

Salopian Recorder

Saturday, 13 November 2021

**Annual lecture: Gareth Williams presents
The Country Houses of Shropshire**

We are delighted that Gareth Williams has agreed to deliver our annual lecture this year. The lecture is planned to be held at Shropshire Archives with numbers strictly limited and pre-booking essential. In the event of COVID restrictions preventing us holding the lecture in person, Gareth will deliver the lecture online via Zoom.

Shropshire is Britain's largest inland county and it has an extraordinary wealth of country houses, many of them of national and international significance. From the medieval ancestor of leisured domestic architecture at Stokesay Castle, to the Catholic glories of Mawley Hall, and neo-classical Attingham Park – which gives its name to the Trust that is dedicated to the study of the country house – Shropshire holds extraordinary riches. Gareth Williams has been researching this subject in depth and in 2021 published the definitive book on the subject with Boydell & Brewer, comprising a history and analysis of well over 300 houses. This lavishly illustrated talk tells the human and built story of a selection of the homes.

10.30am Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury SY1 2AQ. Numbers strictly limited and **pre-booking essential** In the event of COVID restrictions preventing us holding the lecture in person, Gareth will deliver the lecture online via Zoom.
Tickets £5 each. See leaflet for more details.

News Extra...

Do you have any stories to tell about Shropshire's history or have any news about Shropshire Archives? If you have, the editor is waiting to hear from you now. The contact details are below and photographs are always welcome.

Monday, 29 November 2021

**Anchorites in Shropshire Workshop:
Archaeological and Archival Evidence**

Interested in learning more about how to use your local archive?

Do you have an idea for a topic you want to research, but don't know where to start?

Join Dr Victoria Yuskaitis at Shropshire Archives for an interactive workshop discussing how to use archival sources. Dr Yuskaitis will walk participants through a case study of her own archival research about the archaeological evidence for anchorites in Shropshire.

A question and answer session will follow, and participants are encouraged to use the archives after the workshop.

12.00pm to 1.00pm

Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury SY1 2AQ. Numbers strictly limited and **pre-booking essential. RSVP as soon as possible!**

Cost: Free

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Dr Victoria Yuskaitis: vyuskaitis@gmail.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The newsletter of the Friends of Shropshire Archives is edited by Andrew Pattison and designed by Nat Stevenson, Shropshire Archives' Image Services.

There are three issues per year, paid for by the Friends. The contents are provided by friends and well-wishers. If you would like to join the contributors, please contact the editor at apattison@clara.net

DISCLAIMER: We have made every effort to ensure that the information in this publication is correct at the time of printing. We cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.



Salopian Recorder

The newsletter of the Friends of Shropshire Archives,
gateway to the history of Shropshire and Telford

