

THE LEDBURY LETTER

Number 111 Spring 2021



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.

Chairman's Report	4
Butcher Row House Museum	5
Planning Report	6
Accounts	9
Burgage Hall	13
Treasurer	14
D. Tow	15
Lavender	16
The Ledbury Lute	17
Officers of the Society	19
AGM Details	20

Editors...

Mary Winfield and Mary Every

Technical Editor...

Graham Every

The Ledbury and District Society Trust Ltd
www.ledburycivicsociety.org

Company No: 1340233

Registered Charity No: 507391

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 2020 / 21

President	Joe Hillaby	
Vice President	Veslemøy Lunt	
Chairman & Planning	Andy Tector	
Vice Chairman CPRE	Nicola Forde	07531 542 236
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Graham Every	631 174
Planning & Conservation		
Speakers & Education Link	Mary Winfield	632 247
Booking Secretary & Burgage Hall	Kay Stevens	07977 781 826
Butcher Row Volunteer Rota	Prue Yorke	633 655
Town Council Liaison Publicity	Nick Morris	631 388

CO-OPTED DIRECTORS

Secretary	Christine Tustin	634 934
Liaison	Nina Shields	
Legal	Mark Lister	631 503
Publicity	Caroline Green	

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, 13th August 2021.

Spring 2021

Chairman's Report...

Andy Tector

As I write this, the sun is shining, at last the pandemic is in retreat and there is hope that things may get nearer to normal in the summer. Despite these signs of an up-turn in our collective fortunes, it is clear that the Civic Society is beginning to reach a crossroads. The last couple of years have seen a substantial turnover in Board Members. It is clear that to keep the Society active and vibrant, we need to recruit more Board members. This has become critical this year, as Graham Every, our Treasurer and Membership Secretary, has said that he wishes to stand down next year. He has given years of sterling service to the Society in his roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary. If you are interested in becoming a Board Member, or if you know someone who might be interested, please contact me to discuss. I can assure you that the commitment need not be huge: there is normally only one meeting a month and Board Members usually take a role dealing with an area of their interest (e.g., Planning, Finance or Volunteering).

If you don't wish to commit to being a Board Member, we are also looking for volunteers for the Butcher Row Museum. The season normally runs from Easter until the end of October. Volunteers do a two-hour stint once a fortnight and we have a back-up list of reserves. It is not a major commitment and all the volunteers seem to enjoy meeting our visitors and telling them about the building's history. Once again, if you would like to do this and share our beautiful town with visitors, please contact me.

Finally, last year we were unable to hold the AGM because of Covid restrictions. We are aware that the same restrictions are very likely to be in place this year. To avoid missing a second year, we are going to hold the AGM as a Zoom meeting. We are well aware that this is far from ideal and will undoubtedly mean some members will be unable to participate, but Board members feel we have little alternative, in order to avoid missing another AGM. The AGM will be on Friday 30th April and the Agenda and details of the sign-on for Zoom will be sent out nearer the date.

Butcher Row House Museum... Ken Chapman & Prue Yorke

We hope all our volunteers are keeping well in these continuing strange times.

With the impressive vaccine roll-out, there is light at the end of the tunnel, but sadly the Museum will not be able to open at Easter. Our current plan is to open when all our volunteers have had their 2nd jab, the government has given the go-ahead for museums to re-open and social distancing rules have been relaxed. We hope this takes effect by June and I will contact all the volunteers about a month before to finalise the rota.

The opportunity was taken in 2020 to refurbish the building and update some of the exhibits. Martin Jeynes has made an excellent job of redecorating the exterior; Ben Williams, with

great craftsmanship, made and fitted an oak window to replace the rotten soft-wood window upstairs and Rob Sutton has installed two more spotlights to improve illumination of exhibits downstairs.

Chris Egerton, who restored The Ledbury Lute and Taro Takeuchi who played it at the Burgage Hall concert, have contributed to the production of a CD which is now available for sale at the museum. Our particular thanks go to Tim Wilson who generously sponsored this project.

To mark the 300th anniversary of the Ledbury Turnpike Act in 2021, Celia Kellett has greatly improved our Turnpike display with explanatory text. She has also produced texts to go with the pictures displayed in The Burgage Hall. We are grateful to all these people, who have enhanced our museum.

Lastly, as always, we are keen to enrol new names to our volunteer list and if you know or can persuade anyone who might be interested in volunteering for 2 hours a fortnight, do put them in touch with us: our respective numbers are 632 988 and 633 655

Planning...

