

Day trips to nearby towns in the Midlands



Michael Pierre de Villiers

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Title page: Top to bottom: Great Malvern, Ironbridge, Shrewsbury, Dudley, Stratford-upon-Avon and Ludlow.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Pierre de Villiers was born in Durban, South Africa. He was trained to World Meteorological Organization class one meteorologist and multi-discipline weather forecaster in the South African Weather Service where he reached the rank of Director. He served on a weather ship in the South Atlantic. He served on World Meteorological Organization expert teams and was World Meteorological Organization rapporteur for the Africa region. He was also a commercial pilot and flying instructor. More recently he was a weather forecaster in the United Arab Emirates, then in England. Now retired.

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INTRODUCTION

This is an article describing town day visits. Some once, most twice, some more than twice. In one instance, the town of Dudley, it was to visit one attraction in the town numerous times. Attractions in the places visited are by no means comprehensive. Partly because being day visits it is not possible. Partly because some places visited were on the spur of the moment with minimum research, if at all. Generally a whimsical follow one's nose approach. Although, when a return visit was made, one was usually better prepared, sometimes with specific objectives. A glossary explaining technical words is included at the end of the article.

DUDLEY

The big attraction in Dudley has always been the Black Country Museum and the next-door Dudley Canal and Caverns. All told five times between 2005 and 2014 with relatives or visiting overseas friends. On one occasion we visited Dudley specifically to visit the ruined St James' Priory, Dudley Priory Hall and the Silurian rock formation.

Sometime since our last visit in 2014 the museum changed its name to the **Black Country Living Museum**. The Black Country was the name given to the area during the time of the industrial revolution because of its thick seam of near surface coal. Mining of which resulted in a concentration of industries producing high levels of air pollution, mostly soot.

They have rebuilt, brick by brick, from original buildings located elsewhere, a typical village and one can go down a typical coal mine, which we did. The school room has rows of desks with ink well holes identical to desks I sat at when I started school. There is also a building housing a working replica of the World's first steam engine originally built in 1712 by Thomas Newcomen not more than about 1.5 kilometres (~1 mile) from the present museum site.



1932 motorcycle technology Stevens van with steering wheel and 588cc engine.

Among the collection of old vehicles, such as a Stevens tricycle motor bike, a small water-cooled engine light commercial van, is a poster about Villiers who made two stroke motor cycle and moped engines, initially for Sunbeam cycles. The Villiers company was later taken over by well-known name motorbike manufacturers A.J.S. Matchless, owners of Norton and later owned by Triumph. The Villiers company closed in the 1970s.

One can travel by tram or trolley bus from the top entrance end of the museum downhill to the lower terminus next to the canal entrance.

All included in the entrance fee. The museum is very popular.

Apparently, there are now over “80 reconstructed shops, houses and industrial workshops One can and meet historic characters who bring history to life with demonstrations in authentic settings” (Black Country Living Museum). Many buildings more than when we were last there.



From top to bottom: A reconstructed village scene, a schoolroom, at the coal mine, trolley bus and tram with the steam engine building, an original industrial area (not reconstructed) and a smithy.

The **Dudley Canal and Caverns**, operated by The Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust, is adjacent to the Black Country Museum. It is where they used to mine lime under a ridge and then shipped it out by barge in the 1800's.



At the start, immediately entering a tunnel and recreation of working in a cavern.

The horses that pulled the barges could not pull them through the tunnels along the route, because there is no towpath. The horses were walked over the hills to meet the barge on the other side. Some horses knew the procedure so well, they did it unaided. Others were led by young boys for a small fee of course.



A fossil in a tunnel wall.

To get through the tunnel the “bargees” used to lie on their sides with their feet facing the tunnel wall then they walked the barge through the tunnel, which was called legging it. This is where the expression, have to leg it originated. I was coerced to try it by the others. I now have a certificate to prove that I have legged it.

In the large mined cavern at the end of the canal they even hold wedding ceremonies and receptions. In a few places, arrows have been stuck to the tunnel wall to indicate embedded fossils.

Our visit 28th February 2013 was a walking tour that took in the ruined St. James’ Priory, Dudley Priory Hall and the Silurian rock formation. Strategically placed notice boards provide a wealth of information.



The Priory ruin and the attached church entrance.

According to an information board, **St. James' Priory**, was founded in the mid-12th century by the Lord of Dudley, Gervase Paganel, who carried out refortification of nearby Dudley Castle



Dudley Priory Hall.

(also now a ruin and part of Dudley Zoo), which was completed in 1070 by the previous Lord of Dudley, the Norman Ansculf de Picquigny. The limestone rubble ruin is Grade I listed (Historic England). The Priory was home to a small community of Cluniac monks who were usually aristocrats. Consequently, lay brothers did most of the manual labour.

Dudley Priory Hall was built in 1825 by the 1st Earl of Dudley in the grounds of Dudley Priory. It is now the Dudley Borough Council register office. The Tudor style building is a Grade II listed building (Historic England).

The real reason for the visit to the area was the nearby **Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve**, the United Kingdom's first geological national nature reserve, declared in 1956, to protect palaeontological features of the Silurian age. All information provided by a detailed information board at the site.

The site was exposed by previous quarry and mining work. About 428 million years ago, it was at the bottom of the Silurian Sea that stretched across the area. Subsequent continental drift and collision lifted the sea bed. Erosion exposed the limestone rocks, which were used for agriculture and industry, before awareness of its significance to the area. The rocks are not that interesting to look at. They do have some distinct pretty rippled areas that do not appear significant until you read about how they were formed.



A section of the rock face. The apparent vertical join is a metal fence. Why? Who knows.

Fossils found in the reserve include crinoids (or sea lilies) and trilobites. Trilobites are possibly the most famous fossils found at Wren's Nest. Trilobites were arthropods, related to modern crabs and lobsters and probably grazed on plants for food. *Calymene blumenbachii* were so commonly found by 19th century quarry men that it was known as the Dudley Locust, or the Dudley Bug and included in the town's coat-of-arms as a symbol of the limestone mining

industry. The list of other fossils to be found is quite long, including gastropods (sea snails) and Orthoceras, old relatives of squid and cuttlefish.

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GREAT MALVERN

1st July 2015, we went south-west to Great Malvern for the day. By train of course with backpack lunch. We chose the hottest day. The day the Met Office afterward declared was a 1-day heatwave, The maximum temperature reached 33°C where we were.

Great Malvern is about 13 kilometres south-west of Worcester on the lower eastern slope of the Malvern Hills with the River Severn 6 kilometres to the east. I am sure it is the least level town we have visited. From the attractive station it is steeply uphill to the town centre, changing from 50 metres above sea level to 200 metres.



The **Great Malvern Railway Station**, completed in 1862, still has most of its Victorian design features. The French Gothic design buildings are made from Malvern Rag stone. Over the platforms are canopies supported by ornate cast-iron girders resting on cast-iron columns with relief moulded capitals. Each one depicting different flower and foliage arrangements. An interesting feature of the station is an enclosed tunnel like pedestrian passageway, called the Worm, from Platform 2 which passes under a road to what was the Imperial Hotel. Lady

Emily Foley, who paid a large part of the cost of building the station and design influence, had a waiting room made for her exclusive use. The station building is Grade II listed (Historic England).

From the station we walked uphill to the peaceful Priory Park with beautiful trees and an attractive footbridge over a small lake. Here we had an early lunch seated on a park bench.

Then on to the impressive Grade I listed **Priory Church of St Mary and St Michael** dating from the late 11th century on the site, although the building is 1440-1500. The priory was part of a Benedictine monastery. During the dissolution of the monasteries by King Henry VIII between 1536 and 1541, the monks were forced to leave (in 1537). The priory church was immediately bought by the people of Malvern to use as a parish church. A very big parish church! Restoration work was done in 1860-1861 (Historic England). Circa 1840 and 1894 according to a church brochure.



Priory Church of St Mary and St Michael and the admired ceiling.

Admired the carved gilded and maroon ceiling. Lots of beautiful stained glass and something I had not seen before when visiting similar historic church buildings, or had not noticed, namely ornate carved misericords dating from the 15th and 16th century. A misericord, also known as a mercy seat, is a small wooden structure on the underside of a folding seat. Folded upward, it supports a person when having to stand during long periods of prayer. I suppose a modern version would be a Shooting Stick.

Of course, we made a donation where a sign reminded us that the Priory costs £3 every 5 minutes. We were inside more than 5 minutes, so we had our money's worth.

We then walked higher up the hillside in the town to the **Abbey Gateway, or Priory Gatehouse**, a scheduled monument (Historic England), which is now the Malvern Museum. It is all that remains of the monastery after the dissolution of the monasteries ordered by King Henry VIII during 1536 to 1541. The Priory survived because it was used for parish worship and was purchased by a William Pinnocke, thereby also saving the 15th century stained glass windows.



The Priory Gatehouse and eye catching 23 and 25 Abbey Road building.

Nearby at **23 and 25 Abbey Road**, is an attractive Grade II listed early 19th century Gothic Revival building (Historic England).

From a slightly higher vantage point at the Rose Bank Gardens, one has a good view of the town below and the valley in the distance seen in the photograph on the next page. It is here

that one can see a number of beautiful buildings between our viewpoint and the Priory, some decorated with ivy. The town has rather varied architecture, which includes, Gothic, Victorian, Regency and Edwardian buildings.



St. Ann's well cottage. It is now a café.

Then it was onward and upward along a steep winding path on the eastern slope of the Malvern Hills to **St. Ann's Well**. The Grade II listed well-house cottage was built in 1815 for use by visitors to the spa. Inside the well-house, spring water flows from a marble dolphin's head water spout into a marble scallop-shell bowl on leaf-ornamented stem (Historic England). Water cure patients were given 5am cold showers then sent up the hill to St Ann's Well for exercise and to drink the water. During the early 20th century water from this spring was bottled and sold with the St Ann's Well brand name.

