

THE LEDBURY LETTER

Number 105 Spring 2018



Butcher Row House

Ledbury & District Civic Society

“Looking After Ledbury...”



*Butcher Row House
Folk Museum*

THE 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.

In this Edition...

Chairman's report	4
Butcher Row House Museum	5
Planning Committee	6
Burgage Hall	8
Data Protection	9
Postscript on Phillip Clisset	10
Annual Accounts	11
Treasurer's Comments	14
Postscript on Phillip Clisset <i>cont</i>	15
A short introduction to Brian Hatton	17
A town like Alice	20
Curiouser and curiouser	21
Officers of the Society	23
Notice of AGM	24

This newsletter has been produced by members of the Society. Any comments or contributions should be addressed to The Editor at Burgage Hall, to newsletter@ledburycivicsociety.org

The Ledbury and District Society Trust Ltd
Company No: 1340233 Registered Charity No: 507391

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 2017 / 18

President	Joe Hillaby	
Vice President	Veslemøy Lunt	
Chairman	Chris Johnson	635 069
Vice Chairman Booking Secretary	Chris Johnson	635 069
Treasurer and Membership Secretary	Graham Every	631 174
Planning & Conservation	Anthony Peake	636 312
Planning & Conservation Vice Chairman	Andy Tector	670 351
Butcher Row Volunteer Rota	Prue Yorke	633 655
Speakers Education Link	Mary Winfield	632 247
Natural Environment	Anne Crane	07852 316 227

Co Opted Director

Secretary	Christine Tustin	634 934
-----------	------------------	---------

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.

Spring 2017

Chairman's Report...

Chris Johnson

Please read, sign and return the enclosed letter on Data Protection. It's important for many reasons, not least so you can continue to get this newsletter!

Inevitably, I suppose, in the last six months a lot of the Civic Society Committee's time has been spent considering the various planning applications for large areas of housing around Ledbury. This is covered in more detail in the Planning Report. In summary, there are currently three outline applications which have not yet been determined. The Bloor Homes application for 625 houses off the Bromyard Road (the 'Viaduct' site); the Bovis application for 185 houses on the Leadon Way by-pass; and the Gladman Developments application for 435 houses on the Dymock Road. You can still comment on all these applications by writing or sending an email to the planning officer, Roland Close, contact details in the Planning report. In addition to these 1245 houses in the pipeline, planning consent has already been given for 100 houses on the old cricket pitch site and for 321 houses on the Barrett site. All the sites have issues of individual concern, but the overwhelming general concern is the sheer number of houses proposed. The only strategic debate on the number of houses for Ledbury was during the development of the Herefordshire Council Core Strategy, resulting in a figure of around 800 new houses for Ledbury over a 20 year period. There has been no meaningful new public debate on the massive expansion in proposed housing, its location, or the provision of community facilities, such as sports grounds, for the increase in population these developments represent.

It is traditional for us to 'open the floor' to members for questions at our AGM after the formal business has been concluded and this year the Trustees themselves want to initiate a discussion on the current housing applications. If you want to participate, please come along to our AGM on Friday, 27th April in the Burgage Hall at 7p.m.

On a more domestic note, we have been carrying out various much-needed maintenance work on the Burgage Hall and there will be more to come. We have also had a new musical instruments cabinet

made for the Butcher Row House Museum. We have reserves to cover the expenditure, but it does mean our accounts this year show a deficit. The Treasurer has done a short extra note of explanation later in the newsletter. The accounts, to be presented at the AGM, are also summarised in the middle pages. We are very pleased with the current level of use in the Burgage Hall, of which there is more information in the individual report.

May I once again thank all the Trustees and the very many other volunteers who help run the Civic society, the Burgage Hall and the Butcher Row House Museum. Without your time, enthusiasm and commitment nothing we do would be possible.

Butcher Row House Museum...

Prue Yorke

It seems incredible that we shall be opening the Museum soon: where does the time go?

The Rota is full for the current season and our volunteers are very much appreciated, as they are every year. Especially welcome are a number of newcomers and we hope that they enjoy their time in the museum, and all the attendant meeting and greeting. This year it has been decided to extend the opening hours in October until 5p.m. The Committee members feel that we are missing out on much support from tourists, so hopefully you will all be happy with this arrangement. Please remember that we like you to keep the door open, so do make use of the heater provided. Our annual coffee morning will be at 10.30 a.m. on **Thursday, 22nd March** in the Burgage Hall and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible then. You will have the opportunity of viewing the new displays in Butcher House Museum.