**Anchorites in
Shropshire**

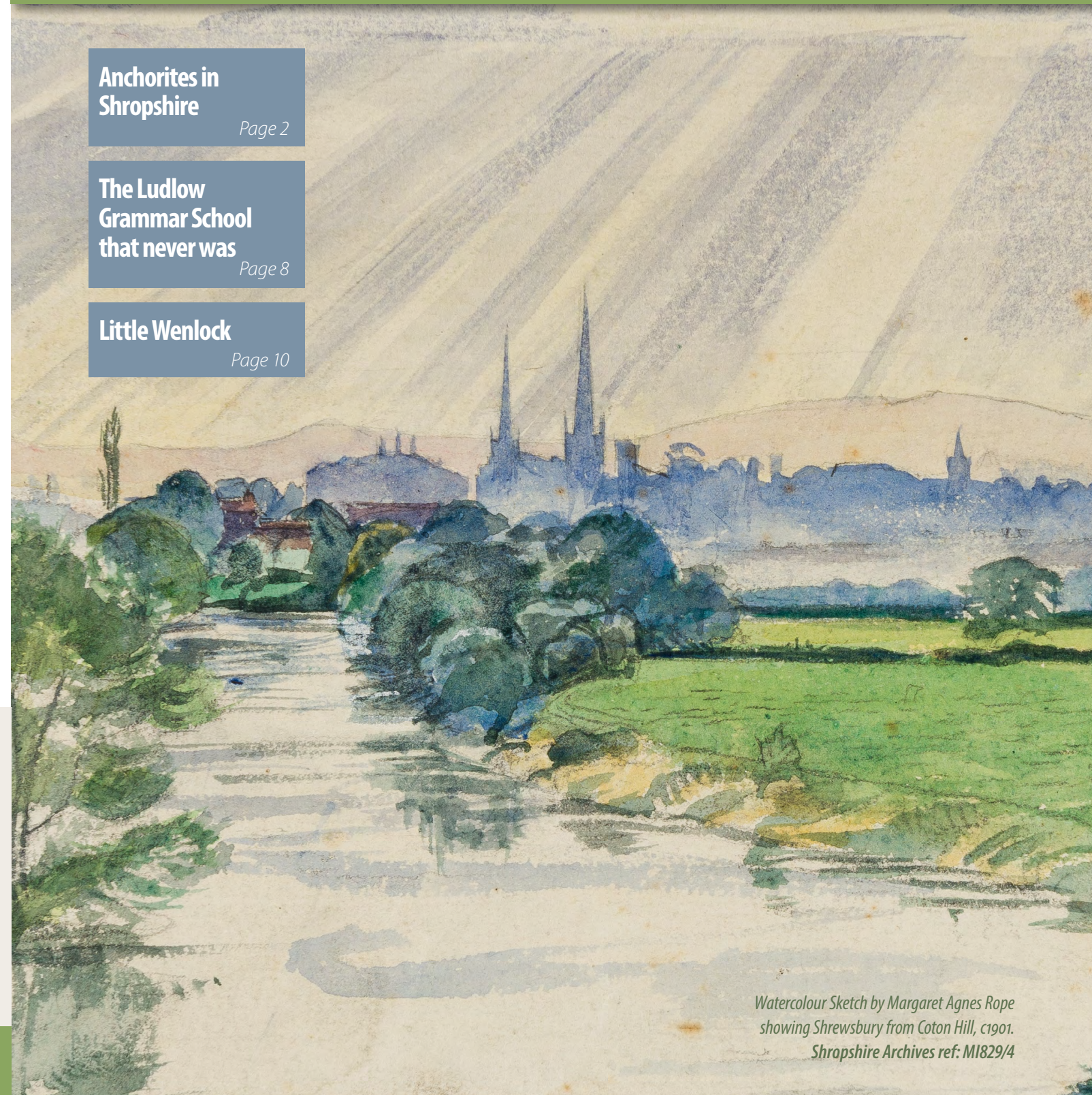
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**The Ludlow
Grammar School
that never was**

Page 8

Little Wenlock

Page 10



*Watercolour Sketch by Margaret Agnes Rope
showing Shrewsbury from Coton Hill, c1901.
Shropshire Archives ref: M1829/4*

Contact... For further details or to pass on your comments, please contact:
Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ • Tel: **0345 6789096**
Email: **archives@shropshire.gov.uk** • Website: **www.shropshirearchives.org.uk**



Opposite page: A pre-1866 painting of St John the Baptist, Church Preen, which shows key architectural developments around the fenced-in area, where the squint is still visible. Shropshire Archives ref.: 6009/50, 'Church Preen' (pre-1866), watercolour by John Homes Smith.

used to identify anchoritic archaeology, regardless of whether a textual or historical record survives.

The archaeological feature most likely to survive is a squint, or small window, that allowed the anchorite to view the Eucharist being performed at the high altar from his/her cell (Fig. 1). This activity was an essential part of the anchorite's daily vocation. Even if the rest of the cell is demolished or remodelled, the squint is often preserved, in some cases blocked (Fig. 2). Squints share some key characteristics, including being simple in shape and design, being splayed at an angle around the opening, often being rebated for a shutter on the side of the cell, and being placed in an area that allowed the anchorite to view the medieval altar.

Recesses around the squint are also often visible—sometimes open, but often blocked (Fig. 3, 4). In some cases the recess reached the ground, but in others the recess formed a niche for the anchorite to lean into to look through the squint (Fig. 5 over page). Other features could include timber slots placed around the squint, suggesting that wooden or wattle and daub cells with thatched roofs had been in use, floor or wall foundations around a squint, former roof lines, and the conversion of former cells into vestries (Fig. 6). Very few cells survive intact, but the building now used as the vestry at Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock is a rare example of a cell that survives with its medieval walls intact, including squint-style windows in the outer walls (the squint has now been destroyed by modern renovations) (Fig. 7).

The plans, letters, photographs, minute books, and maps available at Shropshire Archives have been essential to my research, as scrutinising antiquarian records and anecdotes of church renovations allowed me to piece together a more coherent understanding of how the churches changed over time. This gave me a better understanding of how post-medieval renovations impacted surviving anchoritic archaeology, as well as what the medieval church looked like. From here I could consider how the anchorite would have interacted with the church building through the placement of the cell and squint.



Fig. 1. Squint at Stanton-Upon-Hine-Heath. This example and those following are all set in the north chancel wall, and all photographs are my own unless otherwise indicated.



Fig. 2. Blocked squint at St Andrew's, Great Ness.



Fig. 3. Arched squint and squint recess at St John the Baptist, Acton Burnell.



