# Ludlow Heritage News

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*Ludlow Civic Society*

**20P**

**FREE TO MEMBERS**

*Figure 1.*

## THOMAS FARNOLLS PRITCHARD IN LUDLOW

It is known that several architects worked in Shropshire in the 18th century. Perhaps the most significant of these is the Shrewsbury architect, Thomas Farnolls Pritchard, who has been called a 'Provincial Master' by Professor Mordaunt Crook.[1] Pritchard lived from 1723-1777, so his career covers the middle years of the 18th century. Over the last 30 years, important discoveries have led to identification and therefore understanding of Pritchard's work. A major discovery was his design book, now in Washington D. C. Numbers relating to the pages in the Design book will be given in the text. Both the drawings and the executed designs do indeed reveal that, in this area of the Border Marches, the work is outstanding.

The commission to rebuild Hosiers Almshouses was a turning point in Pritchard's career. It appears to have been the first building that he worked on outside Shrewsbury.

In 1758 the Corporation of Ludlow approved the rebuilding of the Almshouses, which are situated in the centre of Ludlow, and a committee was set up to *consider and agree upon taking down and rebuilding the almshouses in a proper strong and convenient manner and that they advise with Mr Pritchard of Shrewsbury about the same or such other experienced workman as they shall think fit.*[2]

Two years earlier William Baker, architect of Ludlow's Butter Cross, had been asked to give an estimate for this work, but nothing came of these plans.

Apart from the importance of the commission itself, the work enabled Pritchard to become acquainted with the members of the committee for the rebuilding. In 1759 these included Thomas Johnes, Richard Salwey, the Earl of Powis, Somerset Davies and Edward Harley, all of whom were probably Pritchard's patrons in the 1760s.

Thomas Johnes was the owner of Croft Castle, and instigator of the modernisation scheme with its splendid 'Gothick' work. Nine designs exist for Croft [Page no. 3, 4 designs on page 8 including one for 'Mr Johnes Dressing Room', 13, 27 and 2 on page 28] Pritchard carried out a survey and a proposed modernisation of Powis Castle for the Earl of Powis. Somerset Davies was the owner of No. 27 Broad Street, Ludlow and later owner of Croft Castle. Page no. 5 has a design for a chimney piece at 27 Broad Street (Fig. 2) Edward Harley might have been the Hon. Mr. Harley of Kinsham Court, for whom Pritchard designed two chimney pieces [Pages 29 and 35]. It is possible that Pritchard put the ogee windows on to the front of Elton Hall and carried out work on The Lodge at Richards

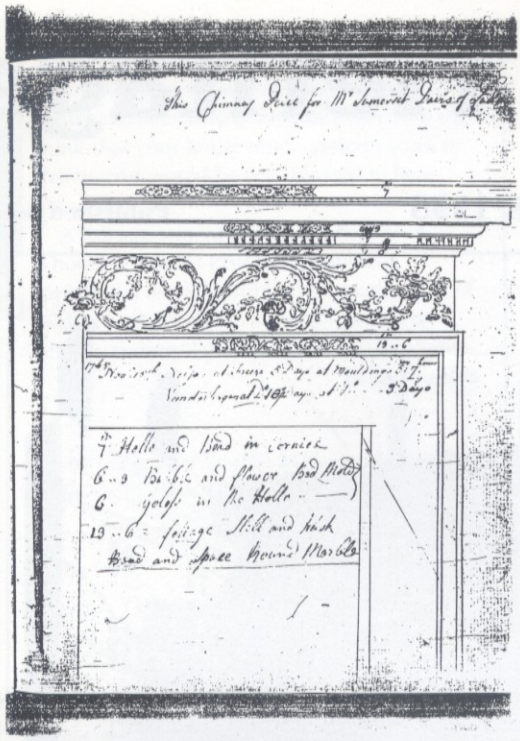

*Figure 2.*

Castle for the Salwey family. At the time when work for architects came through recommendation the importance of these contacts with future patrons cannot be stressed too much.

