

# THE LEDBURY LETTER

Number 102 Autumn 2016



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.

### **In this edition..**

Letter from the Chairman	4
BRH Museum	4
Burgage Hall	5
Heritage Centre	6
Planning and Conservation	8
Ledbury Places	9
Anniversary Lunch	10
Burgage Hall Gardens	12
Education Link	12
Dianna Merry	13
A Woman's Work	14
Speakers Programme	20

### **Editors...**

Mary Winfield and Mary Every

### **Technical Editor...**

Graham Every

The Ledbury and District Society Trust Ltd  
[www.ledburycivicsociety.org](http://www.ledburycivicsociety.org)  
Company No: 1340233      Registered Charity No: 507391

## DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 2016 / 17

President	Joe Hillaby	
Vice President	Vestlemøy Lunt	
Chairman	Allen Conway	
Vice Chairman	Chris Johnson	635 069
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Graham Every	631 174
Planning & Conservation	Anthony Peake	636 312
Speakers	Mary Winfield	632 247
Education Link	Mary Winfield	632 247
Booking Secretary Burgage Hall Butcher Row Museum & Archives	Chris Johnson	07977 781 826
Butcher Row Volunteer Rota	Prue Yorke	633 655

### CO-OPTED DIRECTORS

Secretary	Patricia Wilkin MBE	633 853
-----------	---------------------	---------

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, 10th February 2016.**

### **Letter from the Chairman...**

Greetings,

The last newsletter was circulated while I was “resting” and I am pleased to confirm that I am now fit and well after my surgery. Thank you all for your good wishes (and many thanks to my surgeon, and God.)

Your Civic Society goes onwards and forwards, thanks to the fabulous support of the Trustees, who will be reporting on their particular functions elsewhere in this issue.

As some of you may have heard, we lost one of the founder-members of the society recently. Diana Merry gave her time and efforts to the Society for many years. Please give her a thought and a silent prayer.

I shall look forward to seeing you when the new season of talks begins.

Allen Conway

### **Butcher's Row House Museum...**

When you receive this newsletter, the Museum will have been open for five months in 2016. Hard to believe isn't it?

There have been a few changes this year, including the two lovely benches in the courtyard, which seem to be very popular with our visitors. The entrance has been improved with the removal of the white iron barrier railings and a new discrete arrow entrance sign. The biggest improvement is the super screen inside with rolling pictures of the upstairs exhibits for those who can't manage the stairs. Ken Chapman has organised all these improvements for us and he has our heartfelt thanks for all his hard work and commitment. Don't forget we also keep a large magnifying glass to help anyone who needs it for reading the signs or books and there is a ramp inside the Museum which can be put over the steps to help those in wheelchairs, or with buggies, to get in.

On Saturday, 9th July an amazing record for recent years was set

with 88 visitors in just one 2-hour session – how did you cope, Catherine Every? Will we beat this number? The Olympics makes even the volunteers at the Museum competitive! At this stage visitor numbers are up on last year, but after a few years of increasing our “donations per visitor” figure, this is a bit down so far this year. Overall, our income is holding steady, but it would be nice to make sure extra visitors mean extra donations as well. We don’t want to be pushy, but a gentle comment to tell visitors the Museum is run entirely by volunteers, gets no external funding and relies entirely on sales and donations often produces results. Every penny counts.

The “Ledbury Lute” or arch cittern is now back in the museum after the successful concert in the Burgage Hall, a trip to London to be played at the “Met” and a professional recording session. We will have CD’s of the recording available for sale in the Museum next season. Over the winter we are commissioning a new cabinet to display all of our collection of musical instruments.

There has been a small leak in the roof and work will shortly be done to reseal the ridge tiles, which we hope will solve the problem; otherwise we have had very good reports on the condition of the museum and it’s collection, which is very encouraging. Prue Yorke and Chris Johnson

### **Burgage Hall...**

I am sure you will all have noticed that the Burgage Hall is in great need of internal redecoration. This is long overdue, but we have been delaying the work in case funding might be forthcoming as part of the “Ledbury Places” project. As reported in previous editions of the “Ledbury Letter,” the grant bid for all six buildings in the project was unsuccessful, but a new funding proposal, concentrating on the Heritage Centre and the Barrett Browning Institute, is now moving forward. The Burgage Hall redecoration is currently not part of this project and so we will be doing the work out of our funds reserved for this purpose. Before we redecorate, we are looking at upgrading the toilet facilities to modern disabled standards and also some work on the fire alarm system. We may be able to get grants towards this work and we are in the process of obtaining quotes. It makes sense to do this work before any redecoration and applying for grants takes time. But

watch this space. We plan to ask members to give their views on any change to the wall colour and will at some stage paint sample patches on the walls for a “user vote”.