Fig. 4. Blocked squint recess at St John the Baptist, Ruyton, with the open squint placed inside the recess visible internally.

Anchorites in Shropshire: Archaeological Evidence in Local Parish Churches

I study anchorites, who were medieval religious recluses that lived enclosed for life in cells attached to churches for the purpose of contemplating God. My PhD research at the University of Leeds (October 2016 – January 2021) focused on the archaeological evidence for these cells, and my thesis focused specifically on a case study of seven Shropshire parish churches with anchoritic archaeology:

- St Mary's, Acton Burnell
- St John the Baptist, Church Preen
- The Blessed Virgin Mary, Ellesmere
- St Andrew's, Great Ness
- St John the Baptist, Ruyton-XI-Towns
- Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock
- St Andrew's, Stanton-Upon-Hine-Heath.

I identified these sites by analysing antiquarian reports recording archaeological findings and looking for features that might indicate the remains of an anchorite cell. David Herbert Somerset Cranage wrote two volumes about Shropshire churches in 1901 and 1912: *An Architectural Account of the Churches of Shropshire: Volume I, II*. He described potential anchoritic archaeology at all the sites above, none of which have been mentioned in current scholarship. Therefore, I planned research trips in April 2017, April and August 2018, and June 2019 to view and record the sites in person and also to consult Shropshire Archives.

My research has shown for the first time that archaeological evidence alone can be used to demonstrate anchoritic activity—none of these Shropshire sites have a medieval textual record mentioning an anchorite. Anchoritic archaeology has received little scholarly analysis, and the handful of sites that are associated with anchoritic archaeology are validated by a textual record of an anchorite. This undervalues the archaeological contribution, and I developed my own methodology using the Shropshire sites as a case study to show how archaeology can be



Watercolour of Great Ness church.
Shropshire Archives ref: 6001/3065/113

I am grateful to the communities and individuals in Shropshire who supported and welcomed me, facilitated my access to parish churches, enthusiastically participated in public engagement activities, and expressed continued interest in my research. I incorporated public talks into my research trips to Shropshire, including at Shropshire Archives in August 2018, the Much Wenlock Civic Society and Shrewsbury Arts Society in June 2019, and the Wrekin Historical Group in November 2020 (re-scheduled virtually due to Covid). The Wrekin Historical Group helped fund my PhD in my final year through the John Pagett Bursary – I am incredibly thankful for this support. These public talks allowed me to share my findings with you, but also opened new opportunities for me as I learned from you about the churches you love and know best.

I originally planned another trip to Shropshire in August 2020, so that I could deliver a workshop at Shropshire Archives and a public talk to share my final conclusions as I finished the PhD thesis, but unfortunately this had to be postponed due to Covid. But, the good news is that the workshop has now been rescheduled for Monday 29 November – and I hope to see you there! Please keep a look out for an upcoming public talk around this date as well. I am now a Leeds Arts and Humanities Research Institute (LAHRI) Postdoctoral Fellow, which is allowing me to continue with this research. I have published in academic journals on this topic and I am continuing to work on turning my PhD into a book. I look forward to further research in Shropshire, and thank you again for your continuing and unflagging support. ■

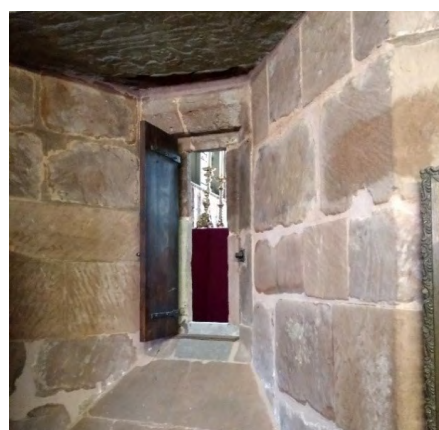


Fig. 5. The dramatic squint recess at The Blessed Virgin Mary, Ellesmere.



Fig. 6. Former roof lines at St Mary's, Acton Burnell. Shropshire Archives, P2/W/2/1-13 (7b), 'Acton Burnell Church, 1888/89 Restoration' (1888-89), photograph by Charles Serjeanston.



Fig. 7. The east wall of the vestry and former anchorite cell at Holy Trinity, Much Wenlock, extending from the north side of the chancel.

Halls' Manuscripts

Documents purchased at Halls auction, Shrewsbury June 2021 with funding from the Friends.

Shropshire Archives was delighted to have successfully bid for five lots of manuscripts that recently came up for auction by Halls of Shrewsbury. These purchases were only made possible by the Friends' generous support in agreeing to cover the full costs. We are very grateful for this support which has enabled these unique items to be brought into the public domain and made available for research, as well as ensuring their long-term preservation.