Work started on Hosiers in 1758 and the accounts for the work make fascinating reading with the various craftsman submitting their bills, often painstakingly written on small pieces of paper. These were all checked through before payment by Jonathan Reynolds, Pritchard's clerk of works or 'person sent to look over the work'. He received £2. 1s. 0d in the 1758/9 Corporation payments. Travelling expenses of 5s. were also paid to him for a journey from Wolverhampton to Ludlow. Pritchard himself surveyed the work in progress which was 'Measur'd and abstracted 7 and 8 December 1758'. This survey included

*343ft 11in of moulded cornice at 8d. £11. 9. 3d.*
*117ft 9in mouldings to doorway and niche at 1/- £5. 17. 9d.*

Pritchard himself was paid £10. 10s. 0d. early in the contract and at the end was paid £21. 0. 0. 'for planning and surveying the work from time to time'. When the building of Hosiers was progressing, little is definitely known about Pritchard's other work at this time. It is possibly that the work on the Broad Gate House for Dr. Samuel Sprott could have been carried out at this time; Dr. Sprott died in 1760 and Pritchard's memorial to him is in Ludford Church. Another job is thought to have been the Shrewsbury Infirmary, where prints show a front elevation with stylistic similarities to both Hosiers Almshouses and to houses that Pritchard built later. Work also started in 1759 on the Foundling Hospital in Shrewsbury.

Internally Hosiers Almhouses have been extensively altered but the front elevation remains very much Pritchard's work. The photograph (Fig. 1) shows the pediment and fine carved cartouche bearing the arms of Ludlow Corporation. John Yates was the mason for this job and he claimed 19 days for himself and '13 days for my sun (sic)' and was paid a total of £2. 15s. 4d. in the day work figures for 1758/9. Part of the work was 'to assist the carver to get out the ground of the arms'.

The seven bay building with the central three bays stepped forward and projecting wings is similar in style both to typical Georgian houses of this period and to Hatton Grange, near Shifnal, the only existing Shropshire country house built by Pritchard. Hatton (Fig. 3) is also made up of seven bays but there the wings stretch backwards to pavilions. The central window of the first floor at Hatton has the same detail as the surround of the niche at Hosiers; similar eared architraves are found on other Pritchard buildings. The design was taken from architectural books by Antonio Palladio and popularised by James Gibb's *Book of Architecture* and other pattern books of the early 18th century. The closest similarity between the two houses is in the pediment, found on Page No. 13 of the Designbook. (Fig. 4) As the drawing and picture show, this also has a cartouche which contains the arms of the Slaney family for whom the house was built. The cornucopiae on the ornamental swags at the sides can be compared with those on the design for 27 Broad Street. Analysis of the designs in Pritchard's workbook has revealed the same motifs being used many times in different permutations; some of the ornament is classical and some Gothick, but in most instances they are used with the light touch associated with Pritchard's own distinctive style of 'Gothic Rococo'; this style was first identified by Kenneth Clark in *The Gothic Revival* in 1928.

Ludlow is very fortunate to have three well documented works by Pritchard. As well as the rebuilding of Hosiers Almshouses, Pritchard

*Figure 3.*

*(Continued on page 8)*

## LEWIS CROWTHER AND HIS FAMILY


*Part of Grave Stone in right hand (east) tomb in bookstall area.*

Lewes Crowther D. Early 1558
Bailiff: 1551
Church Warden: 1545-46
Purchased St Anne's Tabernacle: 1547 (after Chantry Chapels were removed).
Sons: John Crowther. Church Warden 1582-83.
Edward Crowther. 1583-84 rented 'Void Roweme' in house in east part of the church yard.

In the bookstall area of the Parish Church of St Laurence, built against the west end of the North wall, are two imposing and almost identical alcoves. Described as being of an early Sixteenth Century design, they are ornate, and each has a tomb chest decorated with three cusped quatrefoils. The one on the right has a canopy, and a Tudor Rose in the centre quatrefoil on its tomb chest.

None of our historians has been able to unearth any information, documentary or otherwise, concerning the origin of the tomb recesses. It is not known who built them or why. The Tudor Rose has prompted speculation that the chest contained the 'heart' of Prince Arthur, but this has been discounted. For further notes, please refer to page 7 in David Lloyd's guide to the church.

What is known, is, that the right hand recess contains part of a gravestone. Inscribed on the right hand piece of the two flat stones forming the top of the tomb chest is a lozenge surrounding the initials 'L C', and above it the date 1558. Further investigation reveals lettering, in a framed margin reading: '....HER AND ELISABETH HIS WIFE WHO HAD ISSUE...'. The remainder has been obliterated, and is otherwise on the other bit of the stone of which this is the lower half.

