

LUDLOW'S CREST GETS A MAKEOVER

The Hosyer-Foxe Charity has recently completed significant repair, and redecoration works on both the front and rear of the Hosyers Almshouses. While the scaffolding was in place, additional works were undertaken, including roof repairs, targeted repointing of brickwork, removal of obsolete television aerials, and the restoration and painting of the Ludlow Crest—a prominent feature associated with the Ludlow Coat of Arms displayed on the property.

To ensure historical accuracy with regard to paint colours, Mrs Juliet Diamond of the Ludlow Civic Society provided guidance. Eric Williams, Clerk to the Trustees, researched and identified valuable reference materials on the Ludlow Civic Society's website.

Each feature of the crest represents some aspect of Ludlow's heritage: the feathers symbolise the connection with the Prince of Wales and the Council of the Marches, the white roses symbolise the House of York that had a close connection with Ludlow and helped finance the building of the Church Tower, and the lion couchant and guardant symbolises the connection with the powerful Mortimer family.

A notable publication, *Ludlow Heritage News* (Issue No. 2, September 1984), details the last major repainting of the Ludlow Coat of Arms—completed in 1984 under the auspices of the Ludlow Civic Society by stonemason Norman Griffin and graphic artist Derek James, who implemented authentic heraldic colours and restored the gilded Latin inscription beneath the arms.

For the current project, scaffold installation was provided by local contractor Steve Dovey and his team, while local tradesmen Tommy McCourt and Dave Edwards undertook the programme of works with considerable pride and attention to detail.

The cleaning of the Ludlow Crest was carried out meticulously, employing gentle tools such as toothbrushes to safeguard the stonework, resulting in the successful restoration of the original heraldic colours. Although the gilded lettering beneath the crest did not require renewal at this time, refinements were made to the black background for improved definition.

Over successive years, the Trustees of the Hosyer-Foxe Charity have maintained high standards in property management. Projects have included roof replacement following the detection of Deathwatch Beetle infestation, flat modernisation, reconstruction of the historic backyard wall, repairs to numerous windows, and ongoing exterior decoration.

With the conclusion of the last Quinquennial survey and the completion of identified works, planning has already commenced for the next survey, scheduled for 2026.

This proactive approach ensures that the preservation and maintenance of the Hosyers Almshouses will continue for the benefit of future generations.