We then meandered downward through the town to the station. On the way stopping to photograph the quaint building (see below) next to the bank building at 1 Church Street. Strangely the quaint building is not listed, although the early 20th century bank building is Grade II listed (Historic England).



So, on to the station and trains home. First having to mind the gap between the platform and the train carriage. The station has the biggest vertical gap/step I have yet to see at any railway station.

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IRONBRIDGE

The first visit to Ironbridge next to the River Severn, also known as Ironbridge Gorge, was briefly on the 8th April 2004 when passing through by car. Ironbridge's claim to fame is that it is the home of the Iron Industry and the world's first iron bridge.

Saturday, 16th August 2014, we went for a day walking tour. Bus to Birmingham International Station, train to Telford Station, then bus to Ironbridge. Ironbridge is a village in Telford and Wrekin Borough on the bank of the River Severn. Ironbridge Gorge is a World Heritage Site. Not that it made any difference to us whether it is or not. It is very picturesque, as are so many places in the UK, with lovely village buildings and of course, the iron bridge. The area, with its smelting and iron works museums, Jackfield Tile Museum with its up-draught kilns and Coalport China Museum, are remaining symbols of the beginning of the industrial age. One must not ignore the Merrythought teddy bear shop and museum (established in 1930), which, of course, makes teddy bears.

Once upon a time, the Severn Valley Railway from Kidderminster passed through Ironbridge on its way further north to Shrewsbury. While on our walk along the gorge, a part of the path was the remains of a level crossing with gate and a long a section of remaining buckled track.



The teddy bear shop.

Our walk began at the bus terminus at the western end of Ironbridge near the Museum of The Gorge and The Official Merrythought Teddy Bear Shop, eastward to the Iron Bridge where we crossed over to the southern, mainly parkland side, to the Jackfield Tile Museum, passing the Boat Inn (more about it later) to the Coalport Bridge where we crossed to the northern side to walk alongside the road to return to the town, first stopping at the Coalport China Museum.

The Official Merrythought Teddy Bear

Shop at 35 The Wharfage is a must to visit. My wife had prior knowledge of the shop. She bought some teddy bears for a friend in South Africa who collected them. The shop is in a mid-19th century Grade II listed building (Historic England).



The front and rear of the large warehouse, now museum. The wharf is nearby on the left.



The wharf with a river flood level stick.

The **Tontine Hotel** Grade II* listed Circa 1800 red brick hotel with hipped plain tile roof and eaves band (Historic England). Believe it or not, the Tontine Hotel is built on Tontine Hill.

On the hillside behind is the Grade II listed **Church of St Luke**, believe it or not, on Church Hill. Built in 1836 by a syndicate of ironmasters (Historic England).

Museum of The Gorge is housed in the late to mid-19th century Grade II* listed building that was originally a wharf building and warehouse belonging to the Coalbrookdale Company (Historic England). Interesting choice of Gothic style architecture with purely decorative castellated turrets. Rail tracks remain that led to basin wharfage transporting goods to and from river barges.



The Tontine Hotel and St. Luke seen from Iron Bridge.

The world's first **Iron Bridge**, more accurately cold-blast iron that was cast nearby inland at Coalbrookdale, classed Grade I (Historic England). Artists and engineers from around the world came to gawp and marvel. It was designed by architect Thomas Pritchard in 1775 and built by Abraham Darby III from 1777 to 1779. He was awarded the gold medal of the Royal Society of Arts. Thomas Pritchard died before it was completed. So proclaimed an English Heritage board attached to the bridge in 2005. Officially opened on New Year's Day 1781. It is now a footbridge only.



The early 19th century Grade II listed former **Iron Bridge Toll House** at the south end of the Iron Bridge opposite side of the town is shown below left.



Remaining on the south side of the river, before reaching the Jackfield Tile Museum, on the path along what was previously a railway bed it crosses a road at which are the remains of a level crossing with some track (above right).

Jackfield Tile Museum has four grade listed features (three grade II and one grade II*), such as a now disused kiln House. A notice board informs one that the factory, when completed in 1874, had four coal-fired “up-draught” bottle kilns (their tops protruded through the roof). Once the tiles are pressed and dried they were put into either one of the three kilns for biscuit firing



(another way of saying first firing). They are then decorated and placed in the fourth kiln for glazing. Firing was for about eight days and took about a week for the kiln to cool sufficiently for the tiles to be removed.

After about 20 years the up-draught biscuit kilns were replaced by “down-draught” kilns enclosed inside the building that extracted hot gases through the bottom of the kiln then up a square chimney. The photograph shows the floor of one of the biscuit kilns.



The Boat Inn.

before expected flooding. The Boat Inn has a door marked with previous flood levels.



Some distance eastward along the riverside path is the **Jackfield and Coalport Memorial Bridge**, a footbridge, with a plaque that reads “This bridge is free. Tread it reverently in memory of those who died for thee. Erected by public subscription 1922.” Those being during The Great War 1914-1918.

Next to the footbridge is **The Boat Inn**. Ironbridge’s location in the narrow River Severn gorge means the area has a recurring flooding problem and damage. A portable barrier has been constructed, which is erected

It was interesting to see that while the highest flood marked on the door was 19 feet 6 inches (5.9 metres) on the 1st November 2000, it was only 1 inch (2.5 centimetres) higher than the 10th February 1946 flood. In fact, the next 3 highest floods were in 1947, 1948 and 1941 between 19 and 18 feet (5.8 and 5.5 metres). That is, pre-alleged post war man-made global warming, now called climate change. Between 1929 and 2014 there were 14 floods ranging from 17 and 14 feet (5.2 and 4.3 metres), 7 of them in the 2020s.

One speculates how much this increase is rather the result of urban development, deforestation and increased runoff. The 2014 floods were the worst for duration with flooding on 5 occasions from January 30th to February 16th. So yes, there has been increased frequency of flooding lately. The winter of 2013-2014 was an exceptional period for severe storms, heavy rainfall and widespread flooding in the United Kingdom and Ireland, particularly the south of England. The Met Office reported the wettest 1st December to 31st January since 1876. There was also a report of December to end of February being the wettest since records began in 1766. While not disputing the Earth is going through a warmer phase, I do question the magnitude of humankind’s effect.



Moving on we went as far downriver as the Coalport Bridge, on the way walking along an incline section of now abandoned narrow-gauge railway with some buckling.

Crossing the road bridge to the north side we walked back to the town, first stopping at the **Coalport China Museum**. Historic England states of the Grade II* listed Former Coalport Chinaworks that “circa 1792, John Rose started his china works at Jackfield about



A remaining kiln.

Another information board provides more information about a bottle kiln than at the tile museum. Such as for bone china, the first, or biscuit, kiln firing was up to 1230°C. Subsequent glaze firing was sometimes repeated several times to get the full range of colours with a final firing for gold decoration. The cone shaped cover of the kiln, so designed to remove smoke and create airflow, is known as a hovel.

1790, and moved to Coalport in about 1792. Three of the original brick kilns survive. These are characteristically bottle-shaped of circular plan. Two of the kilns are complete while the third is now truncated and only the base remains.” An information board at the Coalport China Museum says that a kiln does not appear on maps before 1847, but probably dates from the 1820s.



The same kiln with some of the factory buildings.

Then onward to the town to the bus terminus and homeward bound. A very pleasant day walking through the village and along the gorge.

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LEAMINGTON SPA

Although only once visited to explore, on the 5th January 2013, we did, on one occasion walk from Warwick to Leamington alongside the River Avon then the Grand Union Canal, a distance of about 5 kilometres. Also passed through on a number of occasions while going elsewhere.

There is a wealth of information boards to found in Leamington Spa. Very much a good thing. Mainly about the spa of course, including the Turkish Bath, fresh air, reading and writing and tennis

Leamington Spa, or simply Leamington, full title Royal Leamington Spa, was originally a small village known as Leamington Priors, situated on the south side of the River Leam. Queen Victoria granted the town Royal status in 1838. The spa water was known from Roman times. The town grew rapidly late in the 18th century when the water was said to be of medicinal benefit (Royal Leamington Spa, Wikipedia).

An information board states the basic treatment was: Regular drinking of and bathing in the spa waters; a strict regime of regular exercise, usually walking; a restricted diet of plain food; a stay of at least three or four weeks during the season (March-December). The main benefit of drinking the water was its laxative effect. No doubt! Exercise and diet, common sense. Three to four weeks visit, no doubt good for the economy.

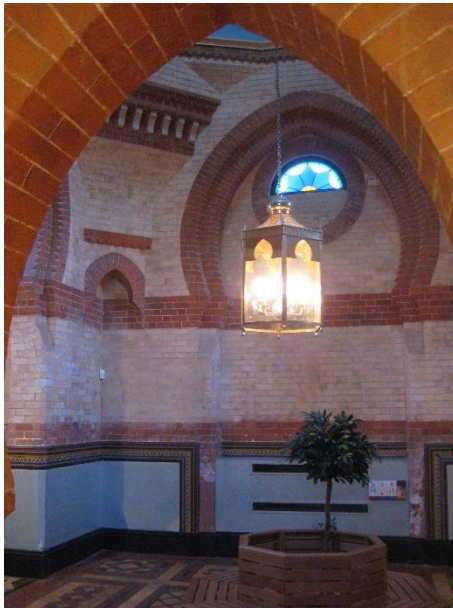
The original, naturally occurring saline spring, known as Aylesford Well was built over the spring in 1804. A second spring, the Abbots' Well was discovered in 1784, which caused the older well level to fall several feet. Eight saline wells were subsequently drilled south of the River Leam. Water was so plentiful that people could bathe in the spa water. These were all in the present old town. Attempts to create wells in the fashionable (rich) new town failed. Due to sandstone geology, only fresh water was found.



