

THE LEDBURY LETTER

Number 104 Autumn 2017



The Butcher Row House Museum.

Ledbury & District Civic Society

“Looking After Ledbury...”



Butcher Row House
Folk Museum

LEDBURY & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY
Burgage Hall
Church Lane
Ledbury
HEREFORDSHIRE HR8 1DW

Objectives of the Society...

To stimulate public interest; promote high standards of planning and architecture; and secure the preservation, protection and improvement of features of historic, natural and public interest in Ledbury and the surrounding district.

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Notice is hereby given that membership records of the Ledbury & District Trust are held on a database system. Those requiring access to the data held concerning themselves should contact the Membership Secretary. These are for administration purposes only, and an individual's details can be removed on receipt of a written request.

Copy deadline for the next Ledbury Letter: Friday, 9th February 2018.

We urge every Civic Society member to look at and comment on the recently published draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (www.ledbury-ndp.org). Once finalised, this document will have an important influence on the way Ledbury and the surrounding area develops over the next 20 years. Details of where to look at the NDP and how to comment on it are in the Planning Report later in this Newsletter. The deadline for comments is 25th September.

Chairman's Report...

Chris Johnson

I am very honoured to be asked to serve a second term as Chairman of the Civic Society: it's one of those jobs where you say "never again" when it ends, but my memory has obviously faded since 2011 and I am once again excited by the challenge. For my first report this term, I thought I would have a look back at what I said six years ago.

Then, as now, there was much debate about development in the town. Six years ago the issue was proposals for a large edge of town superstore. These no longer feature so significantly in the development plans of the major supermarket chains who are concentrating their strategy on convenience stores. (Remember corner shops? What goes around comes around!) They also face competition from discount stores such as the newly opened Aldi in Ledbury. The concern has now changed to housing developments on the edge of town and whether such rapid population expansion can be accommodated by all the support services and infrastructure required. As always, the Civic Society is actively involved in all planning matters and I am very grateful to Tony Peake and Andy Tector for all the work they do on this.

My second concern, six years ago, was for the Civic Society to help ensure that the Master's House had a viable future. Here there is a wonderful success story as the restored building and the library within is a fantastic asset to the town and a tribute to the many people and organisations who worked so hard to bring this project to fruition. I did sound a warning note over the Barrett Browning (old library) building, as I was concerned that this would be left empty

and deteriorate unless action was taken. Here we have a “curate’s egg” – the good news is that it is now in the ownership of local charity Ledbury Places and is being used on a temporary basis for a youth drop-in, a very welcome facility with the closure of the youth centre in Ledbury as part of the Herefordshire Council financial cuts. The less happy news is the difficulty Ledbury Places has had in securing Heritage Lottery funding to carry out a comprehensive refurbishment of the building to ensure it has a sustainable future. It is now actively seeking to secure alternative funding sources and we wish them success in this task.

Ledbury Places has also acquired the Heritage Centre from Herefordshire Council and, with all the wonderful volunteers, has now taken over the running of the building entirely after a few years when the Civic Society and the volunteers ran it under licence from the Council. We are very pleased that this building is now in the ownership of a Ledbury-based community charity. There was also a small ownership change for the Burgage Hall. The Civic Society does not own the freehold of this building or the land on which the Butcher Row Museum stands. It had a lease from Herefordshire Council which runs until 2078, so at least renewing the lease will not be my problem! The freehold has now been transferred to Ledbury Places. This does not affect the lease but it is reassuring to know it is Ledbury Places, rather than Herefordshire Council, that is now our landlord. I am sure they will spend our £1 per annum rent wisely!