Nicola Forde

Since the last edition of this newsletter, two significant planning applications have been refused by Herefordshire Council:

1. For the triangle of land opposite the Full Pitcher. This application was for a Lidl supermarket, children's nursery and GP surgery. The primary reason for refusal was that a retail study, commissioned by Herefordshire Council, found that the development of a new supermarket would detrimentally affect the town centre shops.

2. For a further 46 houses next to the Hawk Rise development. Houses in this location (closest to the Ornu cheese factory) had been removed from the original application due to the noise from the factory. The developers have put in measures to mitigate the noise (a bund with a fence on top and eventually trees). However, planners did not believe the noise mitigation would be sufficient to make this a suitable site for homes.

An application (P194182) has been approved for 93 affordable homes on the former cricket pitch behind the Full Pitcher. The developer is Connexus Housing, a 'community-focused rural housing group', based in Herefordshire and Shropshire. The houses range from 1- to 3- bedroom. Access to the site will be from New Street. The development will be wholly affordable, incorporating a mix of shared-ownership, rent-to-buy and affordable homes for rent in approximately equal numbers. All houses have off-street parking and gardens.

A decision from the Minister on the Judicial Review of the viaduct site is expected imminently: the outcome, whichever way it goes, will be important to the town.

There is a new application for 31 flats on the former auction-rooms site of H.J. Pugh (P204577/F). These are one-

bedroom apartments, designed to 'Lifetime Homes Standards', a series of sixteen design criteria intended to make homes more easily adaptable for lifetime use at minimal cost. Each apartment has, as a minimum, a small area of its own outside space or balcony and there is also a shared south-facing garden area. This development is in an important town-centre location, on the corner of Market Street and Bye Street, and has the potential to make a really positive contribution to the visual character of both streets. If you have a view, do take the time to make a comment.

Finally, the Council is preparing a first round of consultation on revisions to the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The chief purpose of the revision is to include a settlement boundary. The opportunity is also being taken to revise out-of-date parts of the plan. A settlement boundary is important because it indicates where a community would welcome development (and what kind of development) and where it thinks development would be inappropriate. The consultation will be publicised widely and leaflets will be delivered to every household – please look out for them in April/May and respond. For more information visit the NDP page on Ledbury Town Council's website:

[www.ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk/
Neighbourhood_Development_Plan.aspx](http://www.ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk/Neighbourhood_Development_Plan.aspx)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

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 2020. 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

G Every
N Forde
C Green Appointed 16th November 2019
C Johnson Deceased 31st March 2020
M Lister Appointed 12th October 2019
N Morris
A Peake Resigned 4th June 2020
N. Shields Appointed 4th November 2019
A Tector
C Tustin
M Winfield
P Yorke

Company Secretary

C Tustin

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 and the Butcher Row House Museum and expressing their views on planning and other local issues. The Trust makes grants to local community groups in support of the Trust's charitable activities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW—Reserves policy

During the year there was a deficit of income against expenditure of £18,364 (2019: deficit of £2,778). The balance of net current assets at the end of the year was £57,541 (2019: £77,814), of which £5,650 (2019: £5,650) was held in a restricted fund. The Trustees consider the reserves to be satisfactory. Of the unrestricted funds, £30,000 of net current assets are 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

8th March 2021

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

		Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	2020 <u>Total funds</u>	2019 <u>Total funds</u>
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Income from generated funds					
Donations and legacies	2	4,953	-	4,953	5,127
Other trading activities	3	5,587	-	5,587	20,166
Income from Investments	4	518	-	518	674
Income from charitable activities					
Grant Income		<u>10,000</u>	-	<u>10,000</u>	-
Total incoming resources		21,058	-	21,058	25,967
Expenditure					
Expenditure on Raising funds					
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs	5	35,774	-	35,774	24,593
Charitable activities					
Membership activities	6	3,079	-	3,079	3,582
Upper Hall Research		-	-	-	-
Other costs	9	<u>570</u>	-	<u>570</u>	<u>570</u>
Total expenditure		39,422	-	39,422	28,745
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(18,364)	-	(18,364)	(2,778)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		132,090	5,650	137,740	140,518
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>113,726</u>	<u>5,650</u>	<u>119,376</u>	<u>137,740</u>
		Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	2020 <u>Total funds</u>	2019 <u>Total funds</u>
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	14	3,403	-	3,403	1,493
Heritage assets	15	<u>58,432</u>	-	<u>58,432</u>	<u>58,432</u>
		61,835	-	61,835	59,925
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks		3,820	-	3,820	2,711
Debtors	16	2,973	-	2,973	3,014
Cash at bank		<u>45,669</u>	<u>5,650</u>	<u>51,319</u>	<u>72,660</u>
		52,461	5,650	58,111	78,384

CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(570)	-	(570)	(570)
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>51,891</u>	<u>5,650</u>	<u>57,541</u>	<u>77,814</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>113,726</u>	<u>5,650</u>	<u>119,376</u>	<u>137,740</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>113,726</u>	<u>5,650</u>	<u>119,376</u>	<u>137,740</u>
FUNDS	18				
Unrestricted funds				113,726	132,090
Restricted funds				<u>5,650</u>	<u>5,650</u>
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS				<u>119,376</u>	<u>137,740</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2019.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 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 2 March 2020 and were signed on its behalf by:

A Tector - Director

G Every - Director

The Directors retiring this year are:
Nick Morris, Andy Tector, Prue Yorke.