Below are brief details of the manuscripts acquired. We hope to feature some of them in further articles once we have had the opportunity to explore and research them further.

Boreatton House Book 1711-1835

Rent book of the Hunt family of Boreatton House, Baschurch 1711-1750, with household inventory and valuation, 1811. The rent roll lists tenants in Baschurch, Plaish, Ratchup (i.e. Ratlinghope), Vennington and Trevenant and extends to 136 pages.

Also bound into the volume is an 1835 copy of an inventory and valuation of all the household goods, furniture, plate, linen, china and other effects held at Boreatton, taken in August 1811. The inventory extends to forty-six pages, with the contents of the rooms listed in great detail.

In addition, there are six newspaper offprints or broadsides, a plan of part of Boreatton House by local architect Edward Edgecombe, and two letters in the hand of Rowland Hunt. One of the letters is an election speech from 1796 and the other is a speech made at a dinner at the Craven Arms Inn in 1793. The latter speech ends with no less than 22 toasts, the last of which is 'The Barber's Blessing, may all the enemies of King George be shaved with a bad razor'.

Shrewsbury Borough Municipal Claimants Book 1835-1840

This details the names and addresses of householders in Shrewsbury claiming to be on the Burgess List and therefore entitled to vote in 1835. Printed lists for 1838 and 1840 are also bound into the end. This volume fills a gap in the series of similar records we hold in our existing collection of Shrewsbury Borough records at a time of significant change within local government.

A Tramp from Great Malvern to Crewe 1867

A diary of two travellers who walked from Malvern to Crewe, passing through Hereford, Ledbury, Ludlow, Church Stretton, Shrewsbury, Wroxeter, Haughmond and Wem. Their personal and often light-hearted account of their adventures and the characters they meet along the way are illustrated by some their own sketches and watercolours adding to the uniqueness of this volume.



Illustrations from 'A Tramp from Great Malvern to Crewe 1867. Shropshire Archives ref: 9786

Belmont Bill and Certificate, Shrewsbury 1832-1839

An extensive and detailed bill from John Tittensor to Henry Sandford of Belmont, Shrewsbury, for making and repairing furniture and soft furnishings, 1832. Also, Salop Fire Office Certificate for insuring farm produce and stock, 1839.

Manor of Wyke, Bridgnorth 1859-1925

Twelve surrenders and admissions to copyhold tenancies. ■





Ludlow Grammar School Architectural Drawings. Shropshire Archives ref: 9758

Feature

John Cherry

The Ludlow Grammar School that never was

Six attractive drawings for an architectural project that never happened, by an architect whom no-one has ever heard of, on a site that is now a green cricket ground to the north of Ludlow appeared in my inbox. Named Ludlow Grammar School, they were clearly for a new school in the north of Ludlow, and so I wanted to find out their story. They were on offer from a dealer in Portugal, and, since the Friends of Ludlow Museum were able to help with money for the purchase, they have been acquired for Shropshire Archives.

A descendant or friend of the architect, William Bonner Hopkins (1868-1958), must have retired to Portugal with the drawings, and the dealer was arranging their disposal. Hopkins is not a well-known architect. Born in 1868, he was a pupil of W. W. Bethell, whose principal surviving building is Fanham's Hall, in Ware, Hertfordshire 'a vast Neo-Tudor affair', described by Nikolaus Pevsner as 'charmless'. Hopkins worked in 1892-3 as an Assistant to Ernest George Bodley (1827-1907), an architect later famous for his churches and schools.

This experience may have led to Hopkins being approached in 1895 to provide a scheme for the relocation and providing new buildings for Ludlow Grammar school. In 1894 the Governors of the Grammar School had appointed a new head master,

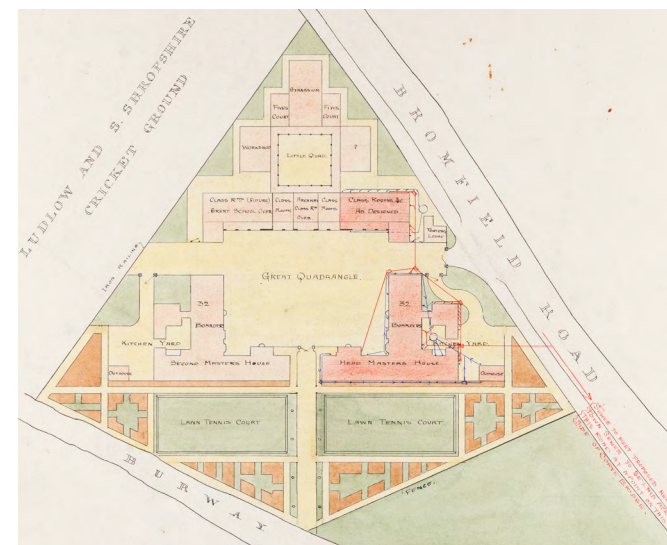
Hugh Francis Hastings (1894-1913), described by David Lloyd as 'a redoubtable personage, scholarly, stern of expression, and full of moral rectitude'. He was a mathematician at Cambridge and, before he came to Ludlow, an assistant master at Portsmouth Grammar School, which was less financially rewarding.

