

# The Conservation Trust for St Laurence, Ludlow

Charity No: 1114678



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

David Lloyd's Obituary continued 2

The Bells project—  
by Keith Goode  
(photo by Shaun  
Ward) 2

Bill Eastwell  
(Trustee)—a profile 3

The Conservation  
Trust's 'raison  
d'être' 3

Future Events for  
2009 and 2010 4

Review of past  
Events 4

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## Dr David J Lloyd MBE



*David enjoying the Palmers' Feast with friends in the Old School Room in spring 2007*

**I was due** to write a 'Tribute' to David for this edition of the newsletter because he was about to retire as the Conservation Trust Chairman, having served the 3 years that the Trust Deed allows. To be writing instead an Obituary following his unexpected death in May is heartbreaking indeed. I know many of you will have read much about David in the last 2 months and in this personal tribute I do want to show just how much Ludlow - its people, organisations and buildings have benefited from David's love and knowledge of the town. **Fund raising came early.** David had been confirmed at St Laurence's in the early 1950s at a time when the death watch beetle was discovered. The Rector, Bishop Sara, inaugurated the great Church Restoration Fund project which included plays in both church- *Edward II* and *Everyman* and castle - *Comus*. David, who had acted in plays at the Grammar School and with the Ludlow Players, joined the company at once. **University, school teaching,** marriage to Wendy and family life with four children

followed in a traditional way and though David was not living in Ludlow he visited regularly and his involvement took off from the 1970's when the Ludlow Historical Research Group was formed. While researching and writing books about the town and its personalities with the Research Group and as a member of the Civic Society, where he was also involved in the 'listed buildings' project, he became very interested in Ludlow Festival and was responsible for the inauguration of history lectures and tours in the programme, where they have remained popular events for 30 years. He was also responsible for several Festival exhibitions and publications. **It was after** he came back to live in Ludlow that David started working in earnest for the church and its building. He was one of the founder members of the Fabric Trust and served as chairman for two periods, the second during the time leading to the amalgamation of the Fabric Trust with the Friends of St Laurence and the formation of the Conservation Trust in 2006. The variety of Fund Raising events David has been involved in, from hundreds of lectures, town and house tours,



David with Joyce Evans & Polly Hamilton at the time of the Queen's visit in 2002

## Dr David J Lloyd MBE (1935 - 2009) continued

country walks to the arduous sponsored bike ride last year and the £1,000s he has raised has been truly amazing. **David also served** the people of Ludlow in a general way as a Town Councillor and was proud to have been Mayor. **David was always** a very active member of the Old Ludlovians' Association. He had been a committee member for many years, including time as Chairman and this year, President. Latterly he has been a Governor of Ludlow College. **The Weirs and the Whitcliffe Trusts and the Dinham Millennium Green Trust** have all been helped by David's 'fund-raising' schemes and

*David taking a tour around 26 Broad Street in March 2009*



his involvement with the Assembly Rooms was another project close to his heart. His annual lecture series there were outstandingly successful and popular. Tuesday mornings will never be the same. **Ludlow has indeed** been lucky to have such a man. He will be missed enormously, and is irreplaceable, but he would expect us all to go on doing the necessary work as it arises - and enjoying it. So we must. **Our thoughts continue** to be with Wendy, who has been a life long support and help, and with Susan, Alistair, Margaret and the grandchildren.

*Jen Davies*

### The Bells of St Laurence's - **the Trust funded the bell illustrated**

**After many trials** and tribulations the bells are back and ringing out once again over Ludlow. **The old tenor** which caused so much potentially damaging tower sway has gone. The decision to remove it was very difficult but I believe it was the right one. The new bells were cast using the metal from the tenor bell so, in a way, it is still with us. **All of the original bells of 1732** were carefully restored and tuned before being returned to the tower. The bell founders were Whitechapel and the bell hangers Nichollsons Engineering of Dorset, and both have done an exemplary job. I believe that future generations will continue to view their work as first rate and the augmentation of enormous benefit. **It was 2003** when the previous tower captain - John Turney - proposed the scheme and when he left in 2005 and the project faltered and threatened to fail I immediately formed a group to help guide the project. **The team included:** Tony Greatrex, Tony Pike, John Croxton, Robert Reed and Chris Jeffrey. Everyone played a vital role bringing their own particular skills and talents to bear. Also Roy Williams, who advises the D.A.C. on bells, gave invaluable help and advice. We owe these people our thanks. Our gratitude must also go to Bishop Michael Hooper for his tremendous support and belief in the project.

