

The Conservation Trust

St Laurence, Ludlow

Charity No: 1114678

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Tim Ratcliffe—Architect to St Laurence's—a profile	2
Events for 2009 Menu for the Palmers' Feast	2
Helen Coleman—a profile	3
Winners of the Christmas Quiz— 2009	3
Bill Watkins— an obituary	3
St Laurence's Victorian boiler	4
Review of the March Coffee Morning	4

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A Tribute to Dr Jen Davies



Jen 'doing her thing' so successfully at the coffee morning held on 12 March this year at the home of Elizabeth and Leonard Bennett at 26 Broad Street, Ludlow

After six years as a Trustee – first for the Fabric Trust of St Laurence's, then for the Conservation Trust – Jen is standing down this summer, though she promises to 'raise money for the Trust' with her usual vigour. That is good news indeed, for no one has worked harder for the Trust in recent years than Jen. Jen has been associated with St Laurence's since childhood. A distinguished former pupil of Ludlow Girls High School, where she was a popular

Head Girl, Jen had a distinguished academic career, first at Liverpool University, then with Cancer Research in London, and so to Birmingham University, where she was awarded a Decorate for her research on Aging - work that was greatly valued, though I have to say that for most of us it has not stopped the inevitable! She subsequently went on to work in child care in both Social Service and Education departments for many years. Jen married her school-girl sweetheart Terry, and became a dedicated wife and mother, but with abundant energy left for community service, much of it in Ludlow, where she and Terry spend part of their time, though their main residence is an elegant Regency house in Leamington Spa. The Festival, the Weirs Trust and the Old Ludlovians have all benefited hugely but the focus here must be on the many things she has done for St Laurence's. Jen worshipped at St Laurence's and as a teenager, went to the church youth club at what was then St Stephen's Hall. As well as attending services when in Ludlow and acting as a marvellous stand-in steward, Jen has created and tended the garden on the south east side of the church for the last eight years. For many fund raising projects, for the Trust and for other church causes, she has worked tirelessly with flair and zeal, as with the Christmas Cards and the quizzes; and on the many coffee mornings when 'Jen's stall' has become a regular item, selling things she has garnered from a number of sources, many of them home made. At meetings Jen's contributions are always thoughtful and positive. We shall greatly miss her cheerful presence and also her occasional plain speaking. She was a hard working co-secretary for some years and latterly a supportive Vice Chairman. We thank her for all she has done but we know that when she is no longer a Trustee she will be round with her cards and her framed pictures – and that we shall not be able to say no. David Lloyd

TIM RATCLIFFE – ARCHITECT for St Laurence’s appointed by the Parochial Church Council

THE PRACTICE - Tim Ratcliffe set up his own practice in 2000, having worked previously with Rodney Melville & Partners and Donald Insall Associates, two respected architectural conservation firms. The practice works exclusively on historic and listed buildings, including a considerable number of Grade-I and II* listed churches, as well as houses, farm-buildings and old industrial sites. Their approach to old buildings is based on a respect for craftsmanship and an interest in traditional and vernacular building materials. Tim is particularly interested in the use of lime based mortars and plasters, and gives lectures and consultancy advice to promote good practice in the repair and reinstatement of plain and decorative plasterwork.

THE TEAM - Tim Ratcliffe is an architect with 20 years experience of working with historic

buildings, including 18 months working as a labourer for specialist building firms. He was awarded a Lethaby travelling Scholarship by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings in 1987, and regularly gives lectures on traditional building materials and methods. **Jan Ratcliffe** is a historian, with an MA in building conservation. Having taught history for a number of years, she is now involved with historic research, as well as writing Conservation Plans and Feasibility Studies, and advising on grant applications.

CLIENTS AND BUILDING TYPES - Clients they have worked with in the past include:

English Heritage, Cadw, Vivat Trust, The National Trust, The Churches Conservation Trust, Friends of Friendless Churches, Local Authorities, Heritage Lot-



and farm buildings, lime kilns, industrial structures, scheduled ancient monuments and townscape improvements

Recent articles published by Tim include 'Render unto Caesar' in the first edition of 'Cornerstone' (SPAB magazine) for 2006 and 'Internal Lime Plastering' in this year's (2008) edition of the Building Conservation Directory

Events for 2009

12 March - *Coffee Morning* at 26 Broad Street (10.30am-12 noon)

24 April - *Palmers' Feast at De Greys* Tickets £34 - Contact Helen Coleman

17 May - *'Journey in Time'* - 5pm. Leisurely stroll around Ludlow visiting 4 historic houses—tours by Joanne Lindsay & David Lloyd - contact David Lloyd

7 June - *Garden Lunch Party followed by afternoon tea* - 12noon - 4pm - at Maryvale, Mill Street. Tours of the Town Walls & gardens. £12, £5 and £2.50. Contact Helen Coleman

11, 18 and 25 June; 9, 16 and 23 July, 7pm *Guided walks* by David Lloyd including 4 villages & 2 in Ludlow. Takings shared with the Rotary Club of Ludlow.