The relationship between Ledbury town and Herefordshire Council has been mixed at times and there can be a feeling that the “centre” sometimes ignores the market towns wishes. Does Ledbury tend to forget that perhaps the surrounding villages may think the same of Ledbury? Do they? I am very conscious that we are Ledbury and District Civic Society and I want to make it a target of my Chairmanship this time to try and find out more of the needs and aspirations of the District we serve as well as those of the Market Town. Some of you may know that I was a professional woodland manager before I retired, about four years ago now, so I am very pleased to welcome Anne Crane, our tree warden, as a new Board member and I will be encouraging her and the Civic Society to do more to enhance our street scene by recording and hopefully adding to the trees and shrubs in the urban environment. I also welcome our other new Board member, Jean Simpson.

Whatever the Board and the committees that run the Civic Society do, and they do a lot for which I am very grateful, the life blood of the Society is its membership, so please encourage your friends to join at every opportunity. Bring them to one of our Friday evening talks and, if they enjoy it, encourage them to join and get free entry. We have an exceptional and extended series of talks this season, as you will see from the enclosed programme, and I look forward to seeing many of you at these during the forthcoming year. If any of you would like to help the Civic Society in any other way, please let me know - with your ideas of what you want to do- and we will welcome you with open arms.

Finally, I would like to give my thanks to Allen Conway for his time, good humour and caring leadership during his period as Chairman. Both he and his wife Judy have been stalwarts of the Civic Society for many years and have now reduced their commitment to concentrate on the work they do for the Friends of the Master's House.

Thank you to all our members and friends for your continuing support for all the work the Society carries out in "Looking after Ledbury"

If there is one thing you do after reading this newsletter please make it a promise to **look at, read and comment on the neighbourhood development plan**. It is not long and is easy to read, so don't be put off by the name - read it today!

Butcher Row House Museum...

Prue Yorke

We are nearing the end of our opening period for 2017 and the Museum is going "great guns" as usual. Our stalwart volunteers turn up on time and do a splendid job of meeting and greeting visitors from all around the globe. We do our utmost to make them feel welcome and valued, always hoping they will come again and also recommend us to their friends.

The majority of the musical instruments are now installed in their new cabinet and are now displayed to much better advantage. The drum and the harp are in separate locations to add variety to the display and so as not to overcrowd the new cabinet. The instruments are now in a much more stable environment, where temperature and

humidity fluctuates less than in the open museum. The new cabinet is a huge improvement and our thanks go to Ken Chapman for organising and helping with the installation and to Ben Ash for the cabinet-making. There have been some hiccups in getting the CD of the Ledbury Lute recording into production, but these should be resolved shortly and we should have CDs for sale next year.

Visitor numbers are slightly down so far this year, which a little surprising given all the press coverage of a tourist boom in the UK, but that probably only applies to overseas tourists taking advantage of the weak pound. We do get some overseas visitors but the majority are from the UK and they may be spending more time in their own homes. Although the numbers are slightly down, the donation per visitor is slightly up and overall our donations and sales income is very similar to last year.

Next winter we are planning to have a comprehensive review of the stock we sell at the museum, to think about what sells best, what gives the best income for the museum and what items we might add or remove from the stock lines. We will also think about how it is displayed and this may mean some changes to the downstairs layout. If you have any ideas about sales items or displays do let us know. All suggestions are always very welcome.

Please, please will any volunteer who is unable to carry on next year contact me as soon as possible, so that we have plenty of time to find a replacement. We are always on the lookout for “new blood”, so if you would like to join our enthusiastic team, meet lots of new people and tell them about Ledbury and its history please let us know. It is only 2 hours once a fortnight between April and October and a real joy to do. Even if you can't commit to this tiny amount of time on a regular basis, you can still help out on an occasional basis by being on our volunteer reserve list. If you want to help out “behind the scenes” we are always looking for people who are interested in doing work with our archive records, answering enquiries from the public or doing their own research. If you would like to help in any of these ways, please contact me, Prue Yorke direct or put a note in the Burgage Hall letter box.