The medieval buildings of Ludlow Grammar School in Mill Street were thought to be inadequate in the second half of the nineteenth century. In 1887 these poor buildings had made the School ineligible for

The Grammar School, Mill Street, Ludlow. Shropshire Archives ref: PR/1/300



a government grant for teaching agriculture and science. So the Governors had purchased a large eleven acre field at Burway, half a mile north of Ludlow on the Shrewsbury road, and commissioned plans for a new school. These six plans and elevations show what the Trustees and Headmaster would have liked to have as their new school. It was a healthier out of town site. Shrewsbury School, a few years earlier, had provided a precedent by moving out of the centre of Shrewsbury. Entered from Bromfield Road, it was arranged symmetrically around two quadrangles with tennis courts to the south. The house for the head master and thirty two boarders on the eastern side was to be separated from the new science class rooms and laboratory.



Plan of the site.

The headmaster, not surprisingly, was to be given a substantial house with large hall, drawing room, dining room and study and easy access to the boarding area of the school around the dining hall and the kitchen yard to the east.



The new science building (below) with science class room, and laboratory with workbenches, draught closet, sink, and cupboard for balances.

The buildings were to be built in brick, with some stone dressings, and half-timbered gables in an eclectic 'Queen Anne' style reminiscent of Richard Norman Shaw.

The plans show that initially only half the total site would be built in a first stage. The second master's house with 32 boarders and further classrooms and workshops were to be left for later.

Alas, even this first stage was to prove too expensive. The estimated price of £7,500 (equivalent to just over a million pounds today) would have exhausted all the funded capital of the school, and so the project was abandoned, and the Governors directed their thoughts to extensions and alterations on the Mill Street site. 'Burway' was assigned as the school playing field.

So the ambition of the new head master was never to be realized and these attractive elevations and plans with water-colour wash on elephant-sized board are all that remains of a Ludlow Grammar School that never was.

References

David J. Lloyd, *Country Grammar School: A history of Ludlow Grammar School through eight centuries against its local background*, Ludlow 1977.

Michael Hall, *George Frederick Bodley and the later Gothic revival in Britain and America*, Yale University Press 2014.

James Bettley, Nikolaus Pevsner and Bridget Cherry, *Hertfordshire, The Buildings of England*, Yale University Press, 2019, 596-7.

www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=204835



Update

Richard Hoyle

After our long piece in the last Salopian Recorder, a short update on VCH Shropshire activities focusing on one area of our work.

