

THE LEDBURY LETTER

Number 112 Autumn 2021



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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Editors...

Mary Winfield and Mary Every

Technical Editor...

Graham Every

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

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DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 2021 / 22

President	Veslemøy Lunt	
Chairman & Planning	Andy Tector	
Vice Chairman CPRE	Nicola Forde	07531 542 236
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Graham Every	631 174
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	Nick Morris	631 388
Liaison	Nina Shields	
Social Media	Caroline Green	
Legal	Mark Lister	

CO-OPTED DIRECTORS

Secretary	Christine Tustin	634 934
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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, 11th February 2022

Chairman's Report...

Andy Tector

As restrictions due to the pandemic begin to ease I am pleased to let you know that the Butcher Row House Museum reopened at the beginning of August. It is with a huge degree of gratitude I would like to thank the volunteers for all the hard work they have undertaken to get ready to reopen. I understand the first few days following the reopening were really busy. On a less positive note the Museum's opening hours have been restricted because of a shortage of volunteers. If you have the odd hour during the week that you can spare, I know the Museum working group would be delighted to explain what volunteers do in sharing some of the history of our beautiful town and surrounding villages with visitors and residents alike.

I am also delighted to say that our regular season of monthly talks is due to restart in October and the new programme is detailed elsewhere in the newsletter. Please come along and feel free to bring non-members who are always more than welcome (subject to a small entry fee!).

On a continuing theme, the Board of the Civic Society are constantly seeking volunteers to serve on the Board. This is likely to become more critical in the forthcoming year as Graham Every, our Treasurer and Membership Secretary, has indicated that he will stand down from these roles. Graham and his wife Mary have been kingpins of the Society for many years and Graham's departure from the Board will leave a huge gap to fill. Once again if you feel you could contribute to the running of the Society as a Board Member I would be more than happy to discuss with you what sort of commitment this might involve.

Finally, the Board are currently developing a Business Plan, which we will, of course, share with the Members in due course. We hope that it will provide more clarity about the role and purpose of the Society within our community.

If you do wish to take on a volunteering role, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the Board Members – my contact details are also in this newsletter.

Butcher Row House Museum...

Ken Chapman & Prue Yorke

We trust all our volunteers are keeping well as we hopefully approach the latter stages of the pandemic and look forward to normality next year.

Given that social distancing was only relaxed in July, the Committee decided to man the Museum themselves (with the help of a few others), to gauge likely visitor numbers. In August, we opened three days per week, four hours per day and the response has been excellent. Visitors have numbered around 70 per day with both sales & donations exceeding the average. The public are keen to get out and about, and are feeling generous!

For the rest of the season, we will continue to open for three days per week on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, manned by a rota of twelve or so volunteers, including the Committee members. We are very grateful to these volunteers for their help.

For 2022 we know that we will lose about 11 volunteers, a quarter of our total, and this will certainly prevent us from opening full-time. This, in turn, means that some visitors to Ledbury will go home disappointed and, for a popular tourist destination, this is not at all good.

So, if you know or can persuade anyone who might be interested in volunteering for two hours a fortnight, do put them in touch with us. Our respective numbers are 632988 and 633655.

Planning...

Nicola Forde

Once planning applications are approved it is not the end of the story. Large applications are often only approved in principle and in terms of access, with approval of other details, known as reserved matters, being deferred until more detail is received. For example the development at the Viaduct Site has a number of reserved matters (see application number P212830/XA20). This submission meets conditions 9 and 18 of the planning permission and covers the need for a Biodiversity Plan/Strategy. Herefordshire Council is not accepting comments on the submission as a reserved matters submission, is not in legal terms, a planning application and there is no legal requirement for neighbours to

be consulted on the application. So this strategy/plan is for information as far as the public is concerned and it is useful for those who are interested in the development to keep a track of what is being proposed.

The Hawk Rise development (Barratt Homes off Leadon Way P212375/F) is subject to a new application which seeks to alter the masterplan, putting 44 homes to the east of the site where green space was formerly proposed. The western area closest to the Ornu Cheese Factory, (phase II of the development which has been subject to a number of applications which were refused due to noise from the factory), is now proposed as a multi-use green space including a community orchard, picnic area and micro-allotments, plus five new homes. Of these houses 20 will be affordable (various tenures) and 29 will be open market. The closing date for comments was 26th August however the determination date (when the Council hopes to make the final decision) is 13th October – it is possible (and often worthwhile) to comment on an application after the closing date and before the determination date although the local authority does not have to take such late comments into account.

Bovis (now called Vistry) (app no P212243/0 for 140 homes off Leadon Way) has applied to move the proposed roundabout on Leadon Way which will provide the entry point to the site. The original proposal was that it should be opposite Jubilee Close, the new proposal is to move it further to the south. The previous location supported an easy route for residents of the new development into town via Jubilee Close. The new location makes it even less likely that residents will walk or cycle to town as the route is convoluted and involves a walk/cycle along the busy and noisy by-pass. Commenting on this planning application through the Herefordshire Council website is now closed. Representations may however be submitted directly to the case officer if the application has not yet been determined – the current determination date is 2nd September but this may change, it often does.

Planning applications can be viewed online at https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning_services/planning_application_search

The first consultation on revisions to Ledbury's Neighbourhood Plan has now closed, results are being analysed and the draft plan is being prepared for the next consultation called the 'Regulation 14 consultation'. This will take place either before or immediately after Christmas – avoiding the school holidays.