Contact David Lloyd

7 July - *Annual Meeting of the Conservation Trust for St Laurence, Ludlow*. In St Laurence's - guest speaker & refreshments. 7.30pm. All Welcome

28 June - *Old Ludlovian Market Stall* - contact Jen Davies

3 September - *'Commemoration of the Outbreak of WW2'* - a themed evening, including supper, to take place in St Laurence's church. Contact Helen Coleman

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Jen Davies - 01926 421669/01584 876981

Helen Coleman - 01584 875113

Palmers' Feast—24 April

Welcoming glass of sparkling wine

Menu

☞☞☞☞

Langoustine Bisque

☞☞☞☞

Tangy Lemon Sorbet served with Fresh Fruit

☞☞☞☞

Rich Casserole of Braised New Season Lamb Shank served with a Selection of Fresh Spring Vegetables

OR

Creamed Leek Tart served with New Potatoes and a Crisp Salad Garnish

☞☞☞☞

Caramelised Prune and Armagnac Crème Brûlée served with Almond Biscuit

☞☞☞☞

Selection of Local Cheeses

☞☞☞☞

Coffee with Afterdinner Mints

Helen Coleman - Trustee

Helen Coleman came to Ludlow in 1998 from East Sussex having been born in Yorkshire many years before. She arrived with 3 teenagers, 2 cats and a dog. Her last job near Uckfield, had been parish clerk to 2 small parish councils which stood her in good stead to become assistant to the Town Clerk in Ludlow for 2 years. After leaving there she became the coordinator for The Ludlow Food and Drink Festival. After seeing through 2 festivals, retirement beckoned. However, so did St Laurence's. She became a churchwarden and served for 5 years. This was a remarkably interesting period of her life having never done anything quite like it before. Having become a Trustee for the Fabric Trust, it fol-

lowed that she should then become a founder



member of the Conservation Trust. She has held the positions of Chair for one year of the Fabric Trust and has been the Administrator of the Conservation trust for the past 12 months. After nearly 11 years, these activities have given her a great affection for her adopted town and its people. Some 4 years ago she became a grandmother to Hattie and Monday is 'gran' day, always a full one! Her main interests outside the above are in walking Mollie, her 2 year-old spaniel, over the Mortimer Forest and listening to music. Although a country girl at heart (she once had a smallholding and drove a pony and trap), she is very much enjoying living in one of the conversions of the Methodist chapel on New Road - the view of Ludlow from her eyrie on the top floor is spectacular.

Christmas Quiz Results



The results of Jen's Christmas Quiz are pinned-up on the Conservation Trust's notice board in St Laurence's. It made a pleasing sum of £200. The winner was Gillian Ford, the sister of an old friend of Jen's and the daughter of Fred Reeves, a renowned history teacher at the Grammar School in Lud-

low. She now lives in Bromfield. The sister mentioned is Vivienne and she came one of the runners-up in the Quiz. Gillian got all 26 questions right. Also on the notice board are the answers for us who are obviously not so knowledgeable about our sweets but did attempt to have a go.



Bill Watkins - an Obituary by David Lloyd

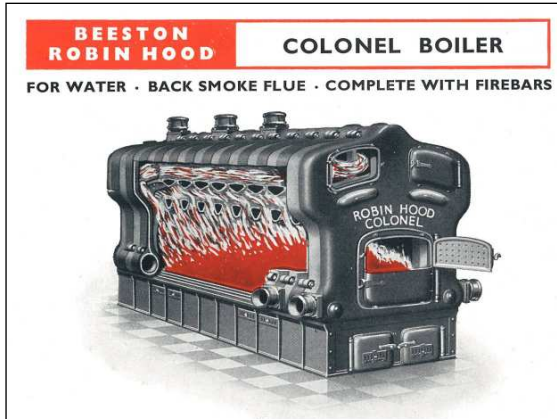
We learnt more than a year ago that the Conservation Trust was to benefit substantially from the estate of William ('Bill') Watkins. To date just over £42,000 have been received, though minor adjustments to that figure may still have to be made. A Ludlovian through and through, and an old boy of the Grammar School, Bill spent his whole life in Ludlow, working for many years for Ludlow Motor Company in Corve Street, where his father was general manager. A serious illness after leaving school blighted his early life but did nothing to stint his cheerful, out-going personality. A confirmed bachelor, Bill had many interests, including classical music and bowls; and for many years he was a regular member of the congregation at St Laurence's,