On checking the Church Wardens' accounts for 1558, an item can be found, 'Received for Lewes Crouther pytt..6s 8d'. For 'pytt' read grave, and for '6s 8d' understand that he was buried in the nave of the church. It was a big sum in those days, but not big enough for him to be laid in a tomb of great grandeur. So, the initials and the date fit, as do the 'HER' on the end of Crouther or Crowther. How did half the gravestone come to be where it is today? It is quite reasonable to assume that during the general restoration of 1859-60, Sir Gilbert Scott's masons, having removed the fractured stone from the floor of the nave, found it to be just right for repairing the top of the tomb chest.

What of Lewis Crowther himself?

Lewis Crowther was certainly in the top drawer of mid-sixteenth century Ludlow society. Admitted as a Burgess in 1542, a Church Warden with William Chelmyke in 1547, and appointed Low Bailiff with John Hook as High Bailiff in 1551, he was a mercer with properties in Broad Street, Burnt Lane, Brand Lane, and what is now the Rose and Crown in Church Street where he lived. He acted as Alnager for the Corporation for the year of 1554 in which Walter Nichols of Burford sold a Ludlow manufactured broad white cloth called 'long white' at Blackwell Hall in London. Unfortunately it only measured 28 yards as against the required 29 to 31, and weighed 71 pounds instead of 84, so the final selling price was rather lower than anticipated. As the Alnager was only responsible for checking the cloth sold in Ludlow, Lewis Crowther cannot be reproached for any lack of probity in this affair, otherwise the almost record figure of 750 long-cloths produced in 1554 might be in doubt.

Lewis Crowther, like everybody else, was liable for military service and had to answer the muster to arms if it were called. The Muster Roll of 1542 shows that he had to appear with a bow, a sheaf of arrows and a gelding. The wealthier you were, the more equipment you had to bring with you.

In the aftermath of the Dissolution when the churches were being stripped of images and ornaments, the chantry chapels in St. Laurence were dismantled and sold off. The Church Wardens' Accounts tell us that in 1547/48, eight pence was received from Lewis

*(Continued on page 6.)*

## LUDLOW SHOPPING CENTRE

One of Ludlow's unique features is the mediaeval street pattern of its shopping area which has remained, in its essentials, unchanged over the centuries. It stretches from the Market to Upper Galdeford and a short distance down Corve Street, Old Street and Broad Street.

In the early days it was the town's commercial centre – the shops having a very different appearance from today's – and did not begin to resemble shops selling consumer goods until the eighteenth century. There was no glass, or shop windows as we know them, but a shutter was let down to form a counter, and put up again at night. The interiors were small and dark with the shoemakers and lockyers workshops making things to order. The family lived above and behind the shop and the little shops down Church Street are still much in size as they were in middle ages.

It is not easy to envisage a mediaeval butcher's shop. Butcher is spelt 'botcher' in original documents and we still talk of a 'botched job', which gives a hint at the hacking at old sheep and oxen that must have been butchering in those days. After the butcher had slaughtered and dressed the carcass the meat would probably be returned to the carcass owner who would boil it with spices and then pound it in a mortar with other ingredients to make mince meat for raised pies. Only the most prosperous of burgesses would have ovens, most baking would be done at the several bakers, the weight of whose loaves was checked by the alnager, appointed by the bailiff.

Drapers Row consisted of warehouses for cloth. A little would be sold on a retail basis to the burgesses. Most people wore 'hempen homespun', sheep skins or leather. The term 'grocer' found in mediaeval documents means wholesale clothier. Hosiers made and sold stockings to those who could afford them and were extremely successful, as Hosiers Almshouses (founded in the 15th century by John Hosier, a merchant whose forbears had been hosiers) testify.

'Fine knacks for Ladies' were sold at fairs by wandering pedlars 'snappers up of unconsidered trifles' but consumer spending was almost unknown and took place in the open market and at biannual fairs.

Bodenhams remains a fine example of a mediaeval drapers – a shop that sold cloth – but of course without the modern shop windows. In Tudor times the old shops were largely replaced by timber framed buildings and glass in small square leaded panes appeared in the top storey living quarters, but not in the shops themselves. The 'new draperies' arrived from Flanders and Italy giving rise to tailoring with elaborate fitted sleeves and waisted short coats. These fashions were for the young and wealthy only, and the burgesses of Ludlow probably continued to wear loose long gowns. The fashionable people who could get to London bought their clothes there; tailoring in Ludlow was probably of a more humble kind.

