



## Herefordshire Record Office

# *FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER*

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JULY 2010

No. 88

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Welcome to this issue of our Newsletter. Since the last we have had our AGM which was well attended. There were reports from our President, Mr Edward Harley, our Chairman, Brian Smith, Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe from the Record Office and our treasurer Jane Adams. Following a break for refreshments Mr David Whitehead presented an excellent talk with slides on "Tudor Hereford". This is to be followed up by a walk around Tudor Hereford in September (see below).

The committee continues to support the Record Office in every way it can for example in the purchase of old maps, books etc. Extra members are very welcome as they will increase our funds for such tasks and, more importantly, the greater will be our effect when lobbying Herefordshire County Council.

As always I would welcome any contribution to future newsletters – contact information at the end of this newsletter.

Editor

**FRIENDS of the HEREFORDSHIRE RECORD OFFICE**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010**

### *CHAIRMAN'S REPORT*

Since the last AGM on 8 May 2009 the Committee has met four times. The membership has remained about 120 individual members and 9 societies. The new membership leaflet, designed and compiled by the secretary Christine Harvey and Virginia Morgan with a new logo by our former secretary-editor Beryl Lewis is now ready for distribution.

Three *Newsletters* have been issued by the editors Philip Bufton and Peter Bishop, with the role of editor now passing from the former to the latter. Our thanks go to Philip for taking on the editorship after Beryl Lewis unexpectedly moved away from Herefordshire and to Peter for now carrying it forward. He has also taken charge of the Friends' notice board downstairs. May I remind you that an editor can only print what he is offered – contributions on your research or experiences among the archives, news of relevant forthcoming or past events would all be potential interest to the editor and readers?

The Friends joined the Office in a celebration of the anniversary of its first 50 years' achievements last November and this spring the 400th anniversary of the earliest map of Hereford city by John Speed in 1610.

We held our customary summer outing with a walk, led by Heather Hurley, to visit some of the features in and about Hoarwithy which she spoke about to us last year.

Heather also looks after the Office's library, currently in the course of being reorganised and recatalogued on a digital database. The Friends have paid for 18 volumes to be rebound and Heather also deals with the reception (and sometimes the acquisition) of new books, struggling to find a home for them in the limited space on the search room shelves that I can only compare with trying to pour a quart into a pint pot.

During the year the Friends have also contributed to the purchase of a quantity of deeds relating to Walford. We are grateful to the Family History Society for a donation of £100 towards the continuing replacement of damaged microfilms.

Of matters arising from last year's meeting, the closure of the search room on Mondays and lack of public access to the Foley family's papers in the Record Office are under review by the Office. The Friends expressed their concerns about both limitations to researchers, who periodically voice complaints to us. As your chairman I have been invited to attend meetings of the newly formed Herefordshire Cultural Consortium but have not yet been free to do so.

Finally, as this is my last opportunity at the end of my five-year term as chairman, I would like to thank both the committee members and the staff of the Office for their powerful support. In particular, I would pay a special appreciation to two previous chairmen – first to Jim Tonkin who died a fortnight ago. He held court in this room for many years as a volunteer, working on his forbiddingly large catalogue of the Wills of Herefordshire, a self-imposed task that would have defeated less determined people and was finished last year for publication by the British Record Society. At 'his' table in this room he would at the same time offer advice and help to the stream of researchers calling on his knowledge and expertise in Herefordshire local history. Secondly, to Charles Hopkinson, still very much with us but now resigning from the committee after 25 years service, a founder member of the Friends in 1985, its first chairman, the editor of the *Newsletter* for many years and an irreplaceable source of advice, experience and quiet suggestion. In gratitude, and privately from the present committee, we wish to offer him this small token memento of our appreciation. (*see below*)

**Brian Smith**

#### ***BRIAN SMITH***

The last AGM of the Friends marked the end of tenure in office of our Chairman, Brian Smith. Not only was he a very able chairman, seldom allowing members to wander from the point or to waffle on for no purpose, but there have been times when his expertise as former secretary of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts has proved invaluable. This was especially true in the production of the Friends submission in support of the proposal for the urgently needed new premises for the Record Office. The committee are extremely pleased that our rules which necessitated the end of his term as chairman also allow us the privilege of co-opting him back onto the committee.