The Grade II listed **Royal Pump Room and Baths**, built 1813 to 1814, have been preserved for public viewing. The building has had numerous additions and alterations. Years being circa 1870, 1885, 1889 and 1910. 1926-1927 probably included side pavilions while windows were changed circa 1948 and 1956 (Historic England). Carefully restored in 1997 and 1999 (Royal Pump Rooms). The photograph on the left is an unusual aspect of the Pump Room complex. Not the usual Doric colonnaded front.

According to another notice board, a **Turkish Bath** was installed at Goold's Bath at Bath Street in the 1840s, described as a "Hammam where paradisaical indulgence of the Orientals may be obtained in all its perfection." The present Turkish Bath was built into the Royal Pump Room in 1863. Originally the lower walls were covered with blue plaster, in their wisdom in the late 1880s they were painted a "striking red and black design." During recent restoration most of

the original plaster had to be replaced it was so far beyond repair. The restored walls show both colour schemes with one wall still in its original design. The photographs show the restored original design.



There was wide opposition to the construction of this Turkish Bath when the pump rooms were renovated in 1863. The objection was that it “did not conform to the traditional healing method which depended on the saline nature of the spa water” (Warwick University). It was viewed as a threat to spa towns, because it used clean water and not mineral spring water.

When constructed, the recommended procedure to obtain maximum benefit was: “1. Russian vapour bath (optional). 5 minutes to not more than 10 minutes; 2. First hot room. 3 minutes to never more than 5 minutes; 3. Second hot room. 5 minutes to not more than 10 minutes; 4. Third hot room. 10 minutes to not more than 20 minutes; 5. Shampoo room; 6. Cooling lounge. For approximately one hour” (Warwick University). Before entering the first hot room, patrons were reminded to drink lots of water, make use of the provided cold compress and not enter if breathless and distressed. Light refreshment was available in the cooling lounge.



The Lawn tennis plinth.

Leamington is associated with the founding of **lawn tennis**. The first tennis club in the world was formed in 1872. It was located next to the former Manor House Hotel (now Manor House) in Avenue Road. A plinth at the site states: “Lawn tennis was invented by Major Harry Gem, a Birmingham solicitor and sportsman, who created a game similar to racquets which did not require an expensive indoor court and could be played outside. He first played it with his friend Auguirio Perera, on the lawns of the Manor House Hotel where they formed the Leamington Lawn Tennis Club.” The rules of lawn tennis were created at the club in 1874.

South of the Pump Rooms, a short distance after crossing bridge over the River Leam, is the imposing Grade II* listed Anglican Gothic **All Saints' Church**, built between 1843-1869

(Historic England). A church leaflet in the author's possession (origin unknown) states that in the 11th century, Augustinian monks built and owned the first church on the site until the dissolution order of King Henry VIII in 1538. The subsequent church was "a tiny structure crumbling with age" and "having the appearance of an infant abbey."



In 1799 the church had seating for 130 people. The rise in popularity of the mineral spring led to population expansion and enlargements of the church. It was realised that piecemeal adaptations were not the answer. The new vicar Dr. John Craig, in 1839, was the instigator for a "lofty church of cathedral-like dimensions" and spent much of his own money on the ambitious project. Apparently, the old church "remained in use as the walls and columns of Craig's new building rose above it." It looks rather forbidding on the outside, pretty inside with stained glass windows.

The church and Sunday School movement insured that the first basic education was provided for the poor in the 19th century and the first day school for poorer children in 1822 by Reverend Wise. Also, the school asked to provide valuable instruction to protect pupils from "dangers awaiting them in the

streets while their parents were at work (source a notice board).

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LEDBURY

March 2017, we went for walking day trips to Ludlow and Ledbury in quick succession. Ludlow on Wednesday the 1st and Ledbury on Saturday the 4th. Found a lovely pub for lunch at Ledbury. More about Ludlow later.



Travelled courtesy of what was London Midland Railway, now West Midlands Railway, from Birmingham International station via Birmingham New Street, Worcester and Great Malvern. From the south of Great Malvern to Hereford it is a single railway track. One arrives at Ledbury immediately after exiting a tunnel. Here there is a stretch of double track. Our three car train now had to wait for a four car, double unit train from Hereford to arrive alongside on the passing double section at the station before proceeding to Hereford. The photograph

from the footbridge shows the two trains while looking back to the tunnel through which we arrived at Ledbury. It was interesting to see the two clear semaphore signals (pointing downward) for the other train to Worcester with a person seen at the window in the signal box. A modern electronic and colour light system green light was displayed for the train to Hereford (not shown). The Worcester to Ledbury sector still using the old semaphore system.

Ledbury is a market town with numerous attractive timber-framed buildings. It is in Herefordshire not too far south-west of Great Malvern, which we visited in 2015. Like Great Malvern and Ludlow, one has to walk uphill to the town centre, albeit this time a gentle slope, passing through a residential area and past a large Tesco supermarket.

After about half a kilometre walk one arrives at the older part of the town. The **tourist information centre** was interesting. A sandwich board and a prominent painted sign on a shop window said Tourist Information. The overhead shop sign said Ice Bytes Café & Ice Cream Parlour. This we had to see. Sure enough, inside was an ice cream parlour. The tourist information part of the shop consisted of a display section with brochures and maps where we obtained a simple, but useful, map of the town centre.



The Tourist Information Centre and the Market House.

Next stop along the street was the attractive timber frame Grade I listed **Market House** built on stone pillars (Historic England). Market buildings like this were common. The upper rooms were usually used for business transactions with undercover market stalls between the pillars. Although there was a market place from 1122, building of the Market House commenced in 1617. It was not fully completed until 1668 due in part to lack of funds around 1655 and probably with design changes during the interim. A notice board stated that from 1668 corn was stored in the chambers. Later the rooms were let. The revenue earned was used to provide “coats and gowns for the poor. The butter and poultry market continued below.”

Then onward until we came the corner of the main street and the Worcester Road (A449). Here is the large three storeys timber-framed, tiled roof, **Ledbury Park House** (Historic England). Built late 16th century the Grade I listed building had a single story north range added during in the first half of the 17th century. It is not visible in the photograph being around the corner at the traffic light.



Ledbury Park House and The Southend.

On the opposite corner, is the Grade II* listed **The Southend**, a circa 1600 timber-framed, tiled roof building with a heightened attic storey. The ground floor shop front was added during the 19th century (Historic England).

We retraced our steps past a Grade II* listed **Feathers Hotel**. (There is another of the same name in Ludlow). It was originally two houses. The nearest one built 1560-70, the other one early 17th century (Historic England). Seen in the general view photograph of Ludlow’s High



The Tudor design Feathers, Clock Tower and Market House in this High Street scene.

Back at the northern end of the Market House is a narrow lane, **Church Lane**, lined with old buildings, one with a door so low that my wife had to stoop.

Passing through the lane, we arrived at Grade I listed **St Michael's and All Angels Church** (Historic England). It was immediately apparent that the building had different architectural styles.



St Michael's and All Angels Church.

It has been suggested that the ground on which the church stands was not sufficiently firm to support the weight of a tower. The spire can be seen in the Church Lane photograph above.

A Civil War battle in 1645 between Royalist Prince Rupert and the Roundhead leader General Massey resulted in still visible musket shot damage to the old wooden church doors of the north porch.

We then left the church walking uphill into the countryside, along the edge of **Dog Hill Wood** where, from a ridge, we could look down on the village to snow covered fields in the distance and on the other side, a farm in what is known as Green Lane. There was no snow in the warmer

Street looking north toward the railway station. In the background is the attractive Grade II listed **Ledbury Clock Tower** building built 1892-6 (Historic England). More commonly known as the Barrett Browning Institute as a memorial to the poet and writer Elizabeth Barrett Browning who lived near to Ledbury.



Church Lane.

A church has been on the site since the 8th century with many structural changes through the centuries, reaching its final form in the 15th century. Historic England dates the church building from 12th century with structural changes until the 18th century. Among other Norman remains is the centre of the west front seen in the photograph and the front door. The north isle left of the central front, in the photograph, dates from the 13th century while the south isle dates from the 14th century.

An unusual feature is the early 13th century church tower. It is separate from the church.



View from Dog Hill Wood.

Apart from the pleasing look of the pub what also attracted us was an iron relief script sign on the outside wall next to the door that read “Everyone who passes through this door brings happiness. Some by entering, some by leaving.” It was very olde world inside. Lovely.

Also had a good conversation over lunch with four ramblers at the next table.

urban environment of the town. At the northern end of the wood, we returned to the town centre for a lengthy lunch at ye olde timber frame **Prince of Wales pub**, which we had seen earlier in narrow Church Lane.



Prince of Wales pub.

After more local town sightseeing, including seeing the most enticing D. T. Waller & Sons butchery and its four counties supreme awards for sausages, pies, bacon & gammon, we returned home. Another enjoyable day.

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LICHFIELD

Both visits were by train. June 29th 2015, we visited Lichfield to the north of Birmingham returning again on the 26th September 2019. Backpack lunch the first time, ate in a small, town

centre café the second time. The first time a genuine tourist trip, the second time because we liked it the first time and it was a good walk.

Lichfield was the birthplace of Dr. Samuel Johnson. English writer, poet, playwright, essayist, moralist, literary critic, biographer and editor. Although it can be said that he is best known as a lexicographer. His famous work being A Dictionary of the English Language, published after nine years of labour in 1755. It was the authoritative work until the Oxford English Dictionary 150 years later.



Johnson Birthplace, Market Street.