Burgage Hall...

Kay Stevens

It has been quite a quiet year for the Burgage Hall!

Last March, as the implications of the coronavirus pandemic started to become clearer, a small team of us, headed by Nicola Forde, worked together to put all the health and safety protocols in place so that the Hall could stay open and continue to operate as a safe 'Covid Secure Venue'.

However, the various lockdowns and the need for social distancing have made it very difficult for many of the regular Hall users and sadly all the bookings for private functions have not been able to take place. Some classes and particularly classes for children, such as Martial Arts and the Sea Cadets, have continued as allowed under Government guidance..... but the stalwart of the show has been the Ledbury Country Market, which has continued as essential retail, come rain, shine and occasional snow, to open for the public every Friday morning. Please do come and support them as they have supported Ledbury folk this year.

The Hall has, meantime, been receiving some much needed TLC. Redecoration has continued inside and out, including the complete refurbishment of the windows, which have now been replaced or repaired - the north window turned out to have perspex panes (!) but has now been fitted with glass beautifully etched to match the original patterning. Many thanks to Joao Carlos Veiga Rodrigues and Kasha, who have done such a wonderful job in very difficult circumstances.

Thanks are also due to Nicola who has overseen all the maintenance and refurbishment works, Graham who keeps the whole thing ticking over and Lottie, who keeps the Hall pristine for us.

The interior work phase is very nearly complete and the new muted colour scheme really sets off the elegant architecture and delicate detailing of the building; it now feels a light, airy and very welcoming space.

And so we hope, this year, to be able to welcome everyone back.....previous users, and also lots of new folks. Do, please, mention it to anyone who might be interested

The Burgage Hall is such an important hub for so much of Ledbury's community life and it will be a real pleasure to see it humming with activity again.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

At the board meeting in February 2021, our Treasurer, Graham Every, announced his intention of resigning, both from the post of Treasurer and Board Member, at the AGM in April 2022, jobs he has have been doing for the past 14 years.

During his tenure, he has continued to put everything onto computer, amalgamated the job of Treasurer with that of Membership Secretary. He manages the Internet bank accounts and controls a budget in excess of £25,000.

Since the death of Chris Johnson in the spring of 2020, Graham has also undertaken many of his jobs, but these can be distributed amongst the other board members.

Would you be interested in the job of Treasurer? If so, please contact treasurer@ledburycivicsociety.org and you can talk over the responsibilities and duties with Graham.

Congratulations!

M. Winfield

A long-time member and supporter of the Society, Mrs. Dorothy (Doll) Tow celebrated her 100th birthday on 12th January. Born in Ledbury, where her parents lived at Home Lawn in The Homend, she lived, worked and served the town in many ways throughout her life. She and her husband, Jack, who worked on the staff of the Hereford Times, were founder-members of the Dramatic Society, at the time when productions were staged in the Camp Theatre, housed in one of the buildings on the prisoner-of-war camp in Mabel's Furlong, the site of what is now the John Masefield High School. An extremely talented actress, Doll played the leading role in many productions there and continued to do so long after LADS moved to its permanent home in Market Street. Jack produced many of the plays and Doll filled numerous roles. They master-minded many of LADS revues, most of which featured appearances by Eric Williams, a member of the Magic Circle, who lived nearby, and who worked with the Masefield family of solicitors. Doll was a member of the Ledbury Operatic Society, which gave performances of light operas on stage at Ledbury County Secondary School (which became John Masefield High School). Doll's brother and family also lived nearby and Frank, like Doll, had a wonderful sense of humour. Jack and Doll had one son, Graham, who, naturally, joined LADS when he was old enough! Doll worked in Sherwoods, a shop in the High Street, where John Nash is now. It was a lovely place, where one could buy ladies' and children's clothes, haberdashery, knitting wools and dress materials and, of course, catch up with all the latest Ledbury gossip – sorry “news”! Jack and Doll had a new house built, (next to what

is now Dawes Court, but was then the Infants' School), where Doll continued her busy life, making and icing wonderful cakes for weddings and other celebrations, arranging flowers in the church, playing bowls with the Ledbury Club and indulging in one of her favourite pastimes – playing Bridge (currently on-line!).