Upstairs this year there will be a display about the Bosbury chair-maker, Philip Clissett. Although from the 'back woods', he became a highly respected craftsman whose work influenced the Arts and Crafts movement and was much sought after in London society. The designer and architect, Ernest Gimson, trained with Clissett and drew much of his inspiration from the slender and economical design of the Bosbury chairs. Many thanks to Peter Young, who used to work for Herefordshire Museum Service, for his expertise in conceiving and creating this

display. Easter is early this year, so the opening date for the museum is **Monday, 26th March**. Very many thanks to all the stalwart volunteers who make it possible to run the museum, which provides such a valuable asset to Ledbury's history and culture.

Planning Committee...

Andy Tector

Unsurprisingly, the main focus of the Planning Committee and the Board has been the new applications for 435 houses on the Dymock Road by Gladman Developments and a further 185 houses on the Leadon Way By-Pass by Bovis Homes. We are also concerned about the proposed access and transport provisions suggested by Bloor Homes for the 625 houses on the Viaduct / Bromyard Road site, where the planning application is still currently under consideration.

All members of the Society received a letter from the Chairman outlining the position of the Society on the first two applications, particularly in the context of the potential for over 1200 other houses which have either received planning permission or are in the Core Strategy.

The time limit for comments on the Herefordshire Council website has expired for all three of these planning applications. However, it is worth reminding members that **YOU CAN STILL COMMENT** by writing direct to the case-officer for all three applications:

Roland Close,
Principal Officer, Market Towns
Herefordshire Council Planning Services,
P O Box 230,
Hereford HR1 2ZB
Or email to: rclose@herefordshire.gov.uk

There are in excess of 560 comments relating to the Dymock Road site, the vast majority being objections; over 400 comments relating to the Bovis site, once again the vast majority being objections and just under 200 comments on the Viaduct site, many objecting to the access from the Bromyard Road and asking for the suggested

access under the Viaduct to the existing roundabout on the Hereford Road to be reconsidered.

The Board are well aware that this is probably the start of a lengthy process and we would urge you to try and keep abreast of these applications. You may find the applications are withdrawn and resubmitted with alterations, which in turn may reduce the number of objections to these subsequent applications.

Just as a reminder, the Board's concerns over these two new applications are based on the following issues:

- Visual impact on the landscape
- Spoiling the views from the nearby Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, especially from Conigree Wood, and the views from the Marcle Ridge.
- Impact on the culturally important landscape of the Dymock Poets
- Increase in traffic congestion and parking problems in Ledbury town centre
- Extra roundabouts on the bypass restricting free car movements
- Congestion in the town centre giving rise to 'rat-running' through the surrounding villages.
- Pressure on overstretched schools and doctors
- Lack of capacity in the sewage and water supply systems
- Housing too far away from sustainable transport links such as the railway station
- Increased traffic on the by-pass, creating a danger to children from the town wishing to access the rugby club, the relocated cricket club and the riverside park and for all children going to the current schools from the new housing
- Generally dangerous sites for pedestrian and cyclist access, contrary to national and local policies to promote active travel
- Lack of any provision for employment locally. Already Ledbury has the highest proportion (40%) in Herefordshire of the working population

who travel more than 10 kilometers to work. With no employment opportunities being developed, the new housing risks making Ledbury a 'dormitory' settlement for Birmingham, Worcester, Gloucester, etc.

- Lack of local work discriminates against the lowest paid in the community: social housing is of little benefit without local work-opportunities as well.
- Noise pollution
- Light pollution

In addition we are very concerned at the lack of any sensible area of land allocated in any of the developments for playing fields or similar large public recreation spaces. Ledbury has a significant deficit already and developers should be required to provide many acres of land to be used as playing fields as a condition of any planning consent.

We have not been ignoring all the other planning applications which come in at the rate of about 5 a week and we comment on these where appropriate, but the main effort is currently being spent on these major housing applications.

Burgage Hall...

Chris Johnson

The Burgage Hall for many years had a bit of a reputation as being an ice box, but now when I let new customers in they often say "Isn't it lovely and warm in here"!! Our heating bills are slightly up on years gone by, but secondary glazing, a new highly efficient boiler and new radiators have kept the heating costs down, while the new warm reputation means our income from hire charges is well up. Weekday evenings are now well booked and every extra booking costs nothing more in heating but still gives extra income.