Saw the house where he was born on the corner of Breadmarket and Market streets at the Market Square. The Grade I listed house, built circa 1707 became the **Johnson Birthplace Museum** in 1901 and bookshop since 1990 (Historic England).

Seen in the background of the Johnson birthplace photograph is The **Guildhall** Grade II listed in Bore Street near Market Square probably built 16th or 17th century, extensively rebuilt circa 1707, with early 19th century alterations, rebuilt 1846-1848 (Historic England).



Dr. Johnson statue and Church of St. Mary.

In the square there is a statue of a seated **Dr. Johnson** (Grade II* listed) and **Boswell** statue (Grade II listed) (Historic England). Not so important then. Apparently, James Boswell was biographer, diarist, lawyer and closely associated with Dr. Johnson of whom he wrote an acclaimed biography. Next to the statues in the square is the Grade II* listed Church of St. Mary, rebuilt 1868-70 (Historic England).



Boswell statue.

Moving northward along Dam Street to the corner of Quonians Lane is a building, Grade II listed, that bears a sign proclaiming that “On this site stood **Dame Oliver’s Infant School** building where Dr. Samuel Johnson was taught English 1714. Born 1709 died 1784.” The claim is disputed. Probably because the building construction is cited as late 18th century, in other words late 1700s (Historic England). Dr. Samuel Johnson would be getting by then, age wise.

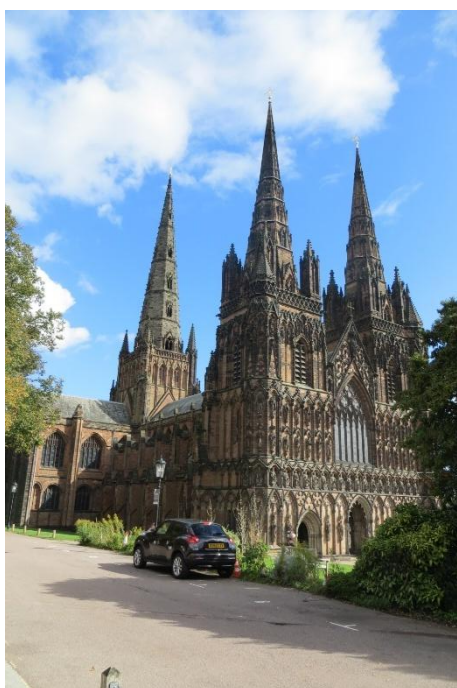


Dame Oliver's Infant School building and the Minster Pool and Speakers' Corner.

A short distance on one arrives at the **Minster Pool and Speakers' Corner**. Erected in 2009 is a specifically built small stand that invites one to Speak UP! Speak OUT! Saturdays at noon. Nearby are two notice boards that provide comprehensive information about the pool and water supply in the Middle Ages and the cathedral during the Civil War.

Water from Leomansley and Trunkfield brooks merged to be fed via a conduit under what is now Museum Gardens to Minster Pool then by pipe under Dam Street to Stowe Pool. From the 12th century Lichfield had a supply of clean piped water. In the 14th century, the Friars extended the system by the addition of three conduits that obtained water from springs at Aldershaw. By the 1800s only one remained in use. Minster Pool was a dam on local marshland, known locally as the Moggs. The dam provided water for a mill. It also provided fish and was a defensive line for the cathedral. Further to the east Stowe pool had the same functions, except as a line of defence (Notice board and Lichfield Historic Parks).

Ahead is Grade I listed **Lichfield Cathedral** dating from early 13th century with additions late in the 13th century and the first half of the 14th century. Major restorations in the 1660s and 1788-95 with continued restoration in the early 1850s and 1856-78 (Historic England). "It is the only medieval English cathedral with three spires and is the only cathedral in the UK to have been fortified with walls and a moat, traces of which remain in the landscape today" (Diocese of Lichfield).



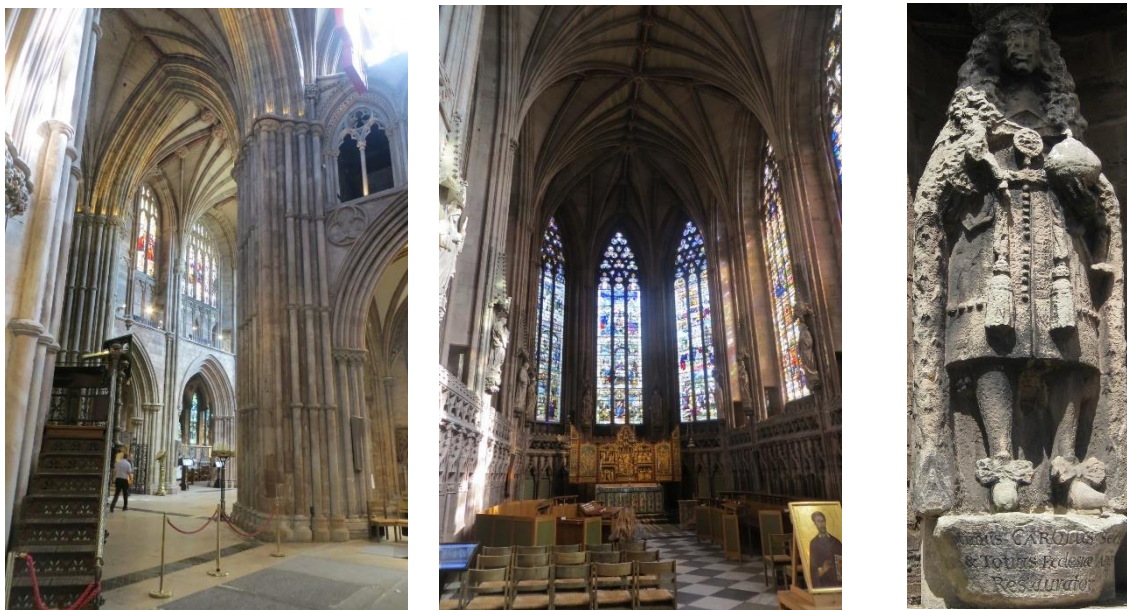
The three spires cathedral.

The reddish sandstone Cathedral is an amazing building with an incredible number of ornately carved stone figures filling the outside front of the cathedral with kings, queens and saints. A thought. Does this mean royalty and saints are mutually exclusive? Working with original materials, where possible, new imitations were created to fill damaged and empty spaces, particularly between 1877 and 1884 on the west front.

The central spire was destroyed during the Civil War, being replaced in the 17th century.



Examples of carved figures on the front and elsewhere.



An idea of the immense height of the cathedral and the weathered Charles II statue

Upon restoration of the monarchy, King Charles II gave money and timber toward the repair of the Cathedral. In his honour a statue was made and placed on the west front until 19th century restoration when it was moved to the south side where weathering has not done his image any favours. He looks rather ghoulish.

Lichfield was a Royalist stronghold as far as the Cathedral authorities and some others were concerned. However, most of the townsfolk were on the Parliamentary side. The first siege of the Cathedral Close was by the Parliamentary army from 2nd to 5th March 1643 when the Royalists surrendered. A close is the area immediately around a cathedral, sometimes extending a hundred metres or more from the main cathedral building. Later it often referred to all the property of the cathedral. At the time the close was fortified with stone walls on three sides and the natural barrier, Minster Pool, to the south. The second siege was from 8th to 21st April 1643 when Royalist Prince Rupert surrounded the close and attacked the Parliamentarians with 3000 troops. They defeated them, but before retreating they are believed to have taken the cathedral treasures. The third and final siege, 9th March to 10th July 1646, the Parliamentarians returned. Artillery mounts were built surrounding the cathedral, which they proceeded to bombard. A spire collapsed on the 12th May. King Charles I encouraged the Royalists to fight on. However, on the 10th July the Royalists surrendered (Notice board and

Wikipedia, Lichfield Cathedral brochure).

The cathedral still bears marks of the three sieges/battles during the Civil War, including damaged Gargoyles where soldiers used them to sharpen their swords. All of the stained glass was destroyed, subsequently restored.

Lichfield was the home of Erasmus Darwin. He was a founder member of the Lunar Society of Birmingham. His theories of biological evolution by natural selection were handed down from father to grandson Charles Darwin who provided the proof. His Georgian house is now a restored Grade I listed building and museum. There is a statue of him in the Museum Gardens next to the Registry Office that was Public Library, Museum, Art Gallery.



Captain John Smith, Edward VII in distance.

Museum Gardens has a statue of King Edward VII (Grade II listed) and John Smith (Grade II listed). Captain John Smith was commander of the RMS Titanic, who went down with his ship in 1912. The statue, by Lady Kathleen Scott, in 1914, is granite base with bronze statue and plaque. The figure is in an overcoat and cap with arms folded. The loss of the Titanic was one of the greatest maritime disasters; 1513 lives were lost. Captain Smith was a Staffordshire man (Historic England).

The Registry Office, former Public Library and museum, is Grade II listed, next to Museum Garden. A brick building with buff brick facades, ashlar dressings and parapeted roof, built 1857-9 (Historic England). Seen below with the Erasmus Darwin statue that is next to the wall facing the garden.



Across the road, opposite the Museum Garden, next the Minster Pool, is another small park, the Garden of Remembrance and the Grade II* listed **Lichfield War Memorial**.

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LUDLOW

Both visits were via train, 4th March 2017 and 7th June 2026. Although Ludlow is in Shropshire, about 45 kilometres south of Shrewsbury and still in England, it was served by Arriva Wales (now Transport for Wales or Trafnidiaeth Cymru). Travelled from Birmingham International (at the airport) to Shrewsbury where one changes to a train going to Cardiff and Carmarthen via Ludlow.