**Valerie Goodbury**

#### ***CHARLES HOPKINSON***

When two and a half years ago Charles Hopkinson resigned as editor of the *Newsletter* he firmly vetoed the publication of a brief appreciation of his contribution to the activities of the Friends. Now, with his resignation from our committee after many years' service and with a new editor in post there is a fresh opportunity to pay tribute to Charles's long-term and lasting work for the Friends.

In 1986, when the Friends of the Herefordshire Record Office was formed, Charles was elected as our first chairman. He has continued to serve as a member of the committee until this year. He

spent much of that period as editor of this *Newsletter*, for after the expiry of his term as chairman in 1989 he took on the task of editorship from James Irvine with number 14 and produced the next 35 issues. After ten years he resigned, only to offer to return in 2003 after the short interregnum when Beryl Lewis and Eleanor Harris were successively editors. In this second innings he took the score from issue 66 to 82 before being succeeded five years later by Phil Bufton and now by Peter Bishop.

Both as chairman and editor Charles has been hugely influential in establishing the policies, procedures, standards and activities of the Friends. He must (presumably) have occasionally missed a committee meeting, outing or event, but he seems always to have been present, unobtrusively offering his support, suggestions and tactful reminders to successive chairmen and editors.

His own historical interests have centred upon military history and the local history of Little Cowarne and Bromyard. Under his chairmanship the first excursion of the Friends was to Brampton Bryan, with its ruined castle besieged by the Royalists in 1643-44, but articles in our *Newsletter* reveal a wider range and his extensive research on the 'Mortimers of Wigmore, 1086-1330' was published in the *Transactions of the Woolhope Club* between 1989 and 1995.

Whilst we will miss his presence at committee meetings we thank both Charles and Jean for the time they have given to the support of the Record Office and we look forward to continuing to seeing both of them at the Friends' future events.

**Brian Smith**

### Treasurer's Report for the Year ending 31st March 2010

The accounts for the year to 31 March 2010 show a surplus of £19.00. Income received was £1,341 and expenditure was £1,322.

Income was £674 lower than in the previous year despite the fact that subscription income rose slightly. This was due to late receipt of the tax refund due on subscriptions under the Gift Aid Scheme of £161 and a reduction in Building Society interest of almost £200. There had also been an exceptional donation of £300 towards cataloguing costs in the previous year. The total assets of the society at 31 March 2010 were £9,063. Although interest rates are very low at present the committee are investigating alternative investment opportunities for the society's funds in order to maximise income.

The main items of expenditure were £260 contributed towards the cost of purchase of deeds from Ross and a map of Bosbury; £402 spent on improving the library, mainly on rebinding volumes in need of repair, and £465 on producing and issuing the newsletter. Other expenses of £117 include a contribution towards the cost of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party for the Herefordshire Record Office held in the year. Income was received from 120 members. A full set of accounts is available from the Treasurer.

#### **Honorary Independent Examiner**

I would like to thank Marcia Pert for acting as independent examiner for the Society for the past few years. Unfortunately she has had to step down this year so we now have a vacancy for this honorary function. If you know of anyone who may be willing to act in this capacity please do put them in touch. Candidates need not be a qualified accountant although they should be familiar with financial records. As we are only a small society the review should not take more than a couple of hours of their time once a year.

**Jane Adams, Honorary Treasurer**

## ***EVENTS MANAGER***

At the first meeting after the AGM your committee decided to appoint an events manager and Virginia Morgan volunteered to take on the task. She aims to organise at least three if not four events annually. Some will be at the Record Office; others will be away at galleries and museums with the occasional guided tour.

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## ***REPORT FROM THE RECORD OFFICE INFORMATION SERVICES MANAGER***

Since my last report in February, we have as ever been kept busy. The official report from The National archives following their inspection last June has been received and the overall outcome is that we are to be allowed to retain the public tithe and manorial documents which they license us to hold, but they also require updates regarding environmental conditions in the strong rooms and regarding progress with the new build.