servng for most of that period as a sidesman. In the 1970s, however, with family communion having now replaced matins as the main Sunday morning service, Bill became disillusioned with St Laurence's, and attempts by several people to persuade him otherwise fell on stony ground. His love of the building and his memory of the dignified services he had attended were undiminished however, and it was not unexpected that the Conservation Trust was one of several local causes and close friends who benefited from his will. Retiring early in 1975, Bill eventually came to live at The Vineyard in Lower Broad Street, and there he estab-

lished a regular routine that included two daily walks in and around the town. An English gentleman with a whiff of the Edwardian age about him, Bill became a much loved local personality, doffing his hat to everyone he knew - which was most of the town - and presenting boxes of chocolates at Christmas time to the ladies in the library and his favourite shops. His accidental death on 7th February, 2007, by drowning in the River Teme whilst enjoying one of his favourite walks, was a great shock to us all. We remember Bill with respect and affection, and readers can be assured that the money he so generously left to St Laurence's will be used for some conservation work on the building that will perpetuate his name,

St Laurence's Victorian Boiler by Shaun Ward

The present heating system in the church was installed as part of the re-ordering and restoration completed by Gilbert Scott in the late 19th century. Scott renewed all the floors in the building, raising the floor level by creating the aisles (rubble infill with a tile covering) and the new pews (these are on wooden frames resting directly on the medieval floor). The heating consists of a very large 'Colonel' Beeston



boiler in a crypt adjacent to the south porch; this feeds a system of pipes 4" dia. and approximately 6855ft in length, they weave in and out of the aisles underneath gratings. They feed cast iron radiators placed around the building and banks of pipe work behind the organ and underneath the misericords in the chancel. In total the system contains approximately 3729 gallons of water, which is pumped by two pumps around the building. The boiler is now gas fired. Originally the boiler was fired by coal, a hopper was refilled on a weekly basis and the fire was kept at a constant temperature throughout the winter. In the 1960s it was converted to an oil burner, which again would have run continuously, like an Aga. More recently it had been converted to gas, and very recently this gas burner has been replaced. The gas burner is currently very expensive to run, £40 per hour. Remember gas prices have risen sharply. We are therefore unable to run the heating 24 hrs, seven days a week as originally designed and intended. By finding a copy of the original boiler specification in a second hand book shop we have been able to understand the limits of the system. The boiler was only ever on average 66% efficient and the new gas burner is only 80% efficient. This means our existing system is only at best 54% efficient. For every £1000 of gas, £460 goes straight up the chimney! This is essentially why we cannot get enough heat into the building and why our annual gas bill is £24 000. The problem is essentially this: we have too much water, and an enormous inefficient boiler, no efficient modern radiators and a very hungry gas burner. What we have tried to do is minimise the fluctuations in water temperature by running the heating and keeping the water warm. The building has remained at a more constant temperature, the organ is certainly happier, but the system cannot raise the tempera-

Coffee in Broad Street – 12 March 2009

The Trust's annual coffee morning event was held this year at 26 Broad Street, the home of Elizabeth and Leonard Bennett. Again, we were very lucky with the weather; it was a



Michael Hunt choosing a book

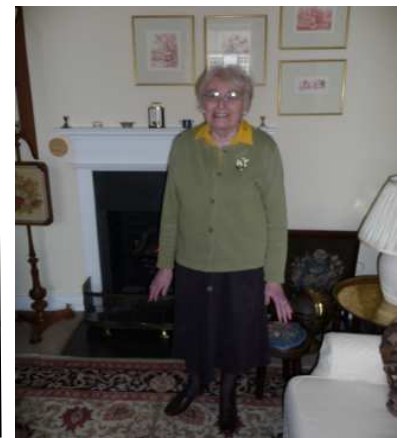
pleasant early spring day. The garden looked delightful with the daffodils and primulas all in bloom. The house was equally welcoming and warm. We had Elizabeth and Brian Owen with their book stall; Jen Davies (Trustees) and her pictures, bric-a-brac and homemade cards; Antonia O'Kennedy and Jean Turner providing the coffee and a raffle manned by Grace Stone and Ewart Carson (Trustee). David Lloyd (Trustee) led a total of 3 brief, but very interesting tours of the house. Originally it was meant to be 2, but such were the numbers coming in, it had to be stretched to 3. There were many other Trustees present who welcomed



Antonia and Jean graciously serving endless cups of coffee to grateful customers



A glimpse of the garden from the back of the house



Elizabeth Bennett standing in her delightful sitting room