at £5 each. They are particularly interesting as revealing the presence in the borough of French Prisoners of War on parole, mainly from the French Navy, captured during the Napoleonic Wars, some of whom married local girls. Others are named as witnesses to these marriages. An index of names of all the 6 parts has now been compiled by Mrs Ivy Evans and this, with indexes of places and subjects, should be in print by the end of this year. It just awaits my final editing before being sent to the printer.

Mr Alan Wilson had hoped to continue transcribing the Bettws y Crwyn registers from 1741 onwards, but the next volume was too fragile to be allowed out of the Shropshire Archives and can only be consulted there, so work on that parish has had to be suspended for the time being. He is therefore transcribing the Mainstone registers and is up to 1720 in these. Other members of the class, consisting of Mrs Sylvia Kingsbury, Miss Olwen Pinches, Mrs Janet Preshous, Mrs Mary Wolfe and myself, have been working on the Clun registers, and only the marriage registers from 1797 to 1837 and baptisms from 1824-37 remain to be checked. Mrs Ivy Evans is compiling a name index of what has been completed so far. The Clun and other registers prepared by the group will not appear in print but on CDs as it has proved far too costly to print them considering that very few copies are sold and it is only economic to have a print run of at least 100 copies. A few hard copies can be made and put in the Shropshire Archives and in the local library. Work on the Shelve registers is still in progress.

Linley Estate Leases

Mrs Margot Daniel was working on the old leases of the Linley Estate with a view to identifying the properties, but unfortunately her papers on this were mislaid when she moved from the Avenue Lodge. It is hoped they will soon be located as she had done a lot of work on this subject.

Bishop's Castle Burgess Roll

Mr Chris Train and Mr Malcolm Redgrave during the year completed their work of extracting all references to the making of burgesses and appointments to

offices from the earliest Bishop's Castle Corporation minute book. They have begun work on collating this material, and finding out more about the individuals with the use of the parish registers, with a view to producing not only a complete burgess roll but also to recording the officers of the borough during the late sixteenth and first half of the seventeenth century. This will demonstrate who were the most important families in and for the town in that period.

Papers from the Town Chest

In the latter part of the year Mr Train and Mr Redgrave have catalogued a large box of papers from the Town Hall. These principally relate to the management of the Corporation's property on Moat Hill (also known as Burgess Hill) from the early 19th Century through to the 1950s. They comprise detailed maps of the area, with plots, acreage and occupiers clearly identified, rent rolls for much of the period, and conveyances of the sale of the "chief rents" of many of the plots.

Marion Roberts

Report From Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre

Happy Birthday BCHRC!

BCHRC owes its existence to the determination and collaboration of several organisations - led by the House on Crutches Museum Collection Trust - in Bishop's Castle who are concerned to preserve the heritage of the town. Bishop's Castle now has a Heritage Resource Centre with many facilities and services including a secure professional standard store for deposited items. SWSHAS, as a 'key' founder member, continues to play a significant role in the development of the Centre. BCHRC marked its first birthday in October 2005 with an evening celebration in the Town Hall.



Activity at the Centre

Volunteers: These are the core staff at BCHRC who work at the Centre and attend courses either in-house or through the Museums Libraries and Archives training

network, including Shropshire Archives, which enables them to share their skills and knowledge with associated organisations, affiliated members and the general public. There is a steady stream of research enquiries to the Centre which is satisfied locally, via a network of researchers and ‘heritage knowledge’ experts, or directed to Shropshire Archives and the national heritage network. Volunteers are working on all aspects of BCHRC: from entering, cataloguing and care of items or collections to research enquiries, research topics, management and outreach.

Deposits: SWSHAS, BC Town Council, BC Civic Society, and House on Crutches Museum Collection Trust were amongst the first to deposit items at the Centre. Deposits by other organisations and individuals have been made, ranging from house deeds and minute books to presentation cups and a doll collection. All volunteers are trained to receive deposits in accordance with professional standards.

Outreach: BCHRC has been fortunate in securing the professional services of a Heritage Access Development Officer, *Sue Mascord*, affectionately referred to as “Our HADO”. During her contract with BCHRC (2004-6) she has transformed musty old artefacts and documents into vibrant resource boxes, CDs and Teachers Resource Packs. She has taken BCHRC ‘on tour’ to schools and organisations and welcomed visiting schools and organisations to the Centre, House on Crutches Museum and The Railway Museum for tours and workshops. BCHRC made its Outreach team debut with a presentation to SWSHAS. In-house displays and open days by volunteers have included a Local History Private Passions Day and a Remembrance Day recall and display.

The Heritage Resource Centre has also been very fortunate in securing the expertise of an Administration Officer, *Prue Dakin*, since autumn 2005. She has brought her skills, professional and personal, to consolidate and promote the work of BCHRC since 1999. In fact she has organised the ‘daily life’ of BCHRC and promoted the activities and developments in support of the volunteer activity.

Events

January 2006 marked the launch of a series of *BCHRC Talks at The Town Hall*. This year the theme was buildings. In January *Robert Gwyther* gave an illustrated talk on the renovation of houses in Bishop’s Castle during the 1950s. In February *Henry Hand* described the construction of timber-framed buildings and in March *Colin Richards* talked about the practical aspects of maintaining and using old buildings, together with the lessons to be learned from working with people from other cultural backgrounds.