Since the dehumidifiers were fitted at the end of January, the humidity levels have stabilised considerably in the strong rooms, and the temperatures have improved also by having the heating on a night setback option – though both of these cost money to run. We wait to see from the data for June how well the strong rooms have coped with the very hot weather that we've been enjoying!

Progress with our out store is ongoing – we hope to be able to move the first collections into it in September which will free up space in the Harold Street building for more new accessions which, of course, continue to arrive every week. The records that we will put in the out store will be those that are not used much by researchers – though they will be available for viewing, but not within the 20 minute target time! Orders for these documents will need to be given in advance.

For those of you who were disappointed to miss out on “Tales from the Archives” earlier in the year – rejoice! Owing to popular demand, we are repeating the evening of dramatic readings from the documents on 16th October at 7pm. This time the event will be held in St John's Methodist Church, St Owens Street Hereford. By the time you read this, tickets will be on sale from the Record Office, priced £8.

We have just waved goodbye to our Apprentice, Jo Davies, who has finished her 6-month stint with us, and now moves to the Web Services Team for the remaining 6 months of her contract where she will be working towards putting onto the Archive Service website some data that she compiled here. First will be details of the duplicate OS maps for sale that we hold and then this will be followed by a searchable list of all the Church of England parish registers that we hold. We hope this will make it easier for researchers to find out about these very popular records at any time of the day or night – particularly when we're closed! We have also welcomed our new cleaner/caretaker, Andy Hartless, who has already made a difference to our building for both staff and users. Finally on the staffing line, we are currently recruiting for a further full-time Archivist post, and hope that the appointed person will be able to start in the late summer/early autumn, paperwork allowing!

We have also been able to purchase some new equipment recently – 3 new motorised microfilm readers (one purchased with the help of the Family History Society), to add to the other two. Thus, five of our 10 microfilm readers are now motorised. There is also new equipment for the Conservation team to assist with cleaning and packaging documents, particularly in preparation for the moves to the out store. You can read more about what the Conservation team have been up to elsewhere in the newsletter.

Finally a word about finances – at the time of writing my last report we were unsure what the budget position would be for this financial year. Since then, the new budget year has started and we did not receive any cuts to our existing budget. Of course, things have moved on and again we are being asked to submit information regarding budget pressures and where savings could be made. We'll have to wait and see what the new budgets will bring...

**Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe**

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<p>A walk Around</p> <p><b>Tudor Hereford City</b></p> <p>led by</p> <p><b>David Whitehead</b></p> <p>6.00pm, Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> September</p> <p>Meet at the</p> <p>North Door of Hereford Cathedral</p>
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***RECORD OFFICE LIBRARY UPDATE  
JUNE 2010***

Since Sylvia Pinches has been entering all library books on a database instead of me writing catalogue cards, we have decided with Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe to reorganize the library to provide extra shelf space with a more compact and workable system. This will allow family history and local history being given priority in two distinct sequences. Dewey order will be followed with local history books displaying the first 3 letters of the parish and biographies marked with the first three letters of the person. In order to carry this out the following alterations will take place throughout the year:

**Quick Reference:** as too many are in this section, the books have been checked. Key ones will remain but others will be moved into the main sequence.

**Radnorshire Transactions:** several have been donated to the Woolhope Club Library to fill their gaps, and the remainders will either be shelved with the Radnorshire books or kept in a box.

**Shropshire Transactions:** will be sent away for binding then moved to the Shropshire section.

**Groves Dictionary of Music:** will be sold at the next book sale as the dictionary is now online.

**General History:** this section has been weeded; some volumes have been sold to Ross Old Books and the rest will be sold at the book sale. Books to be kept will be reclassified and shelved.

**Shelf labels:** are to be removed and replaced with moveable ones.

**Colour coding:** is to be discontinued and posters removed.

**New shelving:** for family/parish folders will be erected in the microfilm area.

**Far End Books:** will be weeded by Heather, Sylvia and Elizabeth.

**Binding:** a list is being prepared for repairs/binding.

**Heather Hurley**

**Chair & Hon Librarian**

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## ***SAXTON, SPEED AND EARLY MAPMAKERS***

*Extracts from the lecture at the Record Office on 8 April*

### **BRIAN SMITH**

This lecture was part of the celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Speed's map of the county of Herefordshire in 1610. Speed, however, was not the first person to create and publish a map of the county or to survey places within the county.