Some of you may know that a new dance studio opened earlier this year above the shops in Bye Street and this led to a couple of our evening bookings deciding to move to the more purpose built premises for ballet and dance. We have replaced one of the classes, but we are looking for new regular classes who want to hire the Hall on either a Tuesday or a Thursday evening (or both of course) any time up to 8.00pm when we already have a class. If you know of any classes that might be interested please let them know. We charge £13 per hour, which is very reasonable. When the swimming pool is refurbished that will also have a dance studio which will mean more competition. Having said that, our bookings remain healthy overall, and the very successful Slimming World class on a Tuesday morning will be splitting into two classes, because the Hall is no longer big enough for all of them in one session (84 slimmers in one week recently) and this will double our booking income from that source.

You will see our own monthly talk programme from the enclosed card and they continue to attract a wide range of interesting speakers and good audiences (often spilling up into the balcony). Do come along if you are not a regular and please bring as many non-members as possible. Non-members coming to talks are our best source of signing up new members. Many thanks once again to Mary Winfield for organising such an interesting and diverse series of talks.

As always, running the Burgage Hall takes a lot of work behind the scenes by many volunteers. Without a great team we would not be able to provide this valuable facility for Ledbury which also gives us a modest income, after expenses, to use for our general charitable donations. Very many thanks to everyone who has helped in so many ways over the last year.

Chris Johnson

### **Heritage Centre...**

It seems quite extraordinary that the Heritage Centre has now been under the wing of the Civic Society for almost three years. Originally

we were going to look after it temporarily, to prevent it closing due to the Herefordshire Council budget cuts, until Ledbury Places could get funding to secure its long term future. We are so glad we took action at the time as otherwise this fantastic showpiece for Ledbury would probably have been lost by now. Ledbury Places is concentrating its current funding efforts on the Heritage Centre and the Barrett Browning Institute. Planning permission has been granted for both buildings for their proposals and a revised Heritage Lottery funding application is due to be submitted before the end of the year.

I cannot thank Alan Pike and Sally Holliday and their dedicated band of volunteers enough for their leadership and dedication in keeping the Heritage Centre running. Under their guidance it has gone from strength to strength. The attraction of the building itself - its age and atmosphere, the history of the building and its uses and the impressive chimney are all massively appreciated by visitors and this unique character needs to be preserved for public benefit.

As always any suggestions for improvements and offers of help both as new volunteers or for some of the “behind the scenes” work would be most welcome.

The latest development is upstairs in the building. Ever since the Society took it on, we have done our best to bring this neglected facility into use for the Town. Apart from sporadic workshops and, of course, the Poetry Festival, it has remained largely unused despite all our efforts. We are delighted that Artistree, the Ledbury based Contemporary Artist Cooperative, has agreed to open an Art Gallery housed on the top floor of the Heritage Centre. Exhibits encompass a wide range of disciplines from sculpture to paintings, textiles, bookwork, photography, ceramics, drawings and prints. The Gallery will be staffed by Artistree members themselves so there will always be an opportunity to discuss any of the work in a friendly and sociable environment.

The Gallery is open each week from 10.30am to 4.30pm on Thursday through to Sunday. The first exhibition is called “Artistree in Action,” and all visitors are warmly invited to enjoy the creative and stimulating ambience of The Gallery’s historic setting.

Chris Johnson and Brian Richardson (Artistree)

### **Report from the Civic Society Planning sub-Committee...**

In the Spring Ledbury Letter we reported at length about the assault on Ledbury's Southern edge by Gladman Developments – purely to make money and entirely disregarding the Town's interest and well-being. Sadly, the poor performance by the small Herefordshire Team versus the confidence and preparedness of the much larger Gladman Team at the Planning Inquiry has resulted in the Planning Inspector over-ruling the Town and County Planning Refusals and granting Planning Consent for the 321 Houses proposed on the South side of Leadon Way. This whole process has felt like a travesty of justice, with sincere local voices pitted against big developer money.

The fact is that Herefordshire Council failed to ensure that there were “enough housing sites in the 5-year Plan” to prevent chancers like Gladman winning Planning Approval at Appeal, by being able to say that their roguish proposal was helping to solve a shortfall in the required housing statistics. It's all a bit technical, but we must all be alert to the dangers of being ‘rolled over’ if boisterous, well-funded developers decide to make money in edge-of-town sites. Lots of noise and objections are essential if anyone else comes along to try this trick.