Easter Sunday next year falls on 1 April and we are considering opening for the whole week before Easter, to catch the Easter holiday visitors (rather than just from Good Friday which is what we usually do when

Easter weekend has dates in March). If you are a volunteer and would not be able to help if we opened on Saturday 24th March 2018, please let me know. The clocks change on the night of 24th March so the evenings will be light for that week before Easter.

The volunteer coffee morning, before we open, will be on **Thursday, 22nd March 2018 at 10.30 a.m. in the Burgage Hall**. Please put the date in your diary when you get it. We would like not just our dedicated team to attend, but also anyone else who would like a cup of coffee and does not mind having an arm twisted to get involved.

Finally, as always, a massive “thank you” to everyone who does so much to keep the Museum open and running, all on an entirely voluntary basis. Without all you the Museum would have to close at considerable loss to Ledbury and the 14,000 to 15,000 visitors to the Museum each year.

Report from Planning Committee...

Anthony Peake

This small committee, with the help of one or two others, continues to look at the reams of planning applications that stream into Herefordshire Council – approximately four pairs of eyes constantly examining the physical changes being proposed for Ledbury and District. Most of these have only a tiny impact on anyone or anything, but nonetheless we look, and comment when we consider it appropriate!

The most important news is that the Town Council has recently unanimously approved a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for “Section 14”: this is the public consultation stage when everyone has a chance to see what’s proposed for the future development of Ledbury and the surrounding district.

The production of this Plan has been an arduous journey for all those involved, with a false start and many different interests, viewpoints and concerns to be discussed and agreed along the way. We should be very grateful to the committee and consultants who have produced the

document now before us.

The NDP can be inspected and comments submitted on-line at this dedicated website: www.ledbury-ndp.org and there are copies in the Library and Town Council's Office in Church Lane. **If you care about the future development of Ledbury, we urge you to look at the plan and to express your individual views on it. The deadline for comments is 5.00pm on Monday 25th September.**

With an NDP in place – hopefully to be achieved by the summer of 2018 – there should be some greater local control over all types of development in and around the town.

The recent opening of Aldi near the ring road has proved popular with most people and the store has certainly cheered up a dull corner of the Lower Road Trading Estate. We trust that Aldi will not have a detrimental effect on the well-being of the Town Centre as it is relatively small. Perhaps it will sharpen up the offers from Tesco and the Co-op which are the businesses most likely to feel the competition.

There are three large and significant housing developments in the pipeline at present: the Viaduct Site land north of the railway Viaduct (behind the Bromyard Road trading estate); the Cricket Pitch site behind the Full Pitcher pub near Leadon Way; the 'Gladman Site' on the south side of Leadon Way, now owned by Barratt. Here's a quick update:

a. The Viaduct Site

Bloor Homes will be building the 625 homes planned for this area in the Herefordshire Council Core Strategy. As yet, there is no detail and no formal planning approval and there are problems of vehicular access to the site to be overcome. The logical access point would be from Hereford Road, under the railway viaduct, but Railtrack is being difficult about traffic moving beneath its magnificent, ancient brick structure with the risk of potential damage thereto. Access about half a mile up the Bromyard Road, which is the subject of a current planning application to determine the access issues alone, greatly distances the occupants of the new houses from the Town Centre and would produce unwanted extra car journeys. We are concerned about the potential traffic impact on the surrounding villages due to "rat-running" and the likely chaos at the T-junction between Hereford Road and the Homend

at the station.

We have suggested that there should be a “proper” roundabout there rather than the mini-roundabout proposed, with the existing coach-depot used to provide the necessary space. The coach company could be provided with a new, less dangerous and more convenient site elsewhere. All yet to be resolved.

b. Hereford Housing has applied for Planning Consent for 100 new homes, many of them low-rent, on the Cricket Pitch site. (The fine new Cricket Club buildings and pitch having opened in July at its new site in Leddington Lane). Although it has apparently been through ten revisions, the design proposal for these houses makes our blood run cold, as they are densely-packed, very tightly planned and show extreme cost-cutting. There is little public space and, despite adjoining the Villa Way playground, they make no comprehensive link to it for all users. We hope that a dramatic redesign is still possible and that perhaps a talented designer will grab the pencil and design ‘a place for living’ that creates delight.

c. The Gladman/Barratt site has outline planning consent, as the result of the very unfortunate decision by the Planning Inspector at the Inquiry last year, to allow development not envisaged by the core strategy and despite refusal by Herefordshire Council. Currently detailed design-approval is being sought by Barratt.