Maps are made for a variety of purposes but the early maps usually have one of two functions – land surveys (single maps made for landowners to describe their property and its boundaries) or maps for a wider public, spreading knowledge of countries, the seas and travel, and published in multiple copies for sale. In both kinds the map was made to illustrate the written word.

Beginning with the map of Bringewood Chase in 1577 (in The National Archives) some of the features of land surveys may be noted – their pictorial character and accuracy, their value in showing the extent, usage and improvement of land, their decorative features and the surveyors' equipment. Herefordshire landowners were slow to commission surveys of their estates and most of the surveyors came from outside the county. Not until the very end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century in a map of Cwm Maddoc in Garway by John Pye of Kilpeck, a lawyer, estate steward and himself a man of property, do we have a named Herefordshire surveyor producing a map of the quality long found in other parts of southern England.

Going back to the same beginning date of 1577 another land surveyor, Christopher Saxton from Dunningly near Wakefield in Yorkshire was the first person to make maps of all the English counties, the pioneer whose footsteps were to be followed by John Speed and others. Today we all marvel at information Technology. In the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century people marvelled at the invention of its forerunner, printing, spreading from Italy to Germany, the Low Countries and Britain. For the first time multiple copies could of books and maps could be produced.

Henry VIII was so attracted by them that he had maps hanging on the walls of his palace. A young man in his royal household, William Cecil, later becoming Elizabeth I's first minister for almost 50 years, was similarly addicted. One of the earliest Herefordshire maps of about 1600 is of his family's ancestral estate at Walterstone. Since at least the 1560s he had been considering the value of reliable maps of the counties for the administration of government and defence of the realm – setting out the geography of the country and identifying its towns and villages where loyalists and enemies might be congregated. After casting about for someone who might carry out the mammoth task of surveying all the counties of England and Wales the name of Christopher Saxton, then aged about 30, was put forward in 1573.

Saxton was paid through a government quango, the Court of Wards and Liveries, awarded a coat of arms, and granted property and a ten-year monopoly of sales of his maps. Cecil, by then Lord Burghley (1571), provided him with a warrant to call on mayors and magistrates for guides and assistance in finding high points for his observations. He was required to mark the places, rivers and hills (drawn as molehills, for there were no contours on English maps until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century), the seats of the gentry (shown as parks fenced for deer, a privilege granted only by the Crown) but not the roads for Burghley was concerned only with the setting of places, not how to journey between them. As each county map was engraved a proof copy was sent to Burghley on which he personally noted the names of the influential county gentry, for example in west Herefordshire, Syssil (Cecil) of Alltyrynys, Skidmore (Scudamore) of Kentchurch, Parry of Newcourt and Poston, Baskerville of Eardisley and Pontrilas.

It was a remarkable achievement for one man and it was an immediate success. The maps, originally published loose in 1577, were gathered as an atlas in 1579, issued and re-issued to meet the demand for the next two centuries. And of course, after his monopoly expired they were copied and plagiarised by others.

Among these the chief was John Speed. Unlike Saxton, Speed was not a surveyor but a London antiquary, interested in compiling biblical genealogies, history and maps, mixing with the elite historians and collectors like William Camden and Sir Robert Cotton. In 1596 he began compiling his *History of Great Britain* with a supplementary atlas of maps entitled *The theatre of the empire of Great Britain*. His *History* was based on Camden's *Britannia* of 1586 and *The Theatre* on Saxton's maps. His maps were so similar to Saxton's that he even copied some of Saxton's mistakes (like the misreading of Cledol for Clodock). The only new features are the local government boundaries of the hundreds and the inset maps of the county towns. The decoration, however, is more lavish than Saxton and uniquely on the map of Herefordshire he drew a pair of self-portraits.

*The Theatre* was also an immediate success. Engraved by Jodocus Hondius of Amsterdam the book bears the imprint of 1611, though the maps of Scotland and Ireland are dated 1612. After Speed's death in 1629 the copperplates were acquired by other London map publishers who reissued the maps, with their own variations, until the 1770s.