The town is another of those in the Welsh Marches. The Welsh Marches, also known as the Marches of Wales, describes the border area between England and Wales. After conquering England in 1066, William the Conqueror appointed three of his earls to contain and subdue the Welsh. From north to south along the border they were the earldoms of Chester, Shrewsbury and Hereford. Consequently, the area has the remains of many motte and bailey castles, built

during the time of conflict between England and Wales.

The original location of the town is on a hill next to a curve in the River Teme to its south and west with the River Corve joining to its north. It is about five minutes uphill walk from the station to the town centre. It looked pretty plain at first. But quickly changes when one reaches the town centre. To use a cliché, the place is “steeped in history” with many listed medieval and 16th century Tudor half-timber framed buildings.



The Feathers Hotel.



The Bull Hotel.



Ye Olde Bull Ring Hotel.

Ashlar building. It was a market hall open below with a large room above (Historic England). The room now houses the Ludlow Museum. Most intriguing, one enters the museum via a doorway in a building on the opposite side of an alley behind the old market hall building. One

The building that first catches the eye, near the top of the hill, is the impressive Grade I listed timber-frame and plastered **Feathers Hotel** (Historic England). The timber facade has Prince of Wales's feathers motifs. Hence the name. Two wall plaques state that it was constructed in 1619, over an earlier core building, it is three stories high with a basement. It became an inn circa 1670 when a balcony was added for electioneering. A beautiful old building outside and in, the best of a good number of similar buildings. Yes, we went inside. Ostensibly to view it as a suitable venue for lunch.

Opposite the Feathers Hotel is the rather plain looking Grade II listed **The Bull Hotel** (Historic England). The plain appearance is because (as stated in a wall plaque) the frontage was destroyed by fire in 1794 and rebuilt in Georgian style. Behind it is a 16th century core building that was mentioned in a 1580 will. The building was badly damaged when rioters attacked because a Presbyterian meeting was in progress in the building.

The Grade II* listed three storeys, timber-frame and plaster **Ye Olde Bull Ring Hotel** has two roof lines, each with twin gables, dates from the 17th century. Roof tiles are modern 20th century (Historic England). The claim is that it dates from circa 1365 (as painted above a window near the front door). However, Tudor architecture dates from 1485–1603. Presumably, there was a tavern on the site since 1365.

The Butter Cross Grade I listed circa 1746, built between 1743 and 1746 is a two storey

immediately ascends a steep and narrow winding staircase to a 1st floor reception room. After paying £1.20, without realising it, one then walks into what one accepts is the beginning of the museum display. In fact, one walks across a bridging room to the 1st floor of the old market hall.

From a window one has a good view of the buildings in Broad Street. The window was not the best through which to take photographs. The photograph below shows the 1st three, Grade II* listed, II and II.



The Butter Cross and buildings that can be viewed from the 1st floor.



Branching off the alley behind Butter Cross to the right is another alley that gains access to mainly 15th century (with 13th and 14th century fragments) Grade I listed **St. Laurence Church** (Historic England). The church is so hemmed in by buildings it is impossible to get a good photograph. Inside there is the usual high standard of ornately decorated timbered high ceiling and beautiful stained glass windows that we became used to seeing. One gets almost blasé about them.

There is an interesting feature not seen by us in a church before, or even heard of before. The church has a Carillon (below left). A carillon has chimed at Ludlow St Laurence church since 1683, possibly earlier. Apparently, it was not uncommon in churches, universities and municipal buildings. The clock mechanism is below right.



The mechanism, displayed in the north aisle, was installed in 1795 and very much renewed in 1890. A church clock mechanism turned the huge wrought-iron cylinder and the projecting pins made hammers strike the bells in the tower. Two of the hammers can be seen in front of the notice board in the photograph. Projecting from the right end of the cylinder is a rod. By adjusting it, one could adjust it so that the cylinder made the bells play the correct tune for the day of the week. It uses all 13 of St Laurence's bells. Since 1989 the electro-magnetic hammers have been computer-controlled.

The clock machinery in the photograph was the last of a long series of mechanical clocks. It was supplied in 1931. It was removed in 1988 when the computer clock was installed. When the clock was installed, around 1683, it was the only clock in Ludlow (with the possible exception of one in the castle). It was, therefore, an important regulator of daily life for the town for a long time.

The tunes play after the hour has struck at 8.00 am, 12.00 noon and 8.00 pm. Nearly all parts were replaced in 1890. Apparently, the chimes of the church could be clearly heard in the hotel rooms of the Feathers Hotel, which in the past also rang at midnight and 4.00 am. Very much doubt if this would be welcome by guests these days. They would not wish to be disturbed at these hours.

The seven tunes are; Sunday Psalm 104 – Hanover, Monday See the conquering hero, Tuesday Bluebells of Scotland, Wednesday Psalm 113, Thursday My Lodging is on the cold ground, Friday Let us life cherish and Saturday Home sweet home.

During important seasons in the church's year the carillon also plays at 10am and 2pm; Advent - Lo, he comes, Christmas - Joy to the World, Epiphany - Brightest and best, Lent - Lord, Jesus think of me, Easter - Jesus Christ is Risen Today. A winter curfew is still rung, beginning with 16 strokes for the 4 aldermen and 12 councillors of the 1837-1967 Borough Council.



Butcher's Row & a butcher's shelf for open meat display. No windows in those days.

Back in the first alleyway, previously known as **Butcher's Row** according to a sign (present



Castle Lodge.

name unknown) and exiting the northern end toward the castle is the market square dating from the 12th century. At one corner of the market square, near the castle, is Grade II* listed **Castle Lodge**. According to a wall plaque, it was a prison then the home of officials of the council of the Marches. Some might find this ironic. Apparently, rubble rebuilt circa 1590 with late 16th early 17th century superstructure of timber-frame and plaster and hipped slate roof (Historic England).

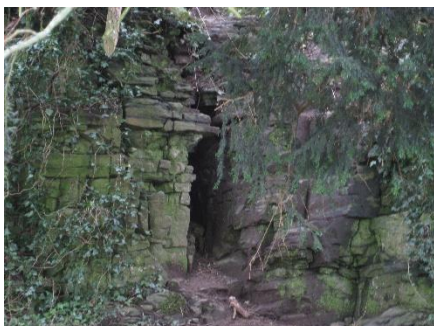


One then arrives at the Norman built **Ludlow Castle** ruin, built on a promontory overlooking the River Teme, it dates from 1075. The Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene was added within the castle walls, or inner bailey, around 1100. The Great Tower, or gatehouse was added in 1130 and an outer bailey in 1170. The castle was abandoned after 1689. It became a ruin after systematic looting for useful materials by the townspeople. It is now owned by the Trustees of the Powis Castle Estate on behalf of the Powis family (Ludlow Castle). The Historic

England heritage category is scheduled monument with phased development between the 11th and 16th centuries. Once again, impressive. We never seem to cease to be amazed by these early fortifications, cathedrals, churches and manor houses.



Walking the path around the castle.



During both visits the path around the outside of the castle wall was walked in an anticlockwise direction. While walking around the wall, we came upon a curious hole in the wall. It looked like it could have been a secret entrance. On closer inspection it was seen to be damage to the wall.



The Rose and Crown.

found and beams revealed.

We had an enjoyable lunch at the **Rose and Crown**. It is hidden away in an ancient courtyard. Access is via a passageway from the ex-Butcher's Row alleyway. An information board reads "The deeds of this inn date from 1102, recorded as the Rose & Crown from the 13th century, making this inn one of the ancient public houses in England plying its trade continually as an inn for over 600 years." Part of it appears to be genuine 16th century half-timber frame buckled with age and part heavily restored. Their website admits to careful restoration with some old, some new and that a hidden fireplace was

We then went down to the river where there is a good view of the castle high above from Dinham Bridge over the River Teme then an extended walk alongside the river downstream to the 80 metres long **weir at Lower Mill Street**. According to Historic England it is Grade II listed, probably of medieval origin with reconstruction in the 18th century and later. During the medieval period it powered three fulling mills for the town's cloth making industry. A fulling mill cleans, woollen cloth at the same time pounding with hammers thickens and strengthens the wool by shrinking it (Science insights).



The castle from the Dinham Bridge and the River Teme weir.



The arrival of transport homeward.

Then uphill along Lower Mill Street back to the town centre and downhill to the railway station and homeward bound.

While on the train, nearing Ludlow, I noticed what looked like a castle off to the left. Too late to get my camera pointed, I resolved to try on the return journey. Even being alert when approaching the location only two photographs were obtained, both not particularly good. Back home an internet

search revealed that is **Stokesay Castle** at Craven Arms (a village, not a pub). Dating from the 13th century, it was fortified by Lawrence de Ludlow, a wool merchant, who received his 'License to Crenellate' from Edward 1 in 1291. Although built with some resemblance to a castle, it is really a manor house (originally lightly defended with a moat) with a timber-framed gatehouse and parish church. The timber-framed gatehouse was not visible from the train. It dates from 1620. (Historic England). Apparently, there has been very little change to Stokesay through the years (English Heritage).



The photograph shows from left to right; the St John the Baptist church in the distant left, hipped roof north tower cross wing, great hall, hipped roof south cross wing and south tower. Sandstone rubble construction with tiled roofs. The north tower wing and south wing are reported as having a solar (or solar room). In medieval castles and houses, usually above the Great Hall, was a family's private living and sleeping quarters (Historic England). However, the word solar can have

two origins from Latin. It can derive from solus meaning alone. That is, the family being alone from the staff. Or derive from Solaris meaning sun. The living quarters being high up with good sun light and warmth. Looking at the photograph, the jettied timber-framed structure on the north tower wing, it would be the warmest place to be, getting the afternoon sun from the west.

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SHREWSBURY

Shrewsbury is a town visited a number of times, more often by train. My maternal grandfather was born in Shrewsbury in 1900. Apart from randomly walking around the town centre, there was also a semi tour of the town centre and once walked some distance out to the house where my grandfather was born and walked back of course.