Since there is open-market involvement for all these proposals for new houses, it is very unlikely that they will all proceed in the near future, with Brexit and the prevailing uncertain economic outlook adversely affecting the housing market.

The three proposals above add up to 1146 new houses, considerably more than the 800 we are required to accommodate under the Core Strategy, and which would have a fairly heavy effect on the “ease” of Ledbury. By this I mean such things as general overcrowding, the likely end of free parking at the station, parking spaces in town generally becoming over-used, doctors’ surgeries and schools becoming overwhelmed by increased numbers – and goodness knows how the roads’ pothole count will increase and what will be the effect on flooding and sewage disposal!

The big problem for beautiful, historic and successful towns like ours is that they are so attractive that outside developers see the potential profit for themselves; they help landowners to obtain planning consent and between them they pocket all the profit from the huge uplift in land value. Developers still only pay trivial amounts towards necessary upgrades to the town's infrastructure. Until communities like ours start to benefit and share in a major way from the release of huge land-value uplifts when planning consent is granted, we are left to mop up all the consequent problems, including jobs, for the incoming families.

Anniversary Lunch – Thursday, 14th December 2017 – 1.00 pm

The anniversary buffet lunch continues to be very popular since we started it four years ago to celebrate forty years since the Civic Society was formed. We have decided to repeat it this year on Thursday, **14th December 2017 at 1.00 pm**. This year is the bi-centenary of the birth of Philip Clissett, the Bosbury chair-maker whose work was influential in the Arts and Crafts movement and there will be a short summary of his life and the opportunity to look more closely at the chairs we have in the Butcher Row Museum.

We will keep the cost the same as last year, at a modest £5 per person, just to cover the food and soft drinks. This means we spend all the money on food and drink. If anyone does not turn up for any reason we lose money. In view of this we are asking everyone to pay in advance again this year.

We expect it to be a popular event and, as seating numbers for a meal in the Burgage Hall have to be limited, this will be an event for Society members only. (If your friend or partner is not a member why not get them to join? – it's only £10 a year) and will be on a "first reply first on the list" basis.

If you would like to come to this lunch please write a note saying you want to come with your name(s), address and contact telephone number to Chris Johnson, Ledbury & District Civic Society, Burgage Hall, Church Lane, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1DW and enclose a cheque made out to Ledbury & District Civic Society for £5 per person.

Patricia Wilkin MBE...

Mary Winfield

The Society has recently lost one of its longest-serving officers with the resignation of Mrs P. Wilkin, MBE, from the role of Secretary. Pat has served with distinction and dedication and we are very sorry to say farewell to her. Only ill-health has prevented her from continuing in the role and we earnestly hope that her condition will improve and enable her to enjoy her well-earned retirement.

A Royal Visit...

Patrick Goode

The Ledbury Fault is not what you might think it is, but is the junction with the limestone outcrop rising from the Old Red Sandstone of the Herefordshire plain. Formed from the bodies of millions of sea creatures, the outcrop supports the hills to the east of the town. Part of this area was explored by three counties' members of the Royal Forestry Society, led by Chris and Bella Johnson, in an all-day event on 15 July 2017.

We began with Liz Harvey, who has several beehives in the woodland south of the Worcester Road lodge (the former Ledbury Grammar School hockey pitch), giving a concise account of the life cycle of the bee. Ivy may over-burden trees and crumble mortar, but bees love it – gardeners, please note.