Speed may have copied Saxton's county maps, but the plans of the county towns were genuinely his own work and in 50 out of 73 cases, including Hereford, were the earliest maps of these towns. The surveys were carried out in bursts of activity in the late summers of 1606-08. In 1606 he set out from Winchester in mid August and, riding via Dorchester, Monmouth, Hereford, Brecon and Cardiff, reached Carmarthen only three weeks later, having spent only about three days in each town. He probably arrived in Hereford on Wednesday/Thursday 27/28 August and dated his draft 1 September. We know, from the scale bar that he paced out the street measurements and can guess that he may have asked if he might climb up the towers of the cathedral, parish churches and castle to get an overall view. He did not attempt to draw every house accurately, but only the principal buildings and landmarks. The street houses were filled in by the engraver like wallpaper.

What we see is the medieval town with its suburbs lining the radiating roads outside the city gates before the destruction caused by the Civil War. The published plan is in fact much less accurate than his larger original draft made at the scale of 50 paces to 1-inch, now at Merton College, Oxford. For examples, in his draft he differentiated between the round and square bastions of the city walls, marked the pillared town hall in High Town, the county gaol in St Peter's Square, the privy on the Wye bridge, the chapel at the Castle, the barbican of the Castle on its mound, the walls around the Bishop's Palace and the unusual two-storied chapel of St Katherine and St Mary.

There are other variations between Speed's original drawing of 1606 and Hondius's engraving of 1610, published in *The theatre of the empire of Great Britain* in 1611-12. Among these dates this year is a good one to mark the anniversary of the first map of Hereford city. It would not be replaced until the Isaac Taylor plan of 1757.

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Another chance to hear

**“Tales from the Archives”  
By John Challis**

7.00 pm, Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> October

at St. John’s Methodist Church  
St Owens Street, Hereford

Tickets £8.00 available from the  
Hereford Record Office  
in Harold Street Hereford HR1 2QX  
Tel: 01432 260 750

***REPORT FROM THE RECORD OFFICE CONSERVATION OFFICE***

First, we’d like to welcome the addition of Andy Hartless to our team. Andy is now our cleaner/caretaker and will be an invaluable help in the task of keeping the building and strong rooms in tiptop condition.

Work in the Conservation unit over the last few months has revolved mainly around two large projects – the environment of the strong rooms and preparation for the move of some collections to the new out-store in the Hatton Gallery at Churchill House.

Part of the job of caring for the collections is to ensure that the environment they are stored in is conducive to their long life and well being. That means keeping the ambient temperature and the relative humidity between the parameters set by the National Archives and the British Standards authority as being the optimum for heritage collections. Each of the three floors of the Stack, and each of the nine strong rooms have data loggers that take readings every half hour. Each month the information is downloaded and assessed. We have been doing this for several years now, but some changes have taken place recently. Dehumidifiers have been installed into the most vulnerable areas and we have also been connected to the environmental monitoring system that is used by Herefordshire Council in its other premises. So we now have two systems in place to make sure that the documents we store do not suffer from extreme changes in temperature or humidity.

We have also begun to monitor for insects and pests. I’m happy to report that nothing serious has been found, and that Eleanor will be going on a training course soon to learn more about the types of pests we can expect, and how to tell the difference between a book louse and a woolly bear! We don’t want any documents to succumb to any unwanted greeblies.

Also on our plate is the move of some collections to a new off-site storage facility that is currently being prepared for us. We have reached the capacity of the building to hold collections and have no room for expansion, so this is a necessary step to take. Elizabeth and Rhys have identified which collections are most appropriate for off-site storage and the conservation team have been busy documenting and assessing each of the boxes and volumes involved. Liz has devised a brilliant spreadsheet to record all the work and this will be really useful when it comes to keeping track of

what needs cleaning and wrapping before it is packed for the move. Shortly we will begin that mammoth task – cleaning and wrapping the volumes will take several weeks before the projected move in September.

This is all alongside our other regular activities of attending to individual documents that need special care – cleaning or protective wrapping or repair.