We are justly proud of the wonderful facility the Hall provides, at very low cost, for so many voluntary groups, small enterprises and community groups in Ledbury - all entirely run by volunteers. Many of the groups have expanded their numbers (I'm sure the warm Hall helps this) and are having to book extra sessions – a real 'win-win'.

Our own monthly talks in the Hall continue to attract a wide range of interesting speakers and good audiences, so do come along if you are not a regular.

As always, running the Burgage Hall takes a lot of work behind the scenes by many volunteers, sometimes for the regular, less-glamorous tasks of opening up and showing people round and sometimes for one-off jobs. Without a great team, we would not be able to provide this valuable facility for Ledbury. Very many thanks to everyone who has helped in so many ways over the last year.

Data Protection...

Chris Johnson

Many of you will have already received letters from other organisations telling you about the new data protection rules which come into effect in May this year. Under the old Data Protection Act, the Civic Society was covered by an exemption because of the limited way we used our membership records. There is a similar provision we could use in the new rules, but we have decided it is better, under the new 'General Data Protection Regulation', to obtain signed consent from all our members to continue to use the personal information we keep about you.

A letter is enclosed which explains the new rules in more detail, describes the information ("data") we keep about you and how we use it. We will use the data in the same way as we always have, which is to send you this newsletter, tell you about our meetings and occasionally, alert you to local matters of importance.

The letter needs to be signed and returned by all members. If you have joint membership you both need to sign.

Thank you for your help with these new rules.

Postscript on Phillip Clissett...

Alan Meikle

In my previous article (see newsletter 104), I described how the chance meeting of Phillip Clissett with the Scottish architect James Maclaren led to the famous rush-seated ladder-back chairs they designed, and how they became so important to the adherents of the Arts and Crafts movement. At the time, Maclaren was employed by Lord Biddulph to make extensive alterations to Ledbury Park. Little is known about his exact designs, since there



Continued on page 15

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2017. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number 01340233 (England and Wales)
Registered Charity number 507391
Registered office Burgage Hall, Church Lane, Ledbury, Herefordshire,
HR8 1DW

Directors

A Clive Resigned 28th April 2017
A Conway Resigned 28th April 2017
M Cooper Resigned 28th April 2017
A Crane Appointed 28th April 2017
G Every
C Johnson
A Peake
J Simpson Appointed 28th April 2017, resigned 14th February 2018
A Tector
M Winfield
P Yorke

Company Secretary

C Tustin Co-opted 7th August 2017

Independent Examiner

L Keegan, Chartered Management Accountant
1A The Homend, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1BN

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its Memorandum and Articles of Association and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The liability of each member is limited to £1.

Recruitment and appointment of new directors

Directors are elected at the Annual General Meeting for a period of three years. One third of the directors retire each year and are eligible for re-election. The directors may appoint any member of the Trust to fill a casual vacancy. Any director so appointed shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election.

Risk management

The directors have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES—Objectives and aims

The Trust must confirm that it has complied with the requirement that its activities further its charitable purposes for the public benefit. This is achieved by the Trust continuing to pursue its objects which remain as set out in the Memorandum of Association:

To stimulate public interest in the area of benefit.

To promote high standards of planning and architecture in the area of benefit.

To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic, natural or public interest in the area of benefit.

Volunteers

The directors acknowledge that the Trust's activities are sustained by the voluntary efforts of many members.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE—Charitable activities

The main activities in the year continued to be the operation of the Burgage Hall, the Butcher Row House museum and the management of Ledbury Heritage Centre and expressing their views on planning and other local issues. The feasibility study of a Material Asset Transfer of historic buildings in Ledbury continued during the year. The Project, known as "Ledbury Places" is funded by the Community Ownership and Management of Assets Fund from the Social Investment Business Group

FINANCIAL REVIEW—Reserves policy

The reserves of the Trust at 31 December 2016 are considered to be satisfactory, with £30,000 of net current assets notionally reserved for long term maintenance of the Trust's Heritage Assets and the remaining funds available for future projects.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