**Then there were** all the people who baked cakes, sang songs, played music, danced, sold raffle tickets, made jam and on and on to raise money. At this point I must make a special mention of our much-lamented David Lloyd who was a source of enormous encourage-



ment and support throughout the entire project. **When the scheme** was initiated he immediately and enthusiastically arranged to give an Assembly Room lecture on the bells with the proceeds going to the fund. Having been born on the corner of Tower Street and Old Street the sound of the bells must have been a constant accompaniment to his early life and perhaps explained some of his great affection for them. He would often comment on how the sound of our Monday evening practices during summer enhanced his enjoyment

of his walking tours of Ludlow. **Later Shaun Ward** took responsibility for the scheme and along with working with the contractors masterminded the much needed work and improvements to the carillon. **All that is** now in the past and already Ludlow tower is gaining a wide reputation for having one of the finest rings in the country. Visiting bands are keen to come from far a field to experience the thrill of ringing them. **Our own band** under the guidance of a new tower captain: Tony Greatrex goes from strength to strength. I felt that I needed a break and we are most fortunate that Tony agreed to take on the role. **Tony is an** extremely fine ringer (much better than me) and commands great respect in the ringing world. Furthermore his enthusiasm and pride in Ludlow bells is boundless, and this has already resulted in an increased frequency of ringing of a high standard. **Although there were** some very difficult times I feel privileged to have been part of it all and feel certain that time will prove the worth of all that has been achieved. **The tradition of bell-ringing at Ludlow** should now be secure for many years ahead with the bells helping to mark, more wonderfully than ever before, the events great, small, sad and joyful that occur in the lives of Ludlow people.

*Keith Goode*

## Bill Eastwell - Trustee



**Bill was** born in 1931 to the twenty year old wife of a talented country bricklayer who always had work even during the Depression. They were a well read household and he had read most of the Old Testament by the time he was 8. Bill bought his own Bible for 3/6 (17½p). They had the Observer on Sundays. These days he has given up on newspapers altogether. **The most** formative period of his life was whilst at the village school and in the church choir. Here he acquired his love of organ music and JS Bach. Gazing up to the sky whilst dodging shrapnel and hearing it plop into the village pond Bill began to marvel at the universe, aided by a small book, "Astronomy for Firewatchers". In a congregation which included the Chairman of the Stock Exchange they had a Rector who was a muscular Christian Socialist and who lambasted capitalism from the pulpit and praised the Irish Easter Uprising. Thus began his fascination with politics. The Rectory was completely open to all and sundry, including German and Italian POW's. **As soon** as it was allowed, towards the end of the war, the villagers began their deep involvement in the art of change ringing. They were mostly boys and the next village had a full complement of excellent girl ringers. (He had a tantalizing three second view of them on BBC news recently on Bellingring Day. They looked as attractive as ever). Bill learned a lot about social dynamics. The group rang the bells at well over a hundred towers, including one dedicated to St Laud the Martyr (!) and another to Charles King and Martyr. Thus