Limestone means orchids, rare in this area, even if none of the local varieties is rare. For this reason, the woodland and meadow known as Stoney Hill to the north-west of the Worcester Road is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, which should mean that it benefits from very careful maintenance. But, because of a shortage of government funding to manage the site properly, the burden falls on the (taxpaying) landowner, resulting in too much undergrowth and stunted trees. Further northwards, another interesting site, the wall of an abandoned lime quarry and attendant lime workers' dwelling - more of a cave than a dwelling - is equally in need of attention.

After lunch on the beautifully maintained Johnsons' lawn, we saw an example of the honourable efforts of local government undermined by an unthinking public. On Dog Hill, owned by Ledbury Town Council, the Council cleared scrub and trees to make a viewpoint overlooking the town – but the space has been rather maltreated by the public. The

Council's sound idea of woodland management – coppicing on the edge of the wood – has been hindered by public complaints about felling trees.

The day concluded with an informative discussion on the rights and wrongs of cutting down trees. The message is that sometimes the right course of action is: 'Woodman, don't spare that tree!'

Further Thoughts on Phillip Clissett the Bosbury chair-maker Alan Meikle

Many of you will remember the most informative talk given by Mike Abbott on Phillip Clissett the Bosbury chair-maker. We have a chair made by Clissett in the Butcher's Row Museum.

This is a more personal account of how my admiration for his chair making skills has developed over a lifetime as an architect and furniture designer.

When, as an architectural student after the war, I occasionally cycled over to Bosbury from my Pershore home to see my Aunt Annie who kept The Bell Inn in the High Street. During these visits I first saw and sat in the familiar ladder-back chair made by the famous Bosbury chair-maker Phillip Clissett. He was badly out of fashion then as the urge to modernise and buy new furniture after the "utility" war years was on the increase. His chairs with their rush seats were beginning to break up and were considered to be out of date. To me good designs using traditional materials in an imaginative way are never out of date. Like a number of architects far more famous than me, I was bowled over by the elegance, simplicity and longevity of the Clissett chair. I wanted to own one.

My aunt gave me one or two and Hetty Lane from Court Farm opposite the Bell sold me two. Through the WI and her village contacts my aunt found others at give-away prices. In ten years I acquired eight, six of them being of the elegant ladder-back type. But my interest didn't stop there. How was it that this craftsman living and working in a rural backwater had achieved such a reputation in the wider Arts and Crafts movement? True he had lived to the ripe old age of 98 and had made chairs well into the 20th century. I wanted to know more especially about Ernest

Gibson's involvement in this story, but my interest moved onto more modern designs prompted by a student visit to Sweden when I met the master designer of laminated furniture Bruno Matheson, using modern methods and traditional materials. Thus inspired I designed and made my own chair which acted as a passport for my first job in 1952, as a furniture designer with Hertfordshire County Council. Only when I retired and settled in Ledbury was I able to solve the conundrum about Clissett's apparent designer skills in old age that matched his craftsman's proven ability in practical chair-making. The clue lay in the complete difference in design between the elm seated chairs typical of many country chair-makers and the elegant ladder-back ones with rush seating that I so admired. Someone must have intervened in this late life conversion around 1890. I had to track down how this happened.

Then I met Terry Rowell, who was visiting the Heritage Centre in Ledbury. His wife is directly descended from Clissett and is keenly interested in her great great grandfather's story. Terry is writing a history of him and other 19th century chair-makers. The key incident in solving the mystery of the high style ladder-back chair with a rush seat is now well known. How the Scottish architect James Maclaren, who at the time was employed by Lord Biddulph on alterations to Ledbury Park, went for a walk with his brother-in-law and found Clissett at work in his Stanley Hill workshop, and being an ardent Arts and Crafts architect, he was bowled over by the epitome of the movement's belief in the purity of using local materials cut from the woods and reed beds, being transformed by handcrafted skills. Maclaren is said to have made some sketches which he showed to the old man asking him if he could make one or two chairs to the new Maclaren/Clissett design. Apparently Clissett, ever willing to oblige an architect, made the chairs which were despatched to London. They caused quite a stir amongst the cognoscenti of the Arts and Craft Movement and orders were placed by a number of prominent architects and also by the Art Workers Guild for their meeting hall in London. One architect, Ernest Gimson, was so enchanted that in 1890 he "hot footed it" to Bosbury and spent three weeks with Clissett learning the skills which he then took back to his own workshop at Danesway near Sapperton in the Cotswolds.