C Tustin - Secretary

5th March 2018

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 funds £	Total 2016 funds £
INCOME					
Income from generated funds					
Donations and legacies	2	4,611	-	4,611	4,832
Other trading activities	3	17,751	-	17,751	23,310
Income from Investments	4	369	-	369	656
Income from charitable activities					
Grant Income		-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		<u>22,732</u>	-	<u>22,732</u>	<u>28,797</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on Raising funds					
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs	5	24,678	-	24,678	12,983
Charitable activities					
Membership activities	6	9,146	-	9,146	6,008
Ledbury Places		-	-	-	1,228
Upper Hall Research		-	-	-	-
Other costs	9	<u>540</u>	-	<u>540</u>	<u>540</u>
Total expenditure		<u>34,365</u>	-	<u>34,365</u>	<u>20,759</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(11,633)	-	(11,633)	8,039
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>141,378</u>	<u>5,650</u>	<u>147,026</u>	<u>138,988</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>129,745</u>	<u>5,650</u>	<u>135,393</u>	<u>147,026</u>
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	14	1,843	-	1,843	2,047
Heritage assets	15	<u>58,432</u>	-	<u>58,432</u>	<u>58,432</u>
		60,275	-	60,275	60,479
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks		2,819	-	2,819	1,543
Debtors	16	2,760	-	2,760	2,098
Cash at bank		<u>64,430</u>	<u>5,650</u>	<u>70,080</u>	<u>83,447</u>
		70,009	5,650	75,659	87,087

CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(540)	-	(540)	(540)
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>69,469</u>	<u>5,650</u>	<u>75,119</u>	<u>86,547</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>129,745</u>	<u>5,650</u>	<u>135,395</u>	<u>147,026</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>129,745</u>	<u>5,650</u>	<u>135,395</u>	<u>147,026</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	18			129,745	141,378
Restricted funds				<u>5,650</u>	<u>5,650</u>
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS				<u>135,395</u>	<u>147,026</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2017.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 396 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard FRS102.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 6 March 2018 and were signed on its behalf by:

C Johnson - Director

G Every - Director

Treasurer's comments on accounts... Graham Every

As noted in the Trustees' formal report in the accounts, the Civic Society recorded a deficit this year. This was fully anticipated by the Trustees, but some additional explanation may be helpful to Civic Society members.

There are three areas of expenditure which make up the deficit:

1) As members will be aware, in order to prevent the closure of the Heritage Centre, the Civic Society took over financial responsibility from Herefordshire Council in 2015 until it could be transferred to Ledbury Places. It was always the understanding that any income from donations and sales in the Heritage Centre, after deducting running costs, would be used for the long term benefit of the Heritage Centre itself. There has been net income of about £2,000 each year from the Heritage Centre taken into the Civic Society accounts for the last three years. This has now been paid to Ledbury Places, so the notional surplus in previous accounts has now been reversed.

2) We hold some of our cash reserves to pay for maintenance costs on the Burgage Hall. In the current accounts there has been expenditure on upgrading the fire alarm system to current safety standards and installing linked smoke detectors; replacing the boiler and radiators; carrying out roof repairs.

3) We have installed a new cabinet for the musical instruments in the Butcher Row House Museum. The old one was falling apart and was not very secure.

Postscript on Phillip Clisset... *continued.*

are no drawings in the archives of the Biddulph family illustrating his proposals, but we can see the finished wing facing north across Worcester Road.

However one day in August I was on my scooter squeezing down the narrow pavement in Worcester Road between the tractors and trailers loaded with potatoes on the left and facades of houses to my right, when my way was blocked by two elderly men gazing up at the elevation of Ledbury Park opposite. I had to stop and ask them about their obvious attraction. Did they know of James MacLaren's work? "Indeed," replied the older man, "for I am the President Emeritus of the James MacLaren Society, Alan Calder". I told him that the Civic Society had been unsuccessful in trying to find drawings of MacLaren's work in the Biddulph archive. "You won't find them there, because I have them in my possession" said he, and with that he undid a small portfolio that he was carrying under his arm and showed me an original watercolour

perspective by MacLaren of the junction of the old and new building at top cross junction. (It looked so much better without the traffic lights). He added that he was the author of the definitive biography of MacLaren. (A copy of which I later bought). The book does not give further information on the vital meeting between Clissett and MacLaren, although there is a sketch of the consequent chair they designed. The alterations to Ledbury Park are well illustrated with photographs. Should anyone be interested in seeing the book, James MacLaren, Arts & Crafts Pioneer, by Alan Calder please get in touch.