Records show that in Tudor times shops were encroaching on to the street. In 1559 Elizabeth Crowther paid one pound of cumin in rent for an encroachment at the top of Broad Street. Rents for encroachment were also paid in Old Street. The uneven width, characteristic of Ludlow streets, is a result of this encroachment.

It was after the Civil War that Ludlow, after thirty years or so of slump, began to revive as a fashionable centre. The agricultural revolution was underway; Herefordshire cattle were bred for beef and other breeds, like Gloucester, were bred for producing milk. Sheep were bred for meat as well as wool. All this meant great prosperity for the landed gentry who lived in Ludlow's surrounds. They came into Ludlow and built themselves handsome town houses or converted timber-framed houses to suit fashionable tastes.

For the first time dairy produce and recognisable meat joints began to appear, to be consumed by the people of Ludlow. More money was in circulation; gradually the English peasant disappeared to be replaced by waged labourers and, although they were paid pitifully low wages, nevertheless they did receive money. This was the heyday of British farming. Butter in the summer would be plentiful and sold at the Buttercross; baron of beef and saddle of mutton replaced venison on the tables of the well-to-do, and butchers became more like the butchers we know. Kitchens were redesigned to accommodate ovens and the roast beef of old England had arrived. Cheese, once only made from goat's or sheep's milk, was now made from cow's milk,

*Butcher's shop next to the Feathers in 1846.*

although only eaten by the servants until the late 19th century when it was tacked on to the end of the meals of the wealthy.

Because there were now more people in the town with money to spend, many more types of shops were needed. Milliners, wig-makers and hatters appeared and thrived. Cheap cotton from India was made into calico, muslin and lawn in the cotton towns of the north and transported to Ludlow, possibly by pack horse. Calico was retailed for shirts and underclothes

and muslin and lawn for dresses and mob caps; these were the first washable materials, apart from linen, to appear. Dress-makers and all their accessories were needed by the fashionable ladies.

The first 'modern' grocers shops appeared, probably with bow windows like those of the Library, selling tea from China, coffee from the Middle East and sugar from the West Indies. Dried fruit from the Mediterranean countries had been imported for centuries and continued to be sold, now in larger quantities. Shops selling candles were needed – sweet-smelling beeswax for the rich – tallow, cheap and pungent, for the poor.

It was the coming of the railways combined with refrigeration in the 19th century that transformed the shopping environment of Britain, and Ludlow was no exception. Goods could be transported swiftly over long distances and kept fresh. By the end of the century, Birmingham wholesale fruit and vegetable open market was established, collecting up market gardening produce from the Vale of Evesham and other parts of the Midlands and redistributing it by rail, even to comparatively remote places like Ludlow. For the first time, fruit and vegetables could become part of a diet which had hitherto been reserved for the poor, who hadn't anything else to eat.

The potato and the tomato, so essential to our diet today, are newcomers. The potato was beginning to grow in gardens in the late 18th century but it was not until the latter half of the 19th century that it was grown on a commercial basis. The tomato, long a staple part of the diet in Italy, did not appear in Britain until the late 19th century when hot houses were built. Greengrocers now began to appear in Ludlow.

Refrigeration meant that specially adapted ships could bring meat from Argentina and Australia and lamb from New Zealand. People of modest income could now afford to buy meat. Fresh sea fish brought in refrigerated trains came to Ludlow for the first time.

Cheap textiles, both wool and cotton, came on to the market and machine made clothes and shoes could be bought, although most clothes (except for men's suits) were home made from material bought from the drapers whose windows, like any other shops, were transformed by plate glass windows displaying goods to great advantage.

Tea shops for afternoon tea became popular and, after the First World War, chain grocery stores like the Maypole (of which only the handsome picture in tiles remains at the *Cotswold Woollens)* and the Co-op. However, little changed as it was a time of depression generally, and for Ludlow in particular. Ludlow became a little run down and few people thought it mattered. But after the Second World War Ludlow and the nation woke up to the fact that the town was unique and must be preserved. No need to haul away buildings at great expense and re-erect them in open air museums in various parts of the country, here was the real thing living and breathing and rooted in the past. Once more Ludlow and its shops were saved, this time by an influx of mostly retired people who wanted to live a good but unostentatious life.