Plans move slowly but steadily ahead with proposals for new houses on the site beyond the railway viaduct and behind the industrial estate on the Bosbury Road. This is the preferred site for the hundreds of new homes we have to accommodate in Ledbury.

Aldi had a public presentation of their ideas for a new shop next to Galebreakers on the by-pass and have apparently offered to make a contribution approaching £200,000 towards the well-being of the town. Following the Brexit vote, all retailing has reduced and recently the papers have carried stories about the end of Aldi's massive expansion, so we know not whether they will go ahead in Ledbury.

We monitor hundreds of minor Planning Applications on behalf of the Society, purely to keep an eye open for any proposal that could adversely affect Ledbury and District. We ignore all the private householder minor back-extensions and leave it to HCC to decide about the trimming of trees. But we have noticed a fairly steep drop in the number of building projects in the pipeline in recent weeks since Brexit, and builders report an absence of new enquiries for new building of real substance.

Anthony Peake and Andrew Tector

### **Ledbury Places...**

Ledbury Places continues to develop plans for the future use and guardianship of key heritage buildings within the town. The trustees are working hard now towards making a further grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the end of the year.

This grant application will focus on the Barrett Browning Institute and the Old Grammar School (Heritage Centre), but this is seen very much as phase one of the original plan developed through the feasibility study and funded by the grant made to the Civic Society by central government.

The process by which Ledbury Places will take on ownership of both the Barrett Browning Institute and the Old Grammar School through asset transfer, is nearing completion. Herefordshire Council will also transfer the Freehold of the Burgage Hall to Ledbury Places, but the Civic Society leasehold will not be affected by this. However, the Burgage Hall will remain an important part of the wider Ledbury Places plan. The Barrett Browning Institute Trustees will transfer their existing funds, as well as the building, to Ledbury Places. This includes the dilapidations paid to them by Herefordshire Council on termination of the lease, which had allowed the library to occupy the building for such a long time. These funds will help to provide match-funding for any grant application.

Ledbury Places is indebted to the Civic Society for stepping in to keep the Heritage Centre open while the process is on-going. It is clear, though, that if Ledbury Places was not to take on the Old Grammar School in an asset transfer, the next likely step would be for Herefordshire Council to dispose of it on the open market, which would undoubtedly mean the end of the Heritage Centre as we know it.

Membership is now available for Ledbury Places and I hope that as many Civic Society members as possible will feel inclined to join as members, in addition to their Civic Society membership. Membership is an important indicator to grant-funders that an organisation has support from the local community and, in truth, it would be a boon to the directors to feel that they have strong local support. Individual membership will allow people to give voice to community support for the project, as well as the potential to become involved more directly in the

project. Membership is £12.00 per annum and joining now would give membership to the end of 2017. Forms and details are available on the Ledbury Places website ([www.ledburyplaces.org](http://www.ledburyplaces.org)), or by emailing [hello@ledburyplaces.org](mailto:hello@ledburyplaces.org), or writing to Ledbury Places care of the Burgage Hall.

I am more than happy to discuss what we are trying to do and will respond to messages on the LP e-mail address. Otherwise, I am usually to be found at Tinsmiths in the High Street. Alex Clive

### **Anniversary Lunch – Wednesday, 14th December 2016 – 1.00 pm**

The anniversary buffet lunch has been very popular since we started it three years ago to celebrate forty years since the Civic Society was formed. We have decided to repeat it once again this year, on Wednesday, 14th December 2016 at 1.00 pm. We have discovered some old (silent) films from the 1960's taken at the Grammar School (Upper Hall) which have now been put on a CD so we will project at least one of them at the lunch, possibly a sports day. If you were at the Grammar school in the 60's you might feature!

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 this 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 members of the Society only (if friends or partners are not members, 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.



### **Burgage Hall Gardens...**

Last year Bella Johnson and her team of gardeners replanted the garden off Church Lane outside Butcher Row Museum, with plants that would have been available in the 16th century when Butcher Row was built. As it becomes more established it will be a beautiful area. In fact even now, the plants are filling out and filling up the bare spaces.

Now we need to turn our attentions to the other garden. Many of you may not know that at the top of the alley between Ledbury News and HSBC there is a small paved area in front of the main doors to Burgage Hall. It's a lovely area to sit in when attending a summertime event at Burgage Hall and has two benches, one of which has recently been restored. There are climbing roses, honeysuckle, fuchsias and clematis, but it is sadly overgrown, and unloved.