A short introduction to Brian Hatton (1881-1916)... Valerie McLean

After visiting a major exhibition devoted to the work of Brian Hatton at Hereford City Gallery during September 2017, I spent a few hours on a breezy, bright morning, walking over the Lugg meadows and thinking about Hatton's paintings. This was a landscape that had changed little since Hatton painted *Lugg Meadows* 1906



It is particularly valuable, I think, to view the many earlier countryside paintings as a record of the country characters of the time and ever changing farming practices.

Hatton was an artist who loved to paint farmworkers, gypsies, and farm animals . His overwhelming passion for horses and the relationship between man and horse runs like a thread through his work.

According to the Hereford Museum website, Brian Hatton is said to be “Herefordshire’s most celebrated artist” and it is sad to note that he, too, was a member of a generation of artists, poets and writers who failed to survive the First World War.

He was born at Carlton Villas, Whitecross Road, Hereford and as he was a frail, asthmatic child he spent term times at Swansea with family friends who did much to nurture and encourage his art, his studies and his general well being.



Brian Hatton's sisters, Ailsa and Marjorie became frequent subjects of his works, giving unexpected insights into everyday life of the time as in *Playing Draughts – The Artist's Sisters 1908*

Hatton showed remarkable promise from an early age, winning the 'Gold Star' by the Royal Drawing Society at the age of eleven, resulting in the noted artist G. F. Watts taking an interest in his development . He was invited to take tea with Princess Louise, daughter of Queen Victoria, who was the president of the Royal Drawing Society at the time !

For a year in 1905, Hatton studied at Trinity College, Oxford, before continuing his art studies in Scotland and Paris. He travelled to Egypt in 1908 to accompany the archaeological expedition of professor

William Flinders Petrie.

Eventually, Hatton was able to set up his own studio in Hereford, painting portraits of many local people including Bishop Percival. There was a Ledbury connection when he spent time living with relatives after receiving a commission to illustrate John Masefield's *The Everlasting Mercy*. Although he completed several drawings, unfortunately the commission came to nothing. The rapid development of his work continued right through his short life, including while serving with the Worcestershire Cavalry Regiment in Egypt from April 1915. The drawings are an unofficial record of wartime life, until he was killed in action in Egypt on Easter Monday 1916.

I think we can be sure that had Brian Hatton survived WW1 he would have had a highly successful career as an artist.

The Victoria and Albert Museum holds examples of Brian Hatton's paintings, but the bulk of his work is held in Hereford. For many years there was a gallery devoted to Hatton's work, but now the approximately 1,000 paintings, drawings and photographs are held at Hereford Museum and can be viewed online. This legacy means that we can appreciate and enjoy his sensitive, emotional response to the Herefordshire landscape and record of country life.

Acknowledgements and References

Thank you to the Hereford Museum service for permission to reproduce examples of Brian Hatton's work

DAVIES C. 1978 *Brian Hatton A biography of the artist (1887-1916)*
The Laverton Press Limited

WEAVER P. 2015 *A Dictionary of Herefordshire Biography* Logaston Press

Websites

<https://brianhatton.herefordshire.gov.uk/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian_Hatton

<https://mydailyartdisplay.wordpress.com/2012/10/28/the-outcast-by-brian-hatton/>

A town like Alice...

Mary Winfield

Yes, like Alice, Ledbury grew and grew and still continues to expand in spite of all our reservations (but you all know about those!)

Have you ever wondered about the origins of Ledbury's street names? They are significant in that they often give us clues, not only about when they were built, but also about the sites. With the snowy weather confining me to the indoors and lacking any incentive to get on with the decorating, I decided to sit by the fire and consider the subject.

Since we settled in Ledbury as newly-weds in 1959, the town's population of about 3000 has increased considerably and I started to think about the periods of enlargement. Modern-ish developments already existed and many of their street names give clues to the period in which they were built. For example, in the west, Victoria and Albert Roads; in the 19th century, Belle Orchard, built on the land of Belle Orchard House (formerly the workhouse). The choice of names for Queensway and Margaret Road place them in the 20th century together with expansion to the east in Bank and Homend Crescents. Gasworks Lane (now Little Marcle Road) was self-explanatory, as were Robinsons Meadow and Churchill Meadow, built on land on which the butchers of those names grazed their stock.