Shrewsbury centre, perhaps one should say Shrewsbury old town, is built within a wide loop in the River Severn that almost surrounds the original village. With a medieval castle at the throat of the loop (and the railway station). A town with a Norman Abbey and numerous Tudor buildings, it is a lovely place to visit.

Shrewsbury is also close to where there is a claim that King Arthur lived. Other sources claim he was born at Tintagel (Cornwall) and buried at Glastonbury in Somerset. According to some research, excluding legend and myths, he really did exist. It would seem that he was a powerful king of Powys, a kingdom that covered Shropshire and middle Wales. He was the warrior who defeated the invading Anglo-Saxons after the withdrawal of the Romans at the Battle of Badon circa early 6th century. Excavations at Wroxeter, 4 miles east of Shrewsbury, show that at this time this was a sophisticated 5th century city and it would be natural for this to be his “Camelot.” Records show that it was occupied by Owain Ddantgwyn. According to a 6th century monk Gildas, his battle name was The Bear or Arth, Welsh for bear (Original Shrewsbury (a), Wikipedia (a)). During our second visit on the 12th January 2006, we went to look at the Roman ruins at Wroxeter.



153 Belle Vue Road.

Before our first visit by motor car (8th March 2005), I looked up the address of my maternal grandfather, Jack Gibbs (born 10th March, 1900), on his birth certificate, namely, **153 Belle Vue Road**, sub-district of Saint Mary. We were very fortunate in finding a road sign to the street when entering Shrewsbury, but after a brief look thought we had taken a wrong turning, because we found we were in Morton Crescent. Later, at the tourist information office, we found out that we were going in the right direction and that we gave up too soon, because Morton Crescent became Belle Vue Road. At the tourist office the person there had also not heard of the sub-district of Saint Mary, simply because the area is now known as Belle Vue.

Following along Belle Vue Road we came to 153. There was no number on the door, but to the left was clearly marked 151 and on the right 155. A subsequent visit ten

years later in 2015 (and a photograph) shows a door number with window and door frames painted white. The house is on a bend in the road, almost opposite Oakley Street and close to where the road goes over a railway line. The property backs onto the railway line. 153 is one of a line of terraced two up, two down properties. It and the building to the left was painted cream, but the home on the right is still original brick face. 151 and 149 have been amalgamated into one property in the form of a home and take-away business and advertising Pukka Pies. Nearby, at 118 Belle Vue Road, was the **Belle Vue Tavern** before 1991 known as the Old Plough. It is now permanently closed. Such a shame. An attractive pub.



The Belle Vue Tavern.

Places of interest are presented outward from the railway station to the south and west of the River Severn to the English Bridge, then a lengthy walk west, first alongside the river then slightly inland along a circular road to Welsh bridge then inland to the town centre and back to the railway station. Walking through the central part of the town one becomes aware of the extraordinary number of Tudor style houses in Shrewsbury. One imagines they form a large part of the nearly 800 listed buildings in Shrewsbury according to the National Heritage List for England (Wikipedia (b)). To the south-east near to the English Bridge along Wyle Cop and Barrack's Passage are some good examples.



The Lending Library and Darwin statue after snow 24th March 2013.

Walking alongside the road out of the station building (a Grade II listed building built in 1849 and extended circa 1900) and up a hill from the station one sees an imposing building on the right. It is the Grade I listed **Lending Library**. Built in 1590s, it was the Free Grammar School building founded in 1552. Additions, such as the main frontage (in faced Grinshill stone) and chapel, were not until 1630. The sculptured stone figures either side of and above the main entrance represent scholars holding hat in hand (Shrewsbury Town Trail, 2014).

The statue of Charles Darwin in front of the main entrance is Grade II listed. The seated bronze statue on a polished granite plinth was created in 1897 by H Montford (Historic England).



The bright Castle Gates House. On the left is the entrance to the castle.

On the other side of Castle Gates Street is **Castle Gates House** Grade II* listed, built in late 16th century in Dogpole Street. It was dismantled and re-erected in its present location in circa 1702 by the Earl of Bradford, because he wanted to build a more modern brick house on the Dogpole Street site, namely Newport House (that became the Guildhall when purchased by the Borough in 1918, but sold in 2004). Castle Gates House is a two storey timber-framed building with an attic and a tile roof. The building has been altered and extended since 1702 with major restoration circa 1912. It has a two-storey

extension (seen on the right in the photograph) and a long rear wing on the other side (not visible). On the front are three ground to attic bays with canted windows. The windows are mullioned and transomed. The central doorway (in the middle bay) has a four-centred arched doorway. (Shrewsbury Town Trail, 2014, Wikipedia (b) and Historic England).

When leaving the station, one is immediately aware of the castle above and beyond the station. Situated on high ground where only 275 metres (300 yards) separates the loop of the river, **Shrewsbury Castle** was strategically placed to defend the town from open ground. Originally built by Roger de Montgomery after being made earl of the town by William the Conqueror, post 1066, it was rebuilt late 12th century to circa 1300 on the orders of King Edward I with various later modifications. The remains of the mostly red sandstone castle are Grade I listed (Shrewsbury Town Trail, 2014 and Historic England). The composite photograph is the same day as the Lending Library photograph.



According to a notice board titled “Welcome to Shrewsbury Castle and Shropshire Regimental Museum,” photographed during a visit 12th January 2006, a motte and bailey timber castle was built between 1067-1074 by the Norman earl, Roger de Montgomery. The Great Hall was built in stone during the reign of Edward I. It was refortified in 1642 and held for King Charles I, taken by the Parliamentarians in 1645. It was substantially altered by Thomas Telford in 1780.

Within the ancient walled bailey of the Castle, built on the motte, is Grade II listed **Laura’s Tower**. It was built with squared red sandstone as a folly, circa 1790, by Thomas Telford for



The castle main hall and Laura's Tower.

Laura, the daughter of Sir William Pulteney as a summer house. It is possible that it was built on the base of an earlier tower (Historic England). A folly is a fake castle ruin.



Returning to the road, a little further along Castle Street in a lane off to the left is Grade I listed **Council House Gatehouse** dated 1620. Passing through the entrance, the Old Council House is dated earlier but was considerably altered in the 1800s. Both structures are timber framed with brick infill and tile roofs. Notice the pointed ground and first floor windows of the gatehouse (Shrewsbury Town Trail, 2014 and Wikipedia (b)).



The Council House Gatehouse rear with the view in the courtyard.

Turning to the south along St. Mary's Street that becomes downhill Dogpole Street, one arrives at Wyle Cop. Turning to the left still going downhill is the **Lion Hotel** (Grade I listed), next to the Henry Tudor House, consisting of three buildings. The earliest central one is 15th century timber-frame with early 19th century building render. The other two are late 18th century. Being on the hill after crossing the English Bridge it was on the route from England to Holyhead in Wales, the crossing point to Ireland. Hence its association with the mail coaches (Historic England). People known to have stayed at the hotel are Charles Dickens, Paganini, musicians of a different ilk, the Beatles and Jenny Lind, an 1800s Swedish opera singer (Shrewsbury Town Guide).



The three Lion Hotel buildings. Next door Henry Tudor Hoiuse.

Next to the Lion Hotel is the mid circa 1500 Grade I listed at numbers 71, 72 and 73 Wyle Cob, is what is regarded as “outstanding late medieval town house.” Known as **Henry Tudor House**, it was originally a home with later addition of ground floor shops. A timber framed building with a tile roof also on a sloping site. The top floor has a coved jetty with moulded brackets. Somewhat odd looking, the higher side (right looking at the photograph) has three storeys, four in the lower side with a rather low ceiling looking 1st floor. This floor has three casement windows. Above on the 2nd floor is a pair of 4-light mullioned and transomed windows, one restored. Below this window is a plaque that reads "Henry VII lodged here in 1485 before Bosworth," that is, before the battle of Battle of Bosworth Field. Hence, the building is also known as Henry Tudor House (Historic England and Shrewsbury Town Trail, 2014).

The ground floor is split by a passage, Barrack Passage (below left). A charming feature of Shrewsbury are the **Shuts**. These are narrow, at times covered passages or alleys between streets that date back to the medieval age. They are useful shortcuts for pedestrians to quickly navigate the town centre. The name shut is a contraction of shortcut. With time, redevelopment means that many shuts have disappeared (Geograph). While Barrack Passage does not perfectly fit the description of a Shut, a passage on the left lower side of the Henry Tudor House does, as seen in the photograph on the right.



One building beyond this Shut, still on the same side of the road downhill at **65-69 Wyle Cop** (below left on the next page) is a row of circa 1500 Grade II* listed five three story timber-framed buildings with shops at ground level, living accommodation above. Later modifications

include the 19th and 20th century shop fronts. The tile roof has two gabled dormer windows. The upper story of 65 to 68 is jettied. There are casement windows on the top floor while there are 1st floor shallow oriel windows. Meanwhile number 65 (on the left) has sash windows. Number 69 (on the right) has a two storey jettied and gabled attic (Historic England). Next to 69, on the higher end of the row, is another passage, Bowdler's Passage. Another good example of a Shut.



While in the area, Wyle Cop eastward ends at the English Bridge, presumably so named because it was the route eastward to England. By the way, on the other western side of the river loop is Welsh Bridge, presumably so named because it was the route westward to North Wales.



English Bridge and the United Reform Church. Below, Shrewsbury Abbey.



The original **English Bridge** dated from medieval times. It was a packhorse bridge. That is, wide enough for the mode of cargo transport at the time. According to a plaque on the bridge, it was replaced by a new bridge built between 1768 and 1774. It was demolished and rebuilt 1925-1927 with a halved gradient and width increased to 26½ feet (8 metres). The masonry arch viaduct bridge with pilasters and cutwaters between the arches is Grade II* listed. A pilaster is a thickened load-bearing section of wall (Original Shrewsbury (b) and Historic England).