Is there anyone, preferably living near the centre of the town, who would take on the care of this garden? Funding is available for compost, fertilizer and plants. I have looked after it in the past, but because I live on the outskirts of town I have to bring gardening tools in the car.

Well maintained, this garden would be another attraction to the Burgage Hall area.

Mary Every

### **Education Link...**

All eight Primary Schools, together with the John Masefield High School, were pleased to accept the annual grant that the Society gives for work on local history and environmental projects. With funding at a premium, even our modest contribution enables pupils to benefit from involvement in special topics. All have expressed their gratitude for our support and I hope to be able to arrange a visit, to view some of the results of their work. Started by the late Peter Garnett when Head teacher of the County Secondary School, the grant has been put to a wide variety of uses over the years, many of which reflected his personal concern for the environment in all its diversity and for the cultural importance of the town's historic buildings.

Mary Winfield

## **Diana Merry, 1920-2016**

We are sad to report the death in July of Diana Merry, a founder-member of the Society. Family and close friends gathered on 2 August to pay their respects and share memories and thoughts of this remarkable person.

Diana was the Hon. Secretary of the Society for many years and also edited the Ledbury Letter giving it an individual and highly readable style which has left its mark right up to recent editions. She was instrumental in encouraging numerous long-standing members to join the Society and was one of the driving forces behind many of our early projects. She wrote a considerable amount of our history and was undoubtedly an inspiration to many people who have worked tirelessly to promote the Society's objects over the years. Until comparatively recently, she attended all our evening meetings and invariably had an insightful comment or searching question for our speakers. A true citizen of Ledbury and stalwart member of our Society, she will be sorely missed, but fondly remembered, by those who knew her.

One of three children, Diana grew up in Pinner Middlesex and then Birmingham. She trained as a nurse at the Middlesex Hospital in London, which was evacuated to Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury, where, at one point, all leave was cancelled ready for the Dunkirk evacuation. She gave up nursing following marriage to Mike Merry, living initially with his parents in Birmingham. They had five children and moved to Tunnel Cottage, Ledbury, in 1972. Mike died suddenly and Diana took a refresher course and worked part-time, first as a family planning nurse and then on nights at Ledbury Cottage Hospital, covering A & E as well as nursing patients.

A keen gardener, Diana planted a cottage garden when she moved to Ledbury, and kept goats and chickens for a while. She always loved the outdoors, taking breakfast in the sunshine, walking for pleasure every day, especially during the lifetime of her beloved dog Harry, and enjoying family holidays spent free camping by the coast in Wales or Cornwall.

Diana was always widely read, with a big thirst for learning new things and a wide-ranging interest in current affairs. As well as helping to found this Society, she was an active and very supportive member of the Green

Party, standing as Green Party candidate for Ledbury in a Malvern Hills District election in the 1980s. Many of us remember a remarkable fund-raising event at Tunnel Cottage when the 90-year-old Bob Walker, also a founder of this Society and a Green Party member, turned up with his newly-wed wife and bright red jersey!

She joined a weekly art class, finding painting and drawing absorbing and refreshing and producing a considerable number of bright and lively pictures, often quite abstract, which adorned the walls of her home. She was a loyal member of Eastnor Church and was, for a while, on the Parochial Church Council. She was a firm believer in the value of Christian teaching as a good moral guide. She travelled a lot in later life, making regular visits to Canada, camping and walking with the family in the Rockies (a few narrow misses with bears!), and trips to Australia, South Africa and Kuwait to visit her son Bruce, a professor at the university there.

Diana leaves four children. Sadly, David died a few years ago, leaving Bruce and three daughters: Tessa is a retired nurse in Edmonton, Canada; Miranda a retired counsellor living near Brecon; and Dilys, known to many of our members, a retired primary school teacher living in Ledbury. They have given Diana ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Joe Hillaby & Chris Johnson

### **A woman's work – Part Three: 1960 – 1978**

Where was I? – oh, yes. There were now three schools catering for senior pupils in our area: Ledbury Grammar School, Ledbury County Secondary School and Canon Frome County Secondary School. This was a huge step forward from the all-age schools hitherto catering for children aged 5-15years and pupils could now benefit from a much wider curriculum, together with the specialist facilities that all-age schools had been unable to provide on-site. The Ledbury school had a productive garden, orchard and beehives managed by the Rural Science Department; the Domestic Science facility included a flat where girls could practise their skills – including entertaining groups of staff for lunch! Canon Frome, housed in the beautiful Court, had a small working farm and a lake on which pupils could practise canoeing. Sports facilities – gym, playing fields, tennis/netball courts, (and later a

swimming pool, which pupils helped to build under the guidance of Mr. Gray) enabled pupils to enjoy inter-school matches and tournaments and enjoy sport with fixtures county-wide.