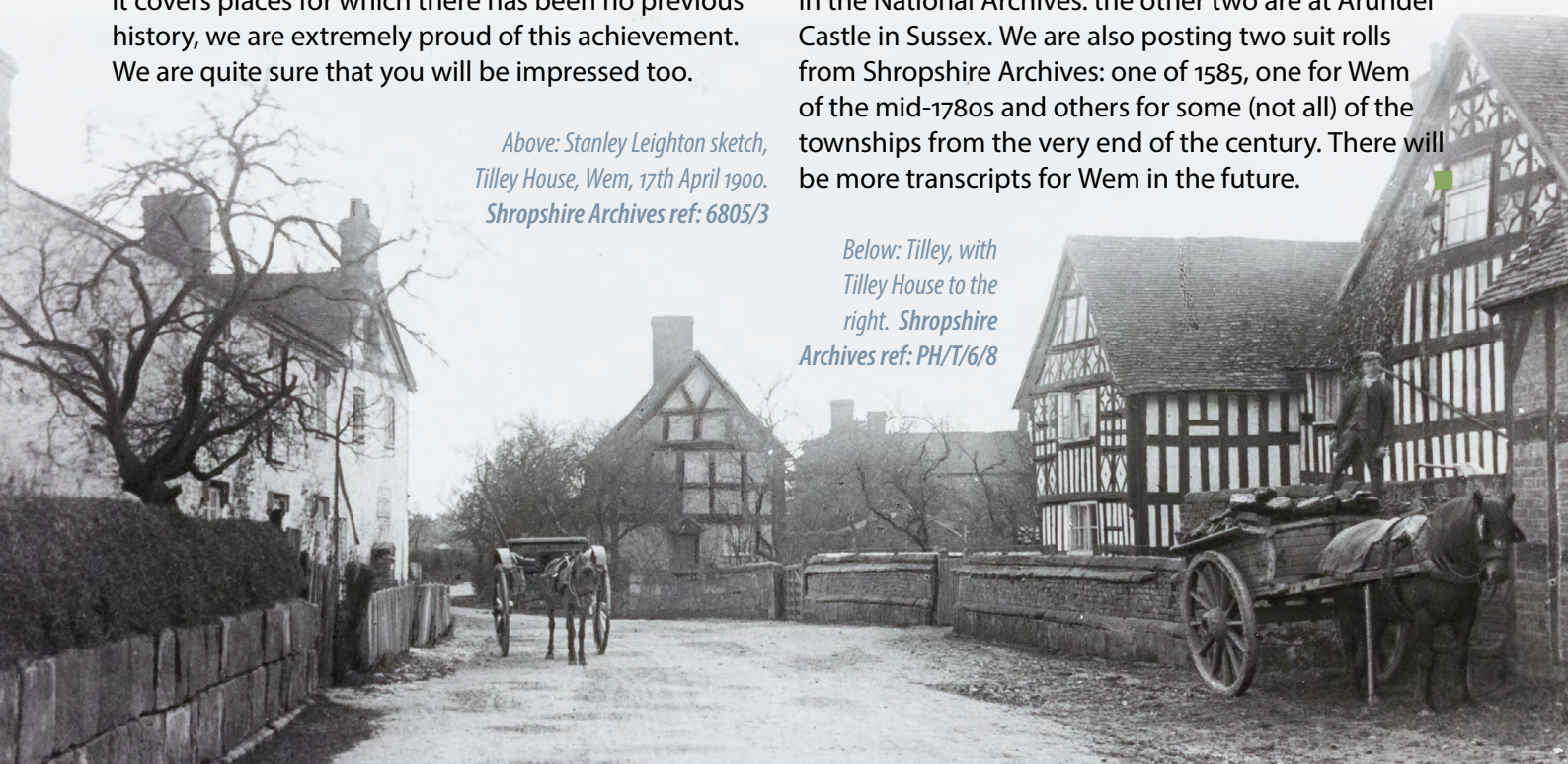
We say draft because we wish to expand it further, especially by thickening the history of these townships in the twentieth century. We will also add illustrations and maps in the future. We welcome additional references and corrections to our work.

We also intend to carry on and research the remaining townships of Wem parish (Edstaston, Coton, Souldon and Lacon) but we need an infusion of money to make this possible. If you can help, do get in touch. Donations, small and large, are very welcome.

We have also made available on the website some of the sources that we transcribed in the course of our work. They include a survey of the manor of Wem of 1589, a survey made in 1648 as part of the process of preparing the manor for sale, and a register of the sales which followed mainly in 1652. The first of these is in the National Archives: the other two are at Arundel Castle in Sussex. We are also posting two suit rolls from Shropshire Archives: one of 1585, one for Wem of the mid-1780s and others for some (not all) of the townships from the very end of the century. There will be more transcripts for Wem in the future.

Above: Stanley Leighton sketch, Tilley House, Wem, 17th April 1900. Shropshire Archives ref: 6805/3

Below: Tilley, with Tilley House to the right. Shropshire Archives ref: PH/T/6/8



From the Chair

Jill Ming

A great review of 30 years

The final talk in our series with the Shropshire Archaeology & History Society was delivered by Mary McKenzie in which she took us through her 30 years working at Shropshire Archives.

Her presentation highlighted the many changes that occurred and included some excellent photographs. You can watch Mary's presentation and the two preceding talks with these links:

- **Howard Williams:** 'The Offa's Dyke Lockdown' <https://youtu.be/2FCocjW9BKI>
- **Giles Carey:** 'Capturing the castles: recent survey work at Caus Castle and Castle Pulverbatch' <https://youtu.be/hqwEGDt964Q>
- **Mary McKenzie:** '30 years working at Shropshire Archives' <https://youtu.be/zJ6B6NzFirm>

AGM

Our first online Annual General Meeting was held on 9 June covering the Friends' business of 2020 and 2021, and members were able to vote using the Zoom polling function. All the business was approved by the members including some changes to our constitution to bring it up to date and reflect our current practices. Many thanks to those who attended and supported the event, and of course to the work and dedication of all the committee for their time and energy they devote to the Friends. The AGM was followed by an excellent talk by local archaeologist Nigel Baker who gave an engaging and fascinating presentation about the links between Shrewsbury Abbey and the River Severn.

We have vacancies for a Deputy Treasurer and two committee members. Please contact friendsofshropshirearchives@gmail.com to arrange a no-obligation chat with me if you can help.