In 2013 Doll led the procession through the town to celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of the Queen's coronation. The celebration echoed that of June 2nd 1953, with an Ox Roast.

Doll attends the annual Anniversary lunch given by the Society in Burgage Hall each December and thoroughly enjoys chatting with friends, some of which she hasn't seen since the previous year. She's also very partial to the puddings!

Jack and Doll amassed a huge number of friends over the years and my husband and I were privileged to be amongst them. I believe her life can be characterised by three values: faith, fortitude and fun. The Society sends its very best wishes to Doll – a true stalwart of the Ledbury community.

Lavender...

A big 'thank-you' must go to Nina Shields. She has donated 6 lavender plants to go into the pots outside Butchers Row House Museum. Once they are established in the pots and the museum prepares to open again, they will be placed either side of the entrance.

We hope to use the lavender in the ever-popular lavender bags that we sell in the museum, using only lavender grown in Ledbury.

The Ledbury Lute...

M. Every

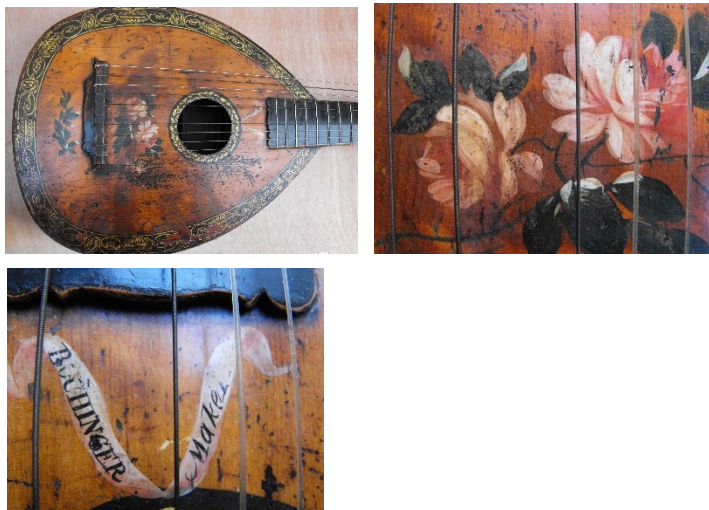
Some of our readers may not be aware that there is a collection of unusual musical instruments in Butcher Row House Museum. These were donated to the museum by Mrs. V. Johnson, in 1987, following the death of her husband. The instruments have long been a talking point for visitors and when Chris Egerton, a specialist in stringed instrument conservation at the Royal College of Art, and Taro Takeuchi, a world renowned early music performer, were looking through photos of the museum, they spotted a fretted instrument which piqued their interest. They visited the museum to examine, measure and photograph the instrument. Then, with the permission of The Ledbury and District Civic Society, they took it away. Chris Egerton then spent many months restoring the lute and fitting the correct gut strings. Taro, meanwhile, continued with his research into the lute, its repertoire, tuning and playing technique. The lute has 10 strings, which is unusual. It was made by the instrument maker, Joseph Buchinger, who had a music shop and premises in The Strand, London. He was well known in the vibrant London music and theatre scene as a music seller, music teacher and professional musician.

In April 2016 the restoration was complete and Taro very kindly offered to come to Ledbury to perform a concert, together with local singers, to the members of the Society.

It was a full house and everyone enjoyed hearing the beautiful music.

Taro returned a little while later and made a recording of the music, again in Burgage Hall. This resulted in LDCS receiving a master CD. Chris Johnson started making enquiries about making copies from the CD, but became so busy that he handed the job to Graham Every. He also failed to make much headway. Fortunately for the Society Ken Chapman stepped in and has finally succeeded in getting copies made. We hope to have the music playing in the museum once we are permitted to open again. The CDs are ready for you to buy at a cost of £5. If you would like to buy one before the museum opens, please contact info@ledburycivicsociety.org.

The Ledbury Civic Society is extremely grateful to Taro Takeuchi and Chris Egerton for the considerable time and expertise both have put into this project. Without their effort our treasured instrument would have continued to sit in the museum, silent, and unknown.



Officers of the Society

President	Joe Hillaby
Chairman	Andy Tector 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	Kay Stevens (07977 781 826) bookings@ledburycivicsociety.org
Web Master	web@ledburycivicsociety.org

35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

At the 35th AGM at 7.00pm on Friday 30th April 2021, via a Zoom call (the invitation will be sent to all members who have given us their e-mail address), an election is to be held to fill three 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 9th April 2021.

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 35th
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LEDBURY & DISTRICT CIVIC
SOCIETY ON 30th APRIL 2021**

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.