To the south, Mabel's Furlong was built on the site of the former prisoner-of-war camp, as was Ledbury County Secondary School, which opened at Easter 1960. Bray Avenue, close by, was named for Alderman W J Bray, County Councillor and Chairman of the county's Education Committee and of the Governors of the nearby school.

Next came the building of The Langland houses on the playing field of Ledbury Rugby Club, (across which I used to walk the girls from school to the – outdoor and unheated! - swimming pool on the Hereford Road). Horse Lane Orchard was built at this time, so called because it was an orchard (formerly belonging to Lord Biddulph) in Horse Lane, now the Worcester Road.

Deer Park was started in the 1970s, sited on part of the Biddulph estate comprising the land of Wild House Farm, together with that of

Mabel's Furlong fruit farm. Hence the naming of many of the roads for varieties of apples: Newton Close, Bramley Close, Blenheim Drive, Lambourn Close.

Many of Ledbury's streets were named for local celebrities, now forgotten by all but those of advance years – like me!

The most recent large area of settlement at New Mills, built on land formerly a part of New Mills Farm, were named for the celebrated Dymock Poets, such as Robert Frost and Elizabeth Barrett-Browning. For Ledbury's own Poet Laureate, John Masefield, whose family still live at The Knapp, we have Knapp Lane, Knapp Close, Knapp Ridge and Masefield Avenue.

This is only a selection of associations of events and prominent residents with the town's development and I'm sure many readers could contribute much other valuable information, which I would be very pleased to receive.

Curiouser and curiouser...

I'll end with the origin of "Mabel's Furlong" in The Southend, as told to me by Ledbury's precious treasury of local folklore, Mrs. Dorothy (Dolly) Tow. You will all be familiar with the location of St. Katherine's Hospital, with its complex of associated buildings: Chapel, Hall, Almshouses, Master's House and environs, but do you know why it is there? It is named after St. Katherine, an itinerant benefactress, who was inspired to make a pilgrimage round the country, dispensing alms to the poor and sick. In a vision, Katherine was told to establish a hospital at the place where, at night, she would hear the church bells ringing of their own accord. She and her faithful maidservant, Mabel, approached Ledbury in the twilight and, finding no refuge, settled down for the night in a sheltered spot on its outskirts. In the middle of the night, the bells were heard to ring and Katherine knelt in prayer to give thanks for the end of her quest. Mabel, cold and hungry, complained bitterly, but was consoled by her mistress with the words: "Peace, my dear child; we shan't be here, Mabel, for long".

Officers of the Society

President	Joe Hillaby
Chairman	Chris Johnson chairman@ledburycivicsociety.org
Secretary	Christine Tustin Burgage Hall Church Lane Ledbury, HR8 1DW (01531 633 853) secretary@ledburycivicsociety.org
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Graham Every Burgage Hall Church Lane Ledbury, HR8 1DW (01531 631 174) treasurer@ledburycivicsociety.org membership@ledburycivicsociety.org
Burgage Hall Bookings	Chris Johnson (07977 781 826) bookings@ledburycivicsociety.org
Webmaster	web@ledburycivicsociety.org
Web Design	Pippin Consultancy Ltd.

The Directors retiring this year are: .

Chris Johnson

Andy Tector

Prue Yorke

32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

At the 32nd AGM at 7.00pm on Friday 27th April 2018 at the Burgage Hall, Church Lane, Ledbury, an election is to be held to fill five of the nine places for Elected Directors.

Any paid-up member of the Society may seek nomination, by two other members, to stand in the election.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary at the Registered address by Friday 13th April 2018.

Note: The constitution of the Society allows for nine Elected Directors. Each Director is elected for a period of three years; and, normally, three are elected each year,

Retiring Directors may, if they choose, seek nomination to stand again for election, on equal terms with any other candidates.

(Additionally, up to six co-opted Directors may be invited to serve on the committee to help in particular capacities.)

To: Secretary, Ledbury & District Civic Society,
Burgage Hall, Church Lane, LEDBURY HR8 1DW

**NOMINATION OF AN ELECTED DIRECTOR FOR ELECTION AT 32nd
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LEDBURY & DISTRICT CIVIC
SOCIETY ON 27th APRIL 2018**

I wish to nominate: _____

Signed: _____(Proposed.)

I wish to second the above nomination

Signed: _____(Seconded.)

I am prepared to serve as a trustee if elected

Signed: _____(Nominee.)

There is a Society letter box by the main entrance to the Burgage Hall for your convenience.