Ludlow serves its shoppers right royally. Increased road transport, air freight and deep freezing have transformed the shopping environment as drastically as the railways did. Joining the E.C. has done wonders for the selection of fruit and vegetables both in quality and quantity. Cheese is no longer the 'mousetrap' common before the war – now every variety of English, Welsh and Continental cheese is available.

Ludlow has excellent bakers and confectioners, butchers and greengrocers. There are three excellent delicatessen shops where every dietetic preference can be satisfied. Locally made chocolates and ice cream are available as is fresh fish in great variety. There are also three supermarkets, altough all the private grocers have gone. For those who like food and cooking, Ludlow takes some beating; and for those who don't, the deep freeze is ever present in supermarkets and other shops supplying a variety of pre-cooked food.

Takeaway food has a long history, from the mediaeval pieman, through fish and chip shops to the Chinese, Indian and Kebab takeaways of today.

There are four dispensing chemists, an ironmongers, a motor accessory shop, Woolworths and several very good bookshops, both for new and second-hand books.

Shops are still selling clothes in Drapers Row (now King Street). Man-made fibres have again produced a great change in people's attitudes to clothes. Although natural fibres are still worn they are expensive and most people wear a mixture of synthetic and natural – cheap and easy to wash. Second-hand clothes have always been a feature of the clothing economy. Until this century, a large minority of the population relied entirely on second-hand clothes. Today, the charity shops show there is still a demand.

Ludlow has a problem in that it must cater for tourists who come in large numbers in the summer but fewer in the winter, so that maintaining a steady income is difficult for traders.

The public houses, hotels and cafes attract enough people during all seasons, as Ludlow is still the market town for surrounding villages. The variety of these hostelries, both in food and the accommodation they offer is encouraging.

Tourists who come to Ludlow are, on the whole, discriminating adults, as there is little here to entertain children (although there are a great many visiting school parties). There are comparatively few shops that cater exclusively for tourists.

It would be a great pity if anything happened to spoil this historic shopping

*(Continued on page 6.)*

*(Continued from page 3.)*

Crowther 'for the tabernacle that saynt Anne stode in'. There are no details available as to what St Anne's chancel looked like or of what material it had been constructed. Presumably Lewis either disposed of the pieces at a profit or used them to embellish one of his own properties; maybe his house in Church Street.

The Crowthers were connected with some of the top Ludlow families, including the Boughtons of Henley, but they were anti the local establishment at the time and amongst the leaders of the attack on the oligarchy of the Farrs, Hooks, Bensons, Rascalls, Blashfields etc., who had been playing fast and loose with property leases and rents to the detriment of a lot of people in the community. Lewis had married Elizabeth Boughton and had three children, Edward who married Anne Beck and became High Bailiff in 1586, John who held the same post in 1596, and a daughter, Catherine who married Edward Foxe of Greete, the fourth and youngest son of William Foxe of Ludford who had obtained the lands of the Hospital of St John's and become quite comfortably well-off, thank you, as a result.

Edward and John played active parts in local politics and involved themselves in the running battle with the establishment which apparently did not overflow into religious affairs. In 1605, Edward, with Richard Bailey who was on the opposing political side, made a pro-Puritan protest by leading a party of senior burgesses into the church all with their headgear in place. They were subsequently charged with wearing their hats during divine service.

In John's career there are two notewrothy events. Firstly in 1596 when as High Bailiff he attempted to change the town's nominated parliamentary representatives by intercepting the sheriff's writ and replacing the two names with those of his mates whom he had made burgesses a short time beforehand for that express purpose. The election was declared void by the House of Commons. The second event occurred at the Ludlow fair in 1597. The stall of an upholsterer from Shrewsbury was wrecked by a local gang who objected to the outsiders. Bailiff John Crowther played to the gallery and ordered the upholsterer out of the fair. He was overuled by Sir Henry Townshend, the Recorder, (and son of Sir Robert whose tomb is in the high chancel of the parish church), who warned Charles Amyas the leader of the gang, 'What hast thow to doe with hit? Gett thee home or ells I will cause boults to be putt on thy heeles and thow shalt weare them untyll the fayre be done'. The upholsterer continued to trade at the fair.

The daughter Catherine who became Mrs Foxe of Greete only lived for two years after her marriage in 1571. She presented Foxe with two daughters, Elizabeth who married Christopher Whitchcott of Stoke and Katherine who died in 1578-9. Edward Foxe re-married, (to Elizabeth Leighton), and had seven sons of whom the fourth was William.