He produced his own versions of the chair and continued to make copies of the originals. Gimson was not satisfied with the quality of his

own workmanship, so persuaded his foreman Edward Gardiner to take on the production of all the ladder-back style chairs. As the demands for the chairs continued, and Clissett himself had retired, Gardiner took on an apprentice Neville Neal (1939) who spent forty years supplying ladder-back chairs to people, churches, schools and National Trust houses all over the West Midlands (Attingham Hall has a very large collection in its café). Neal set up his own workshop in a converted village school in Stockton, Warwickshire. His son Lawrence followed him as an apprentice in 1966 and they worked together until Neville's death in 2000. The business was advertised as a village craft founded by Ernest Gimson, but it was truly Clissett who inspired many architects and designers, including local craft teacher Mike Abbott, who passed on knowledge of the practical skills involved in chair making to many enthusiastic amateurs attending his courses at Clissett Wood, just off Stanley Hill near Bosbury.

There will be an exhibition of chairs, including one made by Clissett, in Tinsmiths in the High Street, Ledbury from 3rd-14th July, courtesy of Alex Clive. Occasionally Lawrence Neal will be in attendance.

Following on from June Bell's 'Summer Affair'...

Mary Every

In the spring edition of this magazine, I am delighted to say that we, too, have a hedgehog.

We had long suspected that one visited the garden and have been putting out food and water every night for two or three years, and every morning the dish would be empty. But we were never truly sure that it was a hedgehog coming to eat the food. It could have been a rat, mouse, birds or cats. Unlike Jill, we have never seen hedgehogs in daylight, only after dark very occasionally. However, for my recent birthday, Graham gave me a digital trail camera which records any movement that it detects. We discovered that a hedgehog visited two or three times every night at two hourly intervals. Then one Friday night we discovered that TWO were coming. The next night showed that in fact three hedgehogs are visiting. There they were sitting side by side munching the food and drinking the water. Over the past month we have been able to note differences between the hedgehogs. The first to

visit every night is big, but as it eats the majority of the food that is hardly surprising!! We assume that this is a male. Then comes a female – we can see a nipple – she has a frilly skirt. After a while a much smaller hedgehog arrives. This must be a young one. As it is always scratching we have named it Scratchy. Unfortunately, by this time most of the food has been eaten, so there is little chance of it getting any bigger unless we get up in the middle of the night to refill the food bowl!!! They are now around for up to five hours.

As soon as the hedgehogs have gone about their business a wood mouse comes to clear up any leftovers. At dawn the birds start coming – robins, blackbirds, magpies and pigeons. So my birthday present is showing us a whole new side of life in our garden that we had no idea about before.



The Theft of George Sexty's Horse, December 1825...

Part 2

Celia G Kellett, MA

Mr Lawton then gave evidence about the theft of his horses, which happened at about 3am and of later identifying them at the New Inn Hotel, after Officer Orchard had succeeded in recovering all three mares on the Thursday night. He had found them in the possession of a third party, who said that he had purchased them from a man named James Cale. James Cale was arrested shortly afterwards but his companion had fled and remained at large. Mr Sexty, having followed him, on arrival in Birmingham, was taken to the New Hotel and at the stables there he found his chestnut mare.