Purchases

We are pleased to have provided funding to Shropshire Archives to enable them to purchase some documents at auction recently. They include an illustrated 19th century travel diary describing 'A Tramp from Great Malvern to Crewe' passing through Shropshire towns; a Salop Fire Office certificate; 12 documents relating to copyhold tenancies in the Manor of Wyken, Bridgnorth; a manuscript of Shrewsbury householders claiming to be on the

Burgess List 1835-1840; and an 18th century rent book of the Hunt family of Boreatton House, Baschurch. The cost of these documents amounted to just under £2,000.

Events

We were very excited to host our first in-person visit since 2019 with our return visit to Pitchford Hall in August. Four excellent guides took our group around the grounds to admire the Hall, climb into the Treehouse, and view the stable buildings and pigeon house, plus seeing inside the house and some of the restoration work that is being undertaken. We were made very welcome by the owners and the visit coordinator and were served delicious cakes and tea.

Our guided tour of Little Wenlock led by Neil Clarke was a sell-out event, and we enjoyed a most interesting tour in the sunshine.

We are delighted that Gareth Williams will be delivering his 'Country Houses of Shropshire' to the Friends on Saturday, 13 November. This will be held at Shropshire Archives and numbers will be limited to ensure we can provide everyone with space. Pre-booking for this event is essential and the booking form is enclosed with this newsletter.

Our editor

Our editor, Andrew Pattison, is recovering from heart surgery and is taking a well-earned rest from editing the Recorder while he recuperates. We are very grateful to Alison Mussell of Shropshire Archives (who was our former editor) for stepping in to edit this edition while Andrew is indisposed. We send Andrew our best wishes for his recovery and hope he will be back to full health very soon.



Gareth Williams will be delivering his 'Country Houses of Shropshire' talk to the Friends on Saturday, 13 November. Houses such as Mawley Hall, Cleobury Mortimer (above), will feature. Shropshire Archives ref: PH/C/23/3/34

Little Wenlock

The village of Little Wenlock, at the centre of the ancient ecclesiastical parish, was the venue for the Friends' summer walk this year.

Feature

Neil Clarke

From archaeological evidence, it appears that human activity in the Little Wenlock area goes back at least three thousand years. At Willowmoor, on the northern edge of the parish, a hoard of Bronze Age weapons was discovered in 1834, six of which are now on display in Shrewsbury Museum. Little now remains of twelve mounds in the same area, once thought to be tumuli.

The earliest documentary evidence of settlement in the area is an Anglo-Saxon charter of 975, delineating the area of Aston (on the northern side of the Wrekin), which mentions its southern border with 'the boundary of the religious community'. This indicates that the Little Wenlock area belonged to the first monastery at Wenlock, which had been founded in the late 7th century. The link with the new monastic foundation is confirmed in Domesday Book (1086), where it is described as a manor of three hides (about 500 acres) of arable land and woods for fattening pigs and for hunting. The manor remained in possession of Wenlock Priory until the Dissolution in 1540. At first purchased from the Crown on behalf of James Leveson of Lilleshall, the manor of Little Wenlock was bought in 1590 by Sir Rowland Hayward, a former Lord Mayor of London, whose son sold it in 1623 to Francis Forester of Watling Street, already a freeholder in the parish. Over the years, the Foresters bought up the remaining three



Old Hall, Little Wenlock, by John Homes Smith, mid 19th century. Shropshire Archives ref: 6009/349

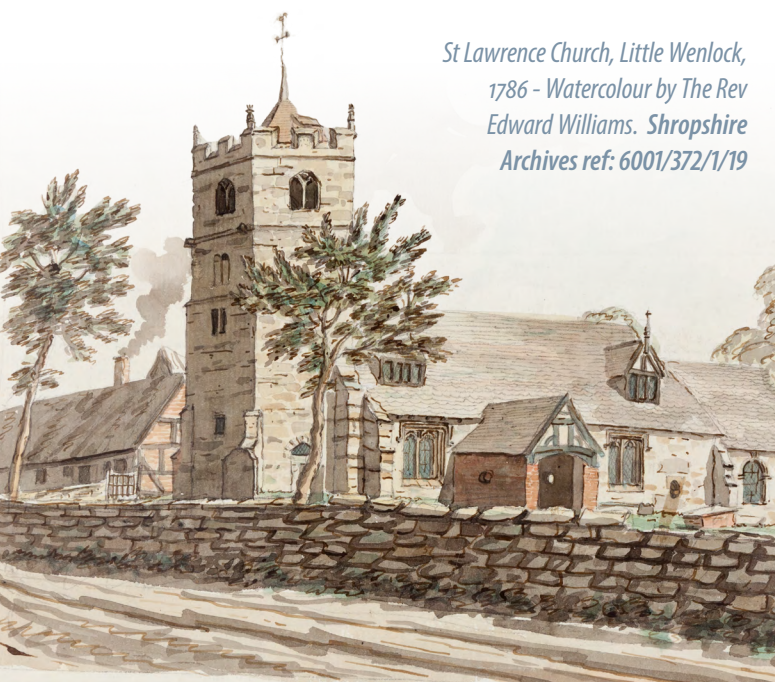
portions of land in the parish, eventually becoming sole owners of the estate until 1918.