William Foxe was the subject of Star Chamber proceedings after his death in 1630. He had lived at Greete, where the church was not licensed for burials, so his body was taken to Burford. Arrangements had been made, or so it was assumed, for interment in the church there. However this was refused by Sir Thomas Cornewall on the grounds that William had been excommunicated and who ordered the body to be removed. The body remained in an open grave for a day and a night and was then taken in its coffin on a cart to Greete two miles away. There it was dumped without ceremony, and with the coffin lid undone, in the mire close to a pig sty. It was another five days before William was buried.

If that event had given Lewis Crowther, lying in the nave of St Laurence's, a bad turn, there was another and royal one to follow, or so we are told by W. Hodges in his 'Historical Account of Ludlow Castle'. About a century later, a gravedigger excavating in the chancel where Prince Arthur's heart had been buried, discovered a leaden casket. This he took and sold to Robert Pitt, a plumber. Somehow information reached the ears of the Rector, it is thought Charles Fenton, who repurchased the casket and its contents, and restored them to their original position.

No wonder then, that Lewis Crowther revolved so violently in his 'pytt', that his gravestone cracked neatly enough for Gilbert Scott's masons to re-use it most properly in the 19th Century.

*Acknowledgements: David Lloyd, Peter Klein. Michael Faraday (Ludlow 1085-1660)*

*Henry T. Weyman (Some Account of the Early History of the Foxe Family).*

**T. A. G. Bristow**

*(Continued from page 5.)*

pattern. There are few towns where a shopper can walk from one end of the shopping area to the other, passing such a variety of shops offering goods of such quality. If it were paved over like Pepper Lane, eliminating the footpaths, motorists would realise that it is a town for pedestrian shoppers, to be negotiated with great care as it is they, the motorists, who are the intruders, only welcome as long as they are disciplined.

**Belle Kitchener**

## BOOKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

**An Illustrated Literary Guide to Shropshire** by **Gordon Dickins, Shropshire Libraries (Price £5.50)** differs from the author's first book on the subject in that it is confined to authors who are no longer living (and is, of course, illustrated!). The book is divided into two main sections, the first detailing authors connected with Shropshire and the second listing places connected with Shropshire authors or mentioned in major works.

Details of locations are clearly described.

**Barbara and Alan Palmer**, the authors of **Some Shropshire Gardens, Shropshire Books (Price £3.99)**, aptly describe their book as 'a celebration of gardens in Shropshire'. Fifty-nine gardens are listed, ranging in size from 'small surburban' to over thirty acres and embracing all types from 'cottage' to 'water' to 'rolling parkland'. There is a garden to suit every taste.

Each garden is lovingly described in great detail (including its history) and accompanied by colour photographs. For details of opening times the reader is referred to other publications *(Yellow Book, National Trust Handbook*, etc.).

**Michael Jackson: Castles of Shropshire, Shropshire Libraries (Price £5.95)** provides an excellent gazetteer listing all the county's known castles and earthworks erected between 1066 and 1600. Details of location, brief descriptions and short histories of each entry are included, along with such other useful information as a glossary of architectural terms, a chronology of major historical events from 1066 to 1660, notes on the Welsh rulers mentioned in the text and a list of remains and earthworks once believed to have been castles but which recent research has proved otherwise.

This book is well illustrated with photographs and ground plans.

Devotees of the sport of kings will thoroughly enjoy **Harry Ruckley's** book on **Oswestry Racecourse, Shropshire Books (Price £2.95)**. Mr Ruckley draws on reports, letters and journals of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to provide lively, first-hand accounts of the course and meetings at Cryn y Bwch from 1719 until its closure in 1848.

The book is full of humourous anecdotes which admirably capture the vitality of those Race Weeks, with their high and low life, accidents and assemblies, gamesters and gallants – not to mention the larger-than-life characters who made the meetings possible.

**Memories of Clun** by **R. K. Moore (Price £4.95)** and **A Ludlow Album** by **Bill Webb (Price £2.50)** both published by **Shropshire Libraries** provide fascinating photographic records of the past hundred or so years in these towns.

The Ludlow volume is purely photographic; the Clun book offers – along with some remarkable photographs – anecdotes and recollections of life in Edwardian Clun, carefully collected and recorded by the author. Wimberry picking, dancing bears, carnival processions, maypole dancing and 'characters', such as the feared Mrs Francis, Nannie Porter and Joe the Bear are all captured for posterity in these pages.