**Liz Bowman**

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**RECENTLY CATALOGUED BOOKS, MAPS, PARISH RECORDS,  
FAMILY PAPERS, PLANS Etc by THE RECORD OFFICE  
MARCH 2010.**

<b>Cat. Ref</b>	<b>Description</b>
BT65	<b>Magistrates' Court Records</b>
CC05	<b>Architectural plans</b>
CC76	<b>Hope Under Dinmore School</b>
CH69	<b>Thornbury Parish Records</b>
CJ02	<b>Bishopstone Parish Records</b>
CJ03	<b>Abbeydore Parish Records</b>
CJ04	<b>Wolverlow Parish Records</b>
CJ05	<b>Hampton Bishop Parish Records</b>
CJ06	<b>Dixton Parish Records</b>
CJ07	<b>Orcop Parish Records</b>
CJ08	<b>Garway Parish Records</b>
CJ09	<b>Ganarew Parish Records</b>
CJ11	<b>Herefordshire Valuation Lists</b>
CJ13	<b>Marstow Parish Records</b>
CJ14	<b>Marstow Parish Records</b>
CJ15	<b>Sollers Hope Parish Records</b>
CJ40	<b>Southall Family Papers</b>
CJ89	<b>Welsh Newton &amp; Llanrothal Parish Council</b>
CJ90	<b>Bartestree Convent Postcards</b>
CJ91	<b>Quarter Sessions Booklet</b>
CJ92	<b>Herefordshire Map</b>
CK02	<b>Eye County Primary School</b>
CK03	<b>Joyce Jeffreys of Ham Castle</b>
CK04	<b>Catalogue of Hereford City Records</b>
CK06	<b>Ross &amp; District Residents' Association</b>
CK09	<b>Documents relating to Richard Pierce of Goodrich</b>
CK12	<b>Tony Brown Collection</b>
CK15	<b>Marriage Index for Pencoyd 1837-1992</b>
CK16	<b>Wolverlow Marriage Certificates</b>
CK19	<b>Llanveynoe Marriage Certificates</b>
CK21	<b>H.T. Sutters Collection</b>
CK22	<b>Madley Parish Council</b>

**JUNE 2010.**

Cat. Ref	Description
AC14	Objections to Rights of Way/Footpath Maps
BY80	Ashperton Parish Council records
BZ56 - 62	Basil Butcher Collection
CC33	Herefordshire Ornithological Club Annual Reports
CJ12	Whitchurch Parish Records
CJ13	Marstow Parish Records
CJ14	Marstow Parish Records
CJ15	Sollers Hope Parish Records
CJ25	St Weonards Parish Records
CJ35	Titley Parish Registers
CJ36	Llangrove Parish Records
CJ56	Wellington Parish Records
CJ57	Putley Parish Records
CJ71	Brampton Abbots Parish Records
CJ79	Sollers Hope Parish Records
CJ80	Little Marcle Parish Records
CJ81	King's Caple Parish Records

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***PUBS, INNS and HOTELS in LATE NINETEENTH LEDBURY  
by PAT STRAUSS***

Much information on the history of the hostelrys in Ledbury has been written in the book 'The Pubs of Bromyard, Ledbury and East Herefordshire' by John Eisel and Ron Shoemith. However, the census records reveal much more personal information relating to the landlords, landladies and managers of the pubs, inns and hotels plus the others who worked and lived in them. Over the years covered by the Census returns, 1851 – 1901 there were 19 pubs, inns or hotels operating in Ledbury which appeared on more than two returns. They were no doubt the more successful ones and thus have more of a story to tell.

Over a third of the publicans were born in Ledbury and with as many again being natives of the Three Counties (Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire) , it could be said that the pubs were run by the 'locals'. The oldest were all women: Ann Lawrence, a 77-year old farmer's widow who was running the Brewery Inn in 1861; another widow, Hannah Butt, who at age 78 in 1871 was still at the New Inn having been there since at least 1842 when her husband was the innkeeper; and 85 year-old Elizabeth Banks of the White Horse Inn, who also outlived her husband, listed as a Gardener in 1851 and as an Innkeeper in 1861. Seven young men under the age of 30 were in the lists, but overall the average age was 51.

The male-female split was roughly 3 to 1. Most of the landladies were keeping the family business going after the death of their husband, father or even mother, but there are at least two farmers' widows who took up pub work and one whose husband had been a tailor. In nearly every case they continued to work until old age caught up with them; being taken into a son's or daughter's home to live out one's years didn't seem to be the done thing. In the latter years of the census period, the Feathers employed two women as Manageresses with no previous history in the town.