While crossing over English Bridge one first sees the United Reform Church to the right, but one can already see **Shrewsbury Abbey** ahead. Grade I listed Shrewsbury Abbey is on a site of worship since Anglo-Saxon times. It was founded as a Benedictine Monastery by Roger de Montgomery in 1083 where there was already a Saxon church. In spite of the dissolution of the monasteries by King Henry

VIII between 1536 and 1541, part of the Abbey building survived as a parish church (Shrewsbury Abby).

Substantial remains of original building date from the late 11th century to early 12th century with some additions during the 13th to 14th century. Some restoration was done during the early 19th century, more extensively restored and rebuilt circa 1860. The building is red sandstone, coursed and squared, with substantial ashlar facing during the latest renovation (Historic England).



Brewery House.

Back at the bridge and down steps on the town side one gains access to the tow path alongside the river. Not too far after heading westward, on the opposite side of the river is a large structure that looks like a large industrial age textile mill. It is in fact the **Brewery House** an early 19th century Grade II listed brick building complex comprising 4 main buildings with Welsh slate roofs. The former brewery, was in use for storage (Historic England). Since first seen in 2015, the buildings have been converted into three storey townhouses, selling for £700 000 to £750 000 each when checked in 2026.



Watch Tower with a door seemingly opening into space.

Further westward is a lane inland that connects to a steep road that in turn connects with Town Walls Road. A short distance westward is the 13th century Grade II* listed **Watch Tower**. It was part of the defensive wall at the south of the town, known as the Great Wall of Henry III (1220-1252) (Historic England). Part of the wall remains on the left of the photograph. Notice the arrow slit windows and the two doors, one at ground level and one at the level of where the defensive wall would have been.



Further west opposite the large riverside Quarry Park is the Grade I listed **St. Chad's Church**, built 1790-1792 (Historic England). Is an unusual circular design that caused controversy at the time (Shrewsbury Town Guide). Unfortunately, the photograph left does not show this feature, not noticing it at the time. What attracted attention at the time was the appealing sound of peeling of the church bells.

Walking across the park down to the river is the pedestrian **Porthill Bridge** on the other side is the Boathouse pub and restaurant. An excellent place for a meal. Even with only a few people walking on the three metres wide suspension bridge, one can feel vibration (Original Shrewsbury (b)).



Porthill Bridge with Boathouse pub. Welsh Bridge on the right. River cruises depart from here.

Carrying onward, now on Claremont Bank Road, northward then north-eastward one arrives at **Welsh Bridge**. On the opposite side of town from English Bridge. The two bridges are of very similar construction. Looking at photographs of them, it can be very difficult to tell them apart unless one knows the area surrounding each bridge. Like English Bridge it too is Grade II* listed. It was built between 1792-1795, nearly 70 years after English Bridge (Historic England).



Rowley's House and Mansion looking decidedly the worse for wear.

Nearby, between Hill Lane and Barker Street is Grade II* listed **Rowley's House and Mansion**; a pair of houses that were built in the late 16th century and early 17th century (1618). William Rowley of Worfield near Bridgenorth established himself in Shrewsbury as a master brewer and draper during the reign of Elizabeth I. In the later part of the 16th century, he became the owner of the timber framed building. In 1618, having become prosperous, he built the mansion, the first brick house in the town. Initially separate, it later adjoined the timber frame house. The buildings were restored in

1932. It became Shrewsbury's main museum and art gallery. By 2014 its future became uncertain, so that by the author's visit 12th September 2026, the buildings are in a sorry state (Historic England (i), Shrewsbury Town Trail, 2014 and U3A Local History Group, 2025).

When we visited on the 24th March 2013, we parked the car and after walking about the town, we took the picnic bag from the car and set off for the nearby Victoria Quay at the River Severn, but it started snowing. After deliberation we came to the conclusion that while picnicking by the river in the snow would be a notable first, it would be better to go back to the car park and eat in the warmth of the car. We tend to do things this way. We picnicked at the roadside in the middle of the summer heat in the UAE and picnicked in Shrewsbury with snow falling around. The car park was at Rowley's House and Mansion.

Following Hill Lane to Mardol (street) southward to right into Mardol Head then right into High Street, on the right is **Ireland's Mansion**, "probably the most stately of Shrewsbury's timber-framed buildings" built by Robert Ireland a wool merchant (Shrewsbury Town Guide).

The timber-frame building with plain tiled roof, built circa 1575, is now divided into shops and offices since early 20th century (Historic England). Almost opposite is Grade II* timber-framed **Owen's Mansion** (23-24 High Street) also now shops and offices. A plaque reads: "Erected by Richard Owen the Elder gentleman anno domini 1569" (Historic England). Both attractive looking buildings.



Ireland's Mansion photographed in front of Owen's Mansion and Owen's Mansion photographed from in front of Ireland's Mansion lower down the street.



Market Hall. The square was filled with stalls during a recent 2026 Saturday visit.

Not many steps further is Market Square, the historical centre of Shrewsbury. It is dominated by the Grade I listed **Old Market Hall**, until the 19th century known as the Market house. A market was held here from the middle of the 13th century. The first market hall was built on this site 1566-1567. A wall plaque declares that the present hall was "Built by the town of Shrewsbury in 1595-1596. The ground floor was used as the corn market. The upper room was used by the Shrewsbury Drapers for the purchase of woollen cloths brought on ponies from North Wales." Apparently, it is now used as a cinema and café. It a Grinshill sandstone construction with a tile roof. (Historic England and Shrewsbury Town Trail, 2014).



The Former Cross Keys Inn.

Back in High Street a short distance away on the corner of Grope Lane is the **Former Cross Keys Inn**, 15-16 High Street, in a Grade II* listed timber-framed building with a tiled roof, originally built in 1575. A double window ground floor shop front was added during the 20th century. (Historic England).

There was major restoration in 1990. Apparently (as told to me by one of the guides that patrol area told me, complete with photographs), a displeased restorer secretly

made additions to the friezes and the supports below a side window. Remember this was restoration of a 1575 building.



The frieze on the Grope Lane side of the building has motorcycles and riders added (above left). The frieze on the High Street front has a 1990 poll tax protest emblem with images of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on the right and fellow party opposer to the tax, Michael Heseltine on the left (above right). The tax was passed in a 1988 Act, repealed in 1991 (Everything Explained Today). Below the side lower window are carved images of Mick Jagger (on the left). Although difficult to envisage.

Walking through and emerging from Grope Lane is a small area known as Bear Steps. The old looking and cracked steps are between row of 16th century timber-frame buildings that were cottages, now they are shops. The significance of the steps unknown. They do lead to a timber-framed building that houses The Three Steps Café. The building is not grade listed. It simply looked good in snow in March 2013.



The Three Steps Café and the Abbot's House.

Next door, on the corner with Butcher Row, is Grade I listed late 15th century **Abbot's House**, in Butcher Row. Another timber-frame plain tiled roof building restored 19th century with ground floor shops. Billed as “probably the least altered of the pre-Reformation timber-framed houses” (Shrewsbury Town Guide). The Reformation, beginning early in the 16th century was a religious revolution that challenged anything and everything about the Roman Catholic Church.

At the other end of Butcher Row, at Pride Hill (road) walking east into Castle Street, one reaches the railway station and the train journey home.

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STOURBRIDGE

30th January 2015, we went to visit Stourbridge. I did a quick scouting trip earlier in the month on the 9th. Usual transport: bus to Birmingham International station, train to Birmingham New Street, walk across to Moor Street station, train to Stourbridge. No backpack picnic lunch for the second visit. Very good fish and chips for me, gammon, egg and chips for my wife, at Wetherspoons, Stourbridge.

Situated off the mainline from Birmingham (Snowhill Station) to Kidderminster (and Severn Valley Railway), there is a short branch line from the mainline station at Stourbridge Junction to the town. It is a 3 minutes trip on a wobbly standard gauge railway line. Said to be the shortest branch line in Europe.



No. 139002 at Stourbridge Junction disembarking. Soon to return to the town.

The railcar used for the short journey, is a **British Rail Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU)** class 139, or PPM60 (Parry People Movers, the manufacturers). It was specifically built for the line to replace the early 1990s British Rail Class 153 single-coach DMU units in the early 1990s. The class 153 was for service on rural branch lines where passenger numbers did not justify longer trains. In time this DMU proved too big and impracticable. The new class 139 (or PPM60), entered service in 2009. It uses flywheel energy storage to relieve energy demand during starting to move and in motion. The flywheel stores braking energy when the brakes are used and then uses the energy for

acceleration. This means that a much smaller onboard engine, fuelled by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) can be used to initially bring the flywheel up to speed, to add speed to the flywheel after the vehicle is started in motion and provide power for onboard systems. Only 3 were built. Top speed 65 km/h, in service top speed 32 km/h. Two units (139 001 and 139 002), carrying

20 to 25 passengers seated, 30-35 standing, are used one at a time on the single line with no turning facility. They are kept in a shed at the end of the line at Stourbridge Junction. The units are similar to a tram in that there is a cab at each end and the driver simply changes end depending on direction travelling. As usual, I enjoyed the novel train experience. My wife was indifferent (Railways in Worcestershire and Wikipedia,).