Burgage Hall...

Kay Stevens

It has, inevitably, been another quiet few months for the Burgage Hall. It has remained open as a covid secure venue and great credit should go to the groups who were able to adapt their procedures and continue to operate, in particular the Ledbury Country Market which kept going and supported the Community every Friday throughout this long period and the Repair Café, which has had all offered repair slots completely booked. A few activity based classes have also kept going as permitted, and Matt's Martial Arts Class on a Tuesday evening has provided a health and sanity lifeline for many local youngsters.

However, queries about bookings are starting to come thick and fast ! After a year of living like hermits, it seems that folks are looking forward to meeting in a physical rather than a virtual space....so we are delighted that Probus will be starting back soon and some of the U3A classes are keen to get going again, plus some newcomers such as the Ledbury History Society. Please do pass the word to anyone who might be looking for a venue.

And, to finish on another high note..... the Hall is getting some new chairs, which will, I am assured, be both light and comfortable. So, to those of you who enjoyed a good physical workout lugging the old chairs round the room, apologies...but everyone else can look forward to sitting comfortably whilst enjoying all the talks and activities that the Hall will host over the coming year.

Our Future...

Mary Every

It appears that after eighteen months of lockdown we are able to start thinking about getting our lives back to some sort of normality. The virus will still be about and the risks are probably increasing, but the tremendous work done by scientists to develop vaccines and also to find better ways of dealing with the illness has made us a little less likely to suffer severely should we get it.

Many things have happened in Ledbury recently. The bells at the parish church have been returned and re-hung and with the ending of social distancing we look forward to hear them pealing out over our town. They will be blessed by the Bishop of Hereford in due course. New shops have opened in the high street and, of course, lots of people have moved house, either coming from away, or relocating within town.

Many people decide to live in Ledbury because of its friendly atmosphere, its individual shops and its well-cared for appearance. But these things only happen because of the involvement of individuals to volunteer. Elsewhere, in the Ledbury Focus, you will find a double page spread of voluntary organizations, from Cubs and Scouts to U3A, Ledbury in Bloom, Ledbury Civic Society and many in between. They all need help in the running, as well as people to join them. Ledbury and District Civic Society is facing being without a treasurer from next April. You cannot sit back and expect the town to continue as it is while you do nothing. The atmosphere will die, the young people will become uninterested and the older people will sit in their homes waiting for the grim reaper. When we moved here 20 years ago from Swindon, we joined the Civic Society, the Market Theatre and Ledbury Country Market and I worked for Ledbury in Bloom for several years. We made more friends in the first 6 months of living here than we had in 30 years in Swindon. Telling that to our previous neighbours didn't go down well! I know that many of you have already helped the various organizations, so now you need to encourage younger people to join in.

So now the boxes are all unpacked get involved. It's a wonderful way of making friends, as well as helping the community, that you have chosen to live in, survive. If you expect everything to be handed you on a plate, then forget it. YOU have to go out and join in. Don't let us hear 'I didn't move here to volunteer'. That just doesn't work here. Once the town loses its vibrancy you will turn to one another and wonder why you moved here.

Talks...

The Society is very pleased to announce that it is resuming its programme of monthly talks for 2021-2022.

The first in the series is :

Friday 29 October 2021 7.30 p.m. The Burgage Hall

Malcolm Penney, 'The history of Brockhampton Court'

COVID is not over yet, so we have made special arrangements as a precautionary measure, given that the Hall is not well ventilated unless we leave the doors open (that will be popular in January!). Seating will be socially distanced, but there will be groups of four for family/friend groups.

As a result, the Hall will not be able to accommodate more than 60 people – so unless you are in the first 60, we will be unable to let you in. We are also encouraging people to wear a mask when inside the Hall.

Talks for the rest of the season are on the back page.

E-Mail addresses...

These can also be found under the Contacts tab on the Web site:

<http://www.ledburycivicsociety.org/>

Chairman	chair@ledburycivicsociety.org
Secretary	secretary@ledburycivicsociety.org
Treasurer	treasurer@ledburycivicsociety.org
Membership Secretary	membership@ledburycivicsociety.org
Booking Secretary	bookings@ledburycivicsociety.org
GDPR	gdpr@ledburycivicsociety.org
General Information	info@ledburycivicsociety.org
Newsletter	newsletter@ledburycivicsociety.org

SPEAKERS' PROGRAMME 2021/22

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

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|---------------------------|--|
| 29 th October | “Brockhampton, the story of a moated manor-house”
Malcolm Penney |
| 26 th November | The development of the British brewery
Gareth Davies |
| 28 th January | The mystical imagery of Thomas Traherne
Andrea McLean |
| 25 th February | Half-timbered Herefordshire
Penny Platts |
| 25 th March | The evolution of the Market Hall
Martin Baines RIBA |
| 29 th April | 7pm A.G.M. followed at 7.45
Charity Agriculture Project in Uganda
Michael Bentley |
| 27 th May | Film: Stories from the hop-yards |
| 24 th June | “The Scudamores of Herefordshire”
Heather Hurley |

If you have enjoyed reading this newsletter please pass one on to friends and family and encourage them to join.
Additional copies of this newsletter can be obtained from Graham Every.