Some establishments had long-serving landlords/publicans, particularly when including the family members who carried on after someone's death, whilst others (the Bell, the Brewery, the Bunch of

Corks, the Crown (aka the Fox) and the Ring of Bells) had new incumbents each census year. Of the hotels, after Worcester-born Fred (aka Francis) Deakin left in the 1860s, the Feathers seemed to have a policy of bringing in outsiders to run the Hotel. In contrast, from 1861 onwards the Royal Oak was kept by James Matthews, followed by his widow and then their grandson, making them the longest serving family.

A few pubs/inns had occasional boarders and lodgers. Not surprisingly, the Brewery (aka the Boatman's Arms) by the canal/railway on Bye Street had no less than 10 lodgers in 1861, seven of them working on the new railway. However, the Bridge Inn, just up the road, housed only the Innkeepers and their families. During that year, when the town needed to put up large numbers of temporary workers, only the Swan, the Ring of Bells and the Royal Oak (besides the Brewery) took in more than one or two navvies or other labourers. Some servants were listed as boarders, probably to distinguish their meal arrangements from other servants in the inn. The Plough had several non-family residents in 1901 whose jobs related to horses or cows. Somewhat out of character for a small market town, there were two couples in the acting profession boarding at the Ring of Bells in 1891.

The Feathers, the Talbot and the Royal Oak were in a slightly different league compared with the others, in that they had the function of providing accommodation and services to the travelling public. In 1851 the Feathers had nine live-in staff. This dropped to between five and seven in later years, but still stood well above the numbers counted at the other two establishments. Presumably these other inns had help come in daily, and/or the family members were expected to pull their weight. But with eight children to look after, and only a house servant, an errand boy and a stable boy in their employ, Royal Oak innkeeper Austin Butler and his wife must have had their hands full!

Being an innkeeper wasn't always someone's only or most significant occupation. Francis Heath of the Brewery Inn was also a boat builder. 30 years later, at the same pub, Richard Hickman declared himself to be a Corn Miller, and was doing just that elsewhere 10 years later. At the Bridge Inn, James Greenway was also a Coal Merchant. Combining the job with coopering or running a lodging house seems a fairly natural pairing and doubling as a Horse Dealer could suit Thomas Howard's clientele at the Plough in 1881. Being a Shoemaker and a publican may have fitted into John Tomkins' life at the Prince of Wales in 1871, as did adding Basket making or Carpentry to the publicans' activities at the Swan. But how that father of eight at the Royal Oak found time to be a gun maker as well is more difficult to understand.

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### ***THE WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ARCHIVES FORUM***

The forum was held at Wolverhampton Archives on 26th May at Molineux Hotel Buildings, and was attended by representatives from the region's record offices and archive Friends groups. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the work of the Forum, look at ways to increase user involvement and hear views on how this could be achieved.

Friends and archivists from the region including Shropshire, Dudley, Warwickshire, Wolverhampton and Birmingham attended together with Rhys and Heather from Herefordshire. After the long train journey we were welcomed with refreshments and then introduced ourselves to the group with an opportunity for each Friend representative to give a short presentation of their activities.

Many interesting ideas were discussed ranging from holding events associated with food and wine, music and country houses. Of hosting research days, providing help by Friends called 'buddies', raising match funding for projects and producing CDs. Linking talks with archives seemed popular and there was much talk of featuring Collections. Several held joint events with other societies and held an annual social lunch.

Newsletters were passed around and varied from our modest one to a full colour magazine produced by Shropshire called the Salopian Recorder. Most featured articles, new accessions and diary dates while Birmingham listed the committee members with photographs. Some programmes were seen, and most were organised for a year in advance.

To our surprise the Herefordshire Friends was one of the longest founded and had one of the highest memberships and the group was impressed with our combined event of a history topic followed by an associated walk and with our library programme of rebinding, repairs and purchases funded by the Friends. We certainly gathered lots of ideas for our committee to discuss at our future meetings.

**Heather Hurley**

Friends Chair & Hon Librarian

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