began his interest in history, conservation and architecture. **Bill's maternal** grandmother lived in South Shropshire in the 1890's, before she married. Bill and his wife Marian came to live in Ludlow in 1997 and he felt very much at home. They have both been active in local organisations. He helped to begin Local Agenda 21 (now Local 21) and the Local Produce Market. He was Hon Sec of Ludlow and District Bowls League for a couple of years, Chairman of the Probus Club of Ludlow, and the nominee of Ludlow Civic Society to the Conservation Trust for St Laurence, Ludlow. Bill is a member of local environmental groups and other local organisations, like RAFA and U3A and Rail Users. He is a keen member of Craven Arms Men's Chorus. Bill attends St John's Gravel Hill regularly. **He has** been advocating conservation of resources and anti-pollution measures since the late 60's, having seen the photograph taken from space by the American astronauts, and was a very early member of The Other Economic Summit (now the New Economics Foundation). Marian and he were members of an Anglo-American UNA study group to Japan a few years ago, to south west Poland to study farms with Farmers Worldwide Network (now defunct), and to cooperatives and credit unions in Jamaica. **He was** Chairman of the Mid-Wales and Shropshire Area Committee of the Cooperative Group for some years. In fact, his sole connection with the real world these days his executive lay membership of the UK Society for Co-operative Studies, based in the old and soon to be demolished CWS buildings in Manchester. **He is** a Patron of a church in the Oxford Diocese which has recently had its benefice restored, with a Rector and Rectory. **More information** can be found at [www.futureatthebottom.com](http://www.futureatthebottom.com). Bill is chairman of this CIC, which seeks to enlarge local economies in Malawi.

## The Conservation Trust's 'raison d'être'

**It has come** to the notice of the Trustees of late, that the reason for the existence of the Trust has become 'blurry' round the edges in the minds of many people. There are also many newcomers to the town and to the congregation of St Laurence's who are perhaps confused between the various groups and organizations that make up the management of this Greater Parish Church. **A History, very** briefly, of the Conservation Trust. It was created from the amalgamation of two groups that variously saw to the conservation and preservation of the church—The Friends of St Laurence's; a secular organization that was in existence for more than 40 years and looked generally to the repair of the building, inside and out; and then, also, The Fabric Trust, this too was secular. **It was formed** around 13 years ago specifically to renew some pinnacles that were crumbling and needed replacement. It continued to

attend to fabric needs of the external building. **So, until 2006,** these two organizations ran along side each other. Eventually, again, starting to create confusion within people's minds especially whenever the Fabric Committee (Parochial Church Council general management and maintenance) was mentioned. **Seeing the problems** this was creating, The Friends and The Fabric Trust decided to simplify matters and created The Conservation Trust for St Laurence, Ludlow and continued the tradition of both its predecessors by remaining totally secular. This encourages supporters whose interest is in the wonder-



ful structure of this beautiful and important church. **The Trust's purpose** being to fulfill it's remit exactly as it says on the tin 'to conserve the church of St Laurence'. It can look to both external and internal requirements. For example, the Trust has recently repaired and replaced the hoppers, downpipes and considerable drainage works urgently in need of attention. The Trustees are guided by the Trust Deed as approved by the Charity Commissioners. It will continue to serve the church as best it can. **To those to** whom this may be the first introduction to the Trust and who are interested in the fine architecture of St Laurence's and would like to help to keep it in good repair for future generations, as those who have gone before have done, please get in touch with Helen Coleman, Chair of the Trust, (01584 875113) for more information.

## Garden Lunch Party held in the Old School Room and the garden of Maryvale, Mill Street on 7 June

This turned out to be the most amazing of our events so far! At 10am it was raining hard and showed no sign of stopping. Rosemary Wood, who was organising the lunch and had gathered together a marvellous team of helpers, in consultation with other Trustees, picked up every necessary item from the marquee in the garden of Maryvale and transported it across the road to the Old School Room. The College had agreed to let us go there free of charge—we are very grateful to them. The delicious buffet lunch then went ahead in the dry. Joan Bowker, Barbara Atkin and Ann Priddis laid out a lovely display of embroidery and craft work, thank you so much for doing this. As we were finishing lunch, the sun came out so all repaired to the garden for tours by Michael Rosenbaum of the town walls and consultations with Jenny Marshall about the plants in the garden. Tea was then made available to those who were able to stay. It was a lovely day in the end and our grateful thanks go to Alison and Richard Cundall for being completely unfazed while all around them were spinning. Thank you also to those who braved the occasion, not knowing whether it would all go ahead in such awful weather, but came anyway. Grateful thanks to Rosemary and her team, to Antonia and Jean at the bar and as always, to my fellow Trustees who really showed their true mettle.