A sentence of death was passed on James Cale for stealing the mare, the property of George Sexty, grocer and tallow chandler in Ledbury. The jury recommended the prisoner to mercy; four respectable persons from Ledbury, at which place he was a small butcher, having given him a good character. However, Mr Baron Garrow observed that the increase in this type of crime and the audacity of it made it absolutely necessary for the protection of such valuable property and so unavoidably exposed to plunder, to make a terrible example of the offender, particularly in a case so aggravated as this. He therefore felt it a duty owed to society and a warning to others to leave the culprit for execution! The unhappy man, who was only thirty years of age and unmarried, heard his fate with apparent indifference.

James Cale had been born in 1797, twin brother to Benjamin. They were the sons of John Cale, butcher and his wife Ann née Gainsford, who had married in 1783. The family lived in Middle Row, also known as Butcher Row, which stood in the middle of Ledbury High Street until the last properties were finally cleared in February 1836. The twins were born of Ann's ninth pregnancy, although four of the children were already in their graves before the birth of the twin boys. Of their nine sons, all six surviving trained to become butchers, including James, the black sheep of the family.

Fortunately for the Cale family, James did receive a reprieve, which was reported in the Worcester Journal on 06 April 1826, but the reprieve changed his sentence to transportation for life. He left England in

September 1826 on the vessel Albion, arriving in Sydney in February 1827. His family may well have regarded him as dead, as James received no mention at all in the will, following his father's death in 1838. He was recorded as working in a labour gang at Bemina, in the muster held in 1837. In 1842 he was pardoned along with many others, but because his transportation was for life, he was not allowed to return to England. He died in Australia in 1845.

Artistree...

This is the photograph that we didn't have room to include in the Spring Letter with the article by Brian Richardson.



We wish Artistree continuing success with all their projects in and around Ledbury.

Education Link...

Mary Winfield

All eight schools in the Catchment Area took part again this year and were very grateful for our contribution to school funds. Bosbury Primary School has an enterprising garden project, where they are constructing raised beds and a greenhouse and will use the money towards seeds and plants. Ashperton will be buying seeds and plants that will encourage butterflies and bees. Good work all round!

Lavender...

Mary Every

Thank you to all who offered lavender, following the appeal in the last Ledbury Letter. At the beginning of July Graham and I visited four gardens in Ledbury and cut lots of lavender. Since then it has been dried, rubbed, and sieved ready for use in lavender bags to sell at Butcher Row Museum.

Programme 2017-18...

Mary Winfield

I hope members will approve of the speakers I've chosen for next season. I try to cover as varied a group of topics as possible, in an effort to find something for everyone. If you have any suggestions for the following season or if there is a subject about which you would like to hear more, do, please, let me know. Looking forward to seeing you at September's talk.

On very rare occasions, through no fault of our own, it is necessary to substitute speakers. We email those we have email addresses for, and advertise the change on the noticeboards by St. Katherine's Hall and in Ledbury News. If you have an email address that you have not shared with us then please send it to the Membership Secretary so that you can be advised by email.

SPEAKERS' PROGRAMME 2017/18

Meetings at The Burgage Hall, Church Lane on Fridays at 7.30pm

- 29th September The life and times of The Falklands
Fred Clark
- 28th October Ledbury Naturalists: the first fifty years
Alan Pike and Janet Perry
- 24th November The Colwall project for VCH Herefordshire
James Bowen
- 26th January The City of Hereford
Penny Platts
- 23rd February The Wye Valley Walk
Margaret Roy
- 30th March The Harrow and The Plough: the artist Brian Hatton
Robin Thorndyke
- 27th April **7pm A.G.M.** followed at 7.45
The restoration of Upper Hall
Chris Johnson
- 25th May The work of the International Centre for Birds of
Prey
- 22nd June River trade on the Wye and Lugg
Heather Hurley**

If you have enjoyed reading this newsletter please pass one on to friends and family and encourage them to join.