The Wenlock link, although diminished by the closure of the Priory, was maintained by the continued inclusion of the parish in the Borough of Wenlock, which had been established by Edward IV's charter of 1468. Little Wenlock remained in the borough until its dissolution in 1966. Since then the civil parish has been extended northwards, bordering the M54 motorway and is now within the Borough of Telford & Wrekin.

Although they purchased the manor in 1623, the Foresters never took up residence in Little Wenlock. During the 17th and 18th centuries, the leading families in the parish were the Haywards, the Warhams and the Smithemans. Their residences were, respectively, the Hall, now the Old Hall (dating from the late 16th century), the Stone House (built in 1661), and the Manor House (late 17th century)

There was some mining activity in the parish during the Middle Ages, but it was the inheritors of the Priory estate who developed the area's mineral resources from the 17th century onwards. Clod coal from Coalmoor and New Works was supplied to the Coalbrookdale Company for coking in the 18th century, together with supplies of ironstone. There were three limestone working areas in the 18th and 19th centuries, the main one at the Hatch. In the 20th century, basalt was worked at Coalmoor, and during and after the Second World War opencast mining took place at several sites, which were later worked for fireclay extraction.

The church of St Lawrence, in its structure and furnishings, reflects the history of the parish. The earliest part, the original chancel (now the Lady Chapel) dates from the 12th century and the original nave (now the north isle) with its arched-braced roof



St Lawrence Church, Little Wenlock, 1786 - Watercolour by The Rev Edward Williams. Shropshire Archives ref: 6001/372/1/19

is 14-15th century. The medieval tower was extended in 1667; and in the 19th century, reflecting the growth in the population of the parish, a new nave (1822), chancel (1875-6) and porch (1892) were added. Inside the church, the cast-iron grave slab in the old chancel (1611) is the earliest example in the county; the Royal Arms of George IV (1820-30) is rare; and the magnificent stained glass east window depicting the Ascension, a memorial to the 2nd Lord Forester (died 1874), is thought to be the work of Wailes & Strang

of Newcastle-on-Tyne, one of the world's leading manufacturers of stained glass and ecclesiastical fittings. Notable curates of Little Wenlock in the 19th century were Charles Henry Hartshorne (1828-36), author of *Salopia Antiqua*, and D.H.S. Cranage (1897-98), who compiled the ten-part *Architectural Account of the Churches of Shropshire*. The parish is now part of a united benefice including Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge.

News

Sarah Davis

We'd like to thank everyone for their support as staff get used to their new roles following Mary McKenzie's retirement.

Following the relaxation of Covid restrictions in July, we resumed our normal opening times of 10am-4pm Wednesday to Friday. We hope to add opening on the first Saturday in each month soon.

We are continuing with limited spaces in the Search Room (for consulting archives) which must be booked in advance. We're encouraging advance ordering but have capacity to get out extra documents as required during the mornings. We've opened up the Reading Room and you can now drop in and browse the local studies collection or maps in the cabinets. You can also book microfiche/film and PCs via our website and we've had positive feedback about this.

Any changes in procedures will be shown on the *Plan Your Visit* page on our website.

Throughout the summer, on social media we've been looking at summer fairs and sporting events – of course mentioning the Wenlock Olympian Games founded by William Penny Brookes in 1850, a forerunner of the modern Olympic Games.

Shrewsbury from Coton Hill, a summer scene by Margaret Agnes Rope, c1901. Shropshire Archives ref: M1829/4

Archives update

Work conserving the "Life of Sir Philip Sidney" by Fulke Greville (6001/295) has been deferred until October at least as there are two important seminars to discuss the conservation of iron gall ink items that Seren needs to attend prior to starting the conservation of this manuscript. Previous methods used may not be suitable so it's important to ensure current techniques and procedures are employed. The Friends raised money to ensure the long term preservation of this unique item.

Despite the restrictions, we've continued to support local groups and projects. In August, we enjoyed hosting Piece of String Media who filmed documents to accompany the North Shropshire 'Wise Words in Wild Spaces' stories. The resulting films are on the Mythstories website. It was interesting to approach the documents and storerooms in this way, using them as visual material to provide atmosphere rather than for their informational content.

Please send any comments to:

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