In response to the success of the 1st Annual Partners Evening - when Emma-Kate Lanyon (County Curator for Social History) talked about her passion for collecting silk kimonos - a second event was organised. In May 2006 the 2nd Annual Partners Evening was held in the Town Hall with speaker Stella Mitchell talking about her museum (Land of Lost Content) and her passion for collecting.

There has also been a series of training workshops on most aspects of Centre activity which will be continued in 2007.

Resources at BCHRC

The Resource Centre is fortunate in having on permanent loan a significant collection of secondary sources and journals connected with the history of Shropshire. This has been made possible through the generosity of Roger Brown of Alverley. In addition to this the Centre is assembling a reference library of books, maps and research tools which will make Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre a 'first stop' for heritage and research enquiries and a significant history resource base for the area.

Patricia Theobald

From the Early Journals

The Bishop's Castle & Lydbury North Female Friendly Society

By Ivy Evans

This Association was started in 1840 under the patronage of the Countess of Powis. One hundred and ninety six persons applied and were admitted as Honorary and Benefit members, paying 2/6d to join, then 1/6d quarterly.

Members had to be under the age of 40 and pay contributions regularly, or pay a fine. Meetings were held quarterly at Lydbury North, but in June 1842 the secretary was ordered to attend at Bishop's Castle on the evening of each quarterly meeting to collect members' contributions, so saving those members a long walk to Lydbury. The Annual meeting was followed by a church service and tea and dancing, sometimes at Bishop's Castle when the dancing was held on the Bowling Green, Kerry Lane. This Green was near Greenfield Farm.

On one occasion music was provided by the Stiperstones band, their fee being £3. By 1887 money in the Anniversary Fund was low and it was decided to charge 1s. for the tea and dance and to hold the Anniversary Meeting every other year.

Sick pay was paid at 3s. a week and a medical certificate was required.

In 1891 it was proposed that there be a sliding scale according to age at entrance, also that members pay extra contributions and be allowed a doctor. According to one entry it seemed that £2 was paid out for a funeral. In one year members numbered 50 from Lydbury, 18 from Clun with Clunbury 11, Hopesay 7, Wistanstow 4, Mainstone 1 and 73 from Bishop's Castle.

In 1844 one member was excluded from the Society as being not a proper person to be a member as she had claimed 9 weeks sick pay to which she was not entitled.

Payments to members in 1889 were:

Sick pay £16.7s.0d, three confinements £1.11s.6d, three funerals £6, with £43.3s.0d paid to 13 pensioners.

By 1900 due to lack of interest and no new members it was decided to dissolve the Association and employ an actuary to decide the amount payable to each member according to age and length of membership. A proposal that money due to each member be invested in the purchase of an annuity was not carried. Net funds in December 1890 were £1,824.19s.8d with membership standing at 53.

From Journal No. 1, p 19 – 20, 1989

SHROPSHIRE PARISH REGISTERS

Edited by Marion Roberts & the Research Group of SWSHAS

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**This year's SWSHAS Exhibition at
Bishop's Castle Michaelmas Fair
in the Cadet Hall on
23 & 24 September 2006
will be**

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If you have any pictures or memories of
these please contact

David & Janet Preshous at
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*On the steps of the Castle Hotel, Bishop's Castle.
c1894*

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Year of the Volunteer Campaign 2005

Congratulations to Janet Preshous

The valuable contribution of over two thousand volunteers was recognised across the United Kingdom in 2005. **Janet Preshous** received a medal from the Lord Lieutenant in Shrewsbury Abbey last December. As the author of the book *Bishop's Castle Well Remembered* and founder member of the League of Friends of Bishop's Castle Stone House and Hospital, she recognised the value for elderly people to reminisce and share past experiences for posterity. Since the beginning of her 'recall' sessions at Stone House, about twenty years ago, Janet has become widely recognised for her pioneering work in the preservation of reminiscence and oral history.

SWSHAS Programme 2006- 2007

23/24 September	Saturday/ Sunday	Michaelmas Fair Exhibition: <i>“One for the road”</i> (Present and Former Pubs and Inns of S.W.Shropshire)
12 October	Thursday	<i>“Ice Ages in the West Midlands”</i> Dr. Jennifer Chambers
15 November	Wednesday	A.G.M. followed by <i>“A Members’ Miscellany”</i>
5 December	Tuesday	President’s Evening: <i>“To the Bay of Quails”</i> (<i>A journey around the Mani in Southern Greece</i>) David Preshous
9 January	Tuesday	<i>“Finds from the past”</i> Peter Reavill
14 February	Wednesday	<i>“The Land of Lost Content”</i> Stella Mitchell
15 March	Thursday	<i>“Visitors to Shropshire in the Late 17th and early 18th Centuries”</i> Neil Clarke
20 April	Friday	7th RITHERDON LECTURE “ <i>South Shropshire and North Herefordshire in the 18th century: an overview of the economy and society.”</i> David Lloyd

Outings for 2007 to be arranged.

Unless otherwise stated, meetings take place in the Community College,
Bishop’s Castle, and commence at 7.30 p.m.
Visitors are warmly welcomed

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR JOURNAL ARE WARMLY
WELCOMED**

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The Heritage Resource Centre now has a substantial collection of local history reference books and some journals. These can be consulted by arrangement.

For further information on becoming a Depositor or Affiliate with BCHRC, or any other services please contact us at the above address.