A dual-purpose hall/gymnasium was built at the Grammar School in 1962, and the former gym, in the stable block, became a well-equipped Domestic Science centre. The former woodwork centre on the Worcester Road became the G.S. canteen, enabling the school to re-balance its timetable, hitherto compromised by the need to share the canteen at the Primary School. With the raising of the school-leaving age to 16, a new block of classrooms was built at the Secondary School (known thereafter as the ROSLA-block!)

PE-staff from both schools had to walk pupils to the swimming baths in the Hereford Road, taking a short-cut across the Rugby Ground (now The Langlands). The pool was only open from the Whitsun half-term till the end of term and was unheated, but we braved the weather for those few short weeks and held swimming galas at the end of July. Additional vocational courses for pupils at the Secondary School were taken at Hereford Technical College and many Ledbury children found these of enormous benefit, leading to qualifications that enabled them to find employment and, in some cases, to start their own businesses. The courses included motor-car maintenance, technical drawing, painting and decorating, building, hairdressing, shorthand and typing, pre-nursing, needlework, housewifery, cookery and many others. Canon Frome pupils could also attend Holme Lacy College for courses in Rural Science and Agricultural Skills (including blacksmithing).

In the Primary sector, the Boys' School in the Homend became the Infants School and the Girls School in Church Lane the Junior School. With population growth in the town, both had extensions to house increased numbers: the Infants School one known as the Moon Block, in honour of the first landing on the moon. All children from the entire catchment area benefitted from the opening of the Swimming Baths in Lawnside Road, where they had a heated pool in which to learn and specialist staff to teach them.

It was during this period that the Grammar School finally achieved provision of proper sports facilities with the acquisition of the 24-acre

Ross Road playing fields (now the Rugby Club). Instrumental in this was Alan Higgins, PE master at the Grammar School, who campaigned tirelessly on the school's behalf. Buses were provided to transport the pupils to and from the Market House and adequate timetable provision was made to ensure that they had a reasonable amount of time for their games. This facility enabled an improved programme of inter-school matches to be arranged. Only rugby was played at the Grammar School, while the two secondary schools played soccer. Both of these had on-site provision for games, with tennis/netball courts and playing fields. All schools took part in competitive sport with other schools and had the opportunity to compete in selection for County teams. District Athletics meetings were held each summer and pupils were selected to compete at national level. Many of the schools' swimmers also competed at these levels. Cross-country courses took pupils from the Secondary School across fields and through the Conigree wood and from the Grammar School, through the Frith, the latter providing the venue for the County Championships on one occasion. Some of the staff ran with the pupils, while others manned road-crossings and acted as time-keepers. Such treacherous adventures are no longer considered suitable, for health and safety reasons! Similarly, gymnastics are limited by the ban on staff helping pupils to learn routines where physical assistance is required. Sadly, it is the pupils who suffer by the imposition of such restrictions, which also limit the scope of hands-on Craft and Domestic Science courses (pupils are not permitted to put dishes into or remove them from ovens, would you believe!).

The senior schools ran various clubs, usually in the lunch-hour, as so many pupils were bussed to and from school. These included drama, music, chess, railway, (LCS built and maintained a miniature railway, which ran around the grounds and created huge excitement when giving rides at the annual fete), model-car racing, together with team-practices for sports. The House system operated and awards for special efforts contributed to the awards for drama, sport, poetry, music and academic achievement.

The final part of this series will cover the period from 1978, with the introduction of the Comprehensive School system, to 1995, when I retired.



NB: I would like to think that the omission of the names of those in the third and fourth rows of the photo of staff and their partners at the County Secondary's School's first Christmas Dinner was accidental and not just because that's where I am! In case anyone cares, subjects covered by those pictured include

Front row: L to R : David Reeves (History), Frank Peet (Rural Science), Ken Prosser (Art), ? (Boys' PE), John Sullivan (Maths).

Second row: Grace Barnes (Remedial), Trevor Hughes (Deputy Head and Maths), Mildred Gray (English), Donald Gray (Headmaster), Mrs. Jones (Senior Mistress and English).