Anyone wanting to find out more about 'selions', 'mast months' or the characteristics of the Shropshire pig would do well to read **The Farmer Feeds Us All** by **Paul Stamper, Shropshire Books (Price £4.95)**. This history of agriculture in Shropshire spans 4,500 years, from the early Bronze Age to the present day.

Described as a 'short history of Shropshire agriculture' the book, nevertheless, manages to cover a wide variety of topics: landscape; crops; animal breeds and husbandry (look out for the portraits of prize beasts!); landlord/tenant relationships; social conditions, etc.

The book is welll illustrated with photographs, maps, drawings and reproductions.

Compiled and edited by the Shrosphire Railway Society and with a Foreword by its President, John Horsley Denton, **Shropshire Railway Pictorial, Shropshire Books (Price £5.50)** offers a nostalgic photographic record of both the splendid steam engines that once plied the county's tracks and many of the buildings which graced the rails and are now, sadly, defunct.

The atmosphere of the thriving railway network of the '50s and '60s has been admirably captured in this second compilation; particularly notable is the superb photograph of four locomotives lined up at Shrewsbury shed. Of interest to Ludlow readers are the photographs of two Bromfield collisions of the '50s – fortunately not serious, to judge by the smiling faces of the crews!

Canals played an essential part of the development of industrial Shropshire. **Canals of Shropshire** by **Richard K. Morriss, Shropshire Books (Price £4.99)** traces the development of the canal system throughout Shropshire. Well illustrated with maps, diagrams and photographs, Mr Morriss' book is a comprehensive examination of the history of the Severn's river trade; the construction, during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, of the Shropshire canals; the heyday and decline of the canal network and the situation regarding canals (both navigable and derelict) today.

All the above-mentioned books are available at Ludlow Bookshops.

**Barbara Holcombe**

*T. F. Pritchard (continued from page 2)*

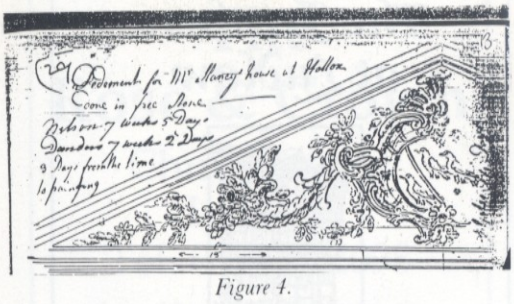

*Figure 4.*

drew up a modernisation scheme for Ludford House in 1761 and for the Guildhall in Mill Street in 1774-6. These are among the many interesting projects that he worked on during the busy years of the 1760s and 1770s.

One of the problems of the research work on Pritchard has been the lack of documentary evidence of his work on some buildings; for example, apart from the design for the fireplace, no other known papers exist for 27 Broad Street, although it is assumed that he carried out both the updating of the house and designed the charming Gothick gazebo in the garden.

For positive identfication of his work, 'eared architraves' and 'Gothic Rococo' chimney pieces are not enough, however much one intuitively feels that a house contains Pritchard's work. Other factors, though, such as family connections between patrons or a signed monument as in the case of Samuel Sprott can often help in identification. So if you think that your house might contain work by Pritchard I would be very pleased to hear about it.

A full assessment of the significance of Thomas Farnolls Pritchard, both as a 'provincial master' and in the broader field of 18th century designs can help towards our understanding of the architecture of that time.

**Julia Ionides**

*Figure 1. The front elevation of Hosiers Almshouses, Ludlow. Photo Dog Rose Sound*

*Figure 2. The design for the chimney piece at 27 Broad Street, Ludlow.*

*Figure 3. The garden elevation of Hatton Grange, Shifnal, Shropshire. Photo Dog Rose Sound*

*Figure 4. The design for the pediment at Hatton Grange.*

Notes:

1. Professor J. Mordaunt Crook, Introduction to C. Eastlake's *Gothic Revival*, p37.

2. Ludlow Corporation Papers 356/2/6 Box 462 Minutes p60.

## LUDLOW CIVIC SOCIETY

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**The Ludlow Townscape**
Stephen Dornan
*The Chairman reflects upon why Ludlow is such a special place.*

Wednesday, 12th May 1993
**Annual General Meeting of the Society**

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