*Helen Coleman*



*Anne, Barbara and Joan with their lovely crafts*

*Bill Eastwell,  
Joanne Lindsay  
and Michael Hunt  
outside the conservatory at  
Maryvale*



### FUTURE EVENTS—2009

**23 August—Charity Stall in the market: sale of cards & calendars**

**27 November—stall at the PCC Christmas Bazaar in St Laurence's—sale of cards etc plus much more**

### FUTURE EVENTS—2010

**11 March—Coffee Morning at 2 Old Bell Cottages, Park Road, Ludford and St Giles' Church, Ludford**

### 'Journey in Time' - 17 May

Thank you so much to Glenis and John Nash for letting the Trust visit their home on that sadly memorable evening. The occasion was cut short with the announcement of David Lloyd's death—we do hope that the Trust may be able to visit the other houses in the programme another day. Many thanks to Jonathan Wood for stepping in at the last moment as guide when we thought that David was just unwell.

### Old Ludlovians Stall

Jen Davies had her annual stall in the market during The Ludlow Festival. She and sister Polly, sold cards and calendars. She made £130 for the Trust.

### Street Collection - 1 August

A horrid rainy day! Nevertheless, all Trustees who could be there were, plus others—20 in all. We collected £422.40. Well done Jen for another great idea—we think we shall do it again! Many thanks to everyone who took part and to the Weirs Trust for the loan of their tins.

### The Annual Meeting of the Trust held in St Laurence's on 7 July

**Tribute** was paid to David Lloyd and a moment of silent reflection was observed. He was due to retire as Chairman and the Trustees had agreed that Helen Coleman should take the Chair, before he died. Jen Davies had also planned to retire, but under the circumstances, she has kindly decided to 'stay until Christmas' as a Trustee; Helen and those present thanked her warmly for all she does. **We welcomed** 3 new Trustees—Bill Lloyd-Kitchen returning as a Trustee and becoming Vice-chairman, Claire Wilcox and Elizabeth Bennett. **There has** been a move around of officers—Maureen Stinton is now Administrator, whilst Joanne Lindsay has taken over the role of Supporters' Secretary. Michael Hunt remains as Treasurer. Thank you all. **There will be** a much fuller report on the events of the evening in the next issue of the Newsletter.

## Palmers' Feast held at De Greys on 24 April

A new venue for this, the 3rd annual Feast of the Palmers of the Trust. Forty revellers gathered at De Greys for their annual treat. De Greys that week had been given a further national award for their 'Teas' & after our special five course 'Feast' the consensus was that they should have one for this too. **On arrival** we were welcomed with a glass of bubbly and then moved into the restaurant, set attractively with one large table, where we found our labelled places. **Having taken our seats** we were served with a tasty 'starter' and the buzz of conversation really got going. In fact it never stopped during the presentation & enjoyment of the full 5 courses, pausing only to purchase an extra bottle of wine! Incidentally, the cheese course, local cheeses of course, was so generous that in several cases *doggy bags* were requested & supplied. **Then we got** to the coffee stage, & after everyone had purchased raffle tickets - already conveniently placed on the table, Chairman David Lloyd addressed us all. Conventionally, but no less

sincerely for that, he thanked Helen Coleman & Ewart Carson for arranging the event & the staff of De Greys for putting on such a delightful evening. **David also thanked** everyone for coming this year, from as far away as Cardiff and Northamptonshire. David commented briefly on the Trust's events over the year & we raised a glass in memory of the late Bill Watkins & Philip Sheppard whose bequests to the Trust had been so very generous. **Finally, because** don't forget David will seldom pass an opportunity to impart to his listeners some new information, we had a brief history of the De Greys itself from house to restaurant over nearly 5 centuries. Possibly the most memorable facts were that it

was once a butchers shop with an abattoir 'out at the back! It has been a tea-room for nearly 100 years & David mentioned the times in WWII when it was the most civilised place to drink your (Camp) Coffee & to indulge your well behaved children in rather watery (& yes, I do remember) ice-cream. The raffle was drawn having raised £175 towards the Trust funds- brilliant. **Final thanks** & good-byes were said. It had been a lovely evening. *Jen Davies*



*Arlene Harris, Charlotte Potter & Karole Nicholson enjoying themselves*