Third Row: 1. Irene Peet (Domestic Science), 2. Aline Cadwaladr (School Secretary, who was also captain of the Welsh hockey team), 5. Pat Amery (Music)

Back Row: 1. me (Girls PE), 2. Judith Harrop (Needlework), 4. John Lloyd (Geography), 5. Harry Hartley (Maths) and 8. Jack Heffernan (Science).

Mary Winfield

A woman's work.

I'm taking a break from the historical record of education in Ledbury to give you an insight into some of the challenges we faced as teachers. I would never say that the children of this area were difficult to deal with: friends from less rural areas have told me of facing challenges we never experienced here. That is not to say that we didn't have some pupils who were difficult to manage! While the JMHS was still on two sites, I had a "disagreement" with a Year 8 boy, whose behaviour was such that I needed back-up from his Head of Year, who, luckily, was in the next room at the time. When I returned with support, the boy had opened the window of the first-floor classroom of the Grammar School building, climbed down the magnolia on the wall and run off home! Fortunately, such examples were rare in our school and relationships between staff and pupils were usually friendly. It tells us a great deal about the ethos of the school that many of those who remained in the area after schooling are happy to update me with their news when I meet them in town.

Although it was a good environment in which to learn, as well as to teach, we sometimes had lapses of behaviour to address. In this particular case, the boy was asked by his Head of Year to write a letter of apology to me. The letter I received reveals as much about the staff as it does about the miscreant and I'm going to share it with you – verbatim. It is dated November 1991 and occurred in the Senior Department, Mabel's Furlong.

Dear Mrs Winfield,

I know now I shouldn't of told you to sod of and walk away because it gets you in this bordum paradise. I say I am sorry, but its your choise if you accept it or not. personly I don't really care if you do or you don't. For the last time I'm saying this, I'm sorry but what I said I said and what I did I did. You know that I wasn't there when the detension was set and why your trying to get me to do one is above me but if I had of been there when the detension was set and at school that day I might of gone but from me to you I wouldn't of any way. Well that's another session of complete harmy (?harmony) over with and until next time I see your face again.

Signed. King A. B— (He was there on the day the detention was given, but absent on the day set for it!)

I found the same pupil's view of teachers both revealing and extremely worrying: is this really how they see us, or is his perception coloured by his punishment?

Teachers by A B

The teachers are there to help in this school. The teachers are there to help you settle in. The teachers are there to stop us hammering some kid in to the ground, like Ben J— and Billy B— who stabbed poor billy in the back with a scalpel and where were the teachers then. The teachers are there to have ago at you when some kid has just staded you with a pencil and all you did was shout to relief the pain. The teachers are there for pupils amusement so you can laugh at them and take the piss. Teachers are there to give you loads of homework and then you slave your guts out trying to finish it by tomorrow and they wonder why your asleep and even haven't done it and which in that case they give you after school detenshun which is stupid and while we are talking about after school detenshuns they also give you them if you forget a break detenshun and if you do that you will come to this where you write out boring things like this. teachers are there to boss kids around and chat to anyone they please during the lesson. Teachers are there when its freezing cold out side to sit in a staff room and drink coffee or tea every break or lunch time. Teachers are there to send you out of the class room and suspend you when you've sneaked out of school to have a fag I mean its none of their business what we do out of school.

When you read something like this, you realise what a dreadful perception some children have of the profession and you wonder how much of this is justified. Unacceptable behaviour can always occur and must be discouraged, although any punishment must be relevant to the situation. In this case, I had to ask myself if I had handled the situation in the best way: was what the boy said justified? I can only submit that I always tried to be fair.

Mary Winfield

## SPEAKERS' PROGRAMME 2016/17

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

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 30th September | The wildlife of the Falklands<br>Fred Clark  |
| 28th October   | Chedworth Roman Villa<br>Nick Humphries  |
| 25th November  | The history of maps<br>Tony Atkinson   |
| 27th January   | The Bosbury Project for VCH Herefordshire<br>Janet Cooper                          |
| 24th February  | Alfred Watkin's Herefordshire<br>Ron Shoesmith                                     |
| 31th March     | Herefordshire's Bird Atlas<br>Nick Smith   |
| 28th April     | <b>7pm A.G.M.</b> followed at 7.45<br>Exploring Croft Castle<br>Richard Wooldridge |
| 26th May       | Herefordshire's Medieval Buildings<br>Christopher Atkinson                         |
| 23rd June      | The ancient roads of Herefordshire<br>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.