Stourbridge dates back to 1255, although there was a settlement there from about 950. It is a fairly ordinary town, but interesting in ways. Stourbridge owes its name, believe it or not, to an ancient bridge across the River Stour. In earlier times, local coal, limestone and fireclay supported small scale industry. The early 17th century, introduced the glass industry to the area by glassmakers from France who arrived to use local coal to fire their furnaces. The 18th century and the Industrial Revolution, brought about the demise of Stourbridge's long association with the woollen trade and change to the production of ironwork, edge tools (a hand worked or machine-operated cutting tool), nails, chain, bricks and heavy engineering. The Stourbridge Canal, opened in 1779, hugely improved trade, as did the railway later and expansion of the iron industry. The Bradley's works built the first locomotive, a 0-4-0, to run on rails in America, named the Stourbridge Lion on the 8th August 1829 at Honesdale, Pennsylvania (Haden, 1980 and Welcome to Stourbridge).

We did the usual town centre walkabout, looking at the sights. The centres of all older towns always follow a similar pattern. It is where you always find the older interesting and charming characteristics of the town. Stourbridge has its share of older, interesting and charming buildings. Not up there with the best, but worth a visit.



Clock Tower & Market Hall. Postie collecting mail in the foreground.



The Olde Corner Shoppe.

A short walk from the station, passing the large bus terminus and through a subway, one is in High Street, a narrow road with small shops on either side that leads north-westward to the intersection with Market Street. Here there is an unusual **Clock Tower** on a cast iron fluted column, 19th century and Grade II listed (Historic England). Next to it at 4 and 6 Market Street is the 1827 Grade II listed building that was formally known as **Market Hall** (Historic England). Present name unknown.

One side of the intersection is Lower High Street. Perhaps somewhat a misnomer., because it begins at the higher part of the town centre but does then slope downhill. At this corner of the intersection is a building housing The Nickolls and Perks wine merchants (established in 1797).

An interesting building. It has a distinctive Dutch gable style of architecture. It brought back memories of the Cape Dutch gables in



The Mitre Inn. Also visible in the Clock Tower photograph on the previous page.

the south-west Cape area of South Africa.

Known by Historic England as **The Olde Corner Shoppe**. 37 Lower High Street, it is Grade II listed early 18th century with later ground floor alterations.

On the corner opposite the Olde Corner Shoppe, is the **Mitre Inn**, a Grade II listed Tudor Revival style pub, constructed between 1932 and 1934. According to Historic England, it is “competent example of an inter-war 'improved' public house.” It replaced an earlier building on the same site known as The Mitre Hotel.



Proceeding down Lower High Street, on the righthand is a **King Edward VI College** building dated MCMXXX (1930) on a carved stone in the wall.

It is a beautiful building (seen on the left) with intricate stone carvings, especially the numerous detailed busts (see examples below). It is not grade listed.



A short distance further, on the opposite side of the road is the 1788 Grade II listed red brick **Presbyterian Chapel**. Now a Unitarian Church, shown on the next page.

After crossing the River Stour, one is at the **Bonded Warehouse** on the wharf at the Stourbridge terminus of the canal. Also shown on the next page. The brick and slate roof Grade II listed building, said to be built in 1779, was built by the Stourbridge Canal Company (Historic England). It was extended and raised another story in 1849. At first sight not a particularly interesting building until one sees the apsidal east end which shows the form of the original building. The fancy word apsidal means a domed like projection (or vaulted recess).



The other end of the warehouse and the Town Hall.

After walking along the canal to a small park we retraced our steps to Market Street and the Grade II listed red brick **Town Hall**, which opened in 1887 on the site of the former corn exchange. Built by public donations for £5000, it is “an almost wholly symmetrical building in elaborately cut red brick” (Historic England). Not particularly impressive. However, with its tall tower it does dominate the skyline and helps one to navigate during walkabout.

After a late lunch at the aforementioned Wetherspoons, we were homeward bound. Another place seen, Another good day out.

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STRATFORD-UPON-AVON 2005 03 2005 09 2007 07 2007 09 2015 12 2023 07 2023 12

Many visits to Stratford-Upon-Avon through the years, usually taking overseas guests to visit. Shakespeare, or Waggledagger, being very popular. Less often for walks in the area. It is an easy day trip by car considerably longer by bus our preferred solo method. No traffic hassle.

Shakespeare related sites in the town centre are easily accessible on foot from the car park or bus stop near the river. Others further afield, such as Anne Hathaway's childhood home and Mary Arden's (later Mary Shakespeare, William's mother) childhood home and farm require the use of a motor car. Sites of interest shown begin in the town centre then further afield ending with a walk out of the town.



Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

If one parks the car at the parking area next to the River Avon the large **Royal Shakespeare Theatre** building is immediately noticed on the other side of the river. No particular reason for mentioning it and the photograph other than it is the home of the Royal Shakespeare Company who also own it and that it is Grade II* listed (Historic England). A complex of two theatre spaces with rehearsal room, front of house and backstage facilities, exhibition areas, restaurant, cafes, shop and viewing tower.



Cox's Yard.

Of more interest to the author is the large timber structure visible across the river at the far end of the footbridge known as the Tramway Bridge that one crosses to begin one's uphill walk to the town centre. Situated next to the narrowboat Bancroft Basin, it is a Grade II listed timber warehouse constructed circa 1820 with mid-19 century renewal. The warehouse is also next to the canal opened in 1816. A good place to have a warehouse. "The building is an unusual survival and important as a reminder of the industrial nature of this area" (Historical England). These days it is simply known as **Cox's Yard**

riverside pub & restaurant.

We had an enjoyable lunch there with relatives from Australia on the 29th December 2023. The location is very picturesque, always attracting tourists. On this occasion, after widespread heavy rain due to Storm Gerrit, the area was in flood. The Environment Agency Water situation: December 2023 Summary stated; rainfall totals were “well above normal across England, with all catchments receiving above average rainfall. Soil moisture deficits (SMD) reduced across England during December as soils became saturated due to the above average rainfall. River flows increased at more than three-quarters of the sites we report on, with the majority of sites exceptionally high for the time of year” (Environment Agency). Compare the photographs below.



The Stratford-upon-Avon Boat Club house on the 21st July 2023 and 29th December 2023.

Onward, after walking up a gentle incline along Bridge Street to Henley Street, is **William Shakespeare's Birthplace**, a timber-frame with plaster infill Grade I listed town house, now museum. Late 15th century and late 16th century, severely restored 1858 according to a 1769 drawing. William Shakespeare born here 23rd April 1564. His father John lived here around 1551 to 1601; the right end of the building was probably his wool shop. Apparently, William Shakespeare spent the first five years of his marriage to Anne Hathaway at the house. It was inherited by Shakespeare's sister, Joan who married William Hart, the house remained in the Hart family until 1794. It was a tourist attraction from around 1740. Bought by the Shakespeare Birthplace Committee for preservation as a national monument in 1847. Now a Birthplace Trust Museum. (Historical England).



Shakespeare's Birthplace and Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust Office.

Next door, on the right, is a building that is now occupied by the **Shakespeare's Birthplace**

Trust Office at 13 Henley Street. Originally a town house. The Grade II listed building is a late 15th century timber-frame structure with late 18th century brick facing and a circa 1900 rear wing. (Historic England).



The Nutcracker Christmas Shop.

Opposite, at 44 and 45 Henley Street is **The Nutcracker Christmas Shop** in existence since 2004 in a part timbered building. A delightful place where it is Christmas all year and a very popular tourist attraction.

The building is not grade listed, although it looks like it should be even if it is for the reason that it is a unique retail establishment. Although, it is one of a British-owned chain of all-year Christmas shops. Certainly, the only one the author has seen or initially aware.



Henley Street between Meer and Windsor streets is pedestrianised. At the end near Meer Street, where since 2022 there is a statue of William Shakespeare, one may see **living statues**.

The earliest living statue seen by the author was in September 2005 whom it was presumed was in Shakespeare period dress (seen left). A living statue was not seen again until July 2023 then, like buses, two appeared at once; Shakespeare's Banquo's ghost and King Richard I (below left and right). Although supposed to remain stationary, the supposed ghost of Banquo did cause amusement by occasionally walking around sneaking behind people and tapping them on the shoulder. The king, at times, did interact with passers-by.



Backtracking to the circle where Henley Street meets Bridge Street then turning south along High Street to number 26. This is the 15th century Grade I listed **Harvard House**; a timber-frame structure with plaster infill on rubble plinth and tile roof with rear brick chimney. It was

mostly rebuilt after the widespread fires in the town during 1594 and 1595, when the rear was extended with more rear additions in the 18th and 19th centuries, with restoration 1905 to 1909 (Historic England). The date 1596 is carved in the wood below the 1st storey window.

In spite of previous visits to Stratford-upon-Avon, visiting in December 2015 was the first time that the author took note of Harvard House, which looked rather similar to many other period buildings in the town. It was built by successful butcher, corn and cattle merchant Thomas Rogers in 1596, the year before William Shakespeare bought New Place just a few hundred metres along the street. Rogers' daughter Katherine married Robert Harvard of Southwark. Their son, John, married Ann Sadler and emigrated to Massachusetts, America. When John Harvard died of tuberculosis in 1638, he bequeathed over £750 (over £3 million in today's money) and his library of around 400 books to a recently established college, that would bear



Harvard House (right) Garrick Inn (left).

his name. Harvard College remains one of the two schools within Harvard University. During 1905 to 1909 it was restored for Marie Corelli and Everard Morris. In 1909, American millionaire, Edward Morris of Chicago who financed the restoration, bought Ancient House in Stratford-upon-Avon then presented it to Harvard University. Ancient House became known as Harvard House. Since 1990, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust has cared for Harvard House on behalf of Harvard University (Everything Explained Today, Historic England and Wikipedia).

Next door at number 25 is Grade II* listed **Garrick Inn**, another timber-frame building with plaster infill, tile roof and rear brick chimney. Circa 1956 (after the 1594 and 1595 fires) heavily restored circa 1912, replacing the circa 1800 brick front. The name was "changed from the Greyhound to the Garrick in 1795, in honour of David Garrick, who did much for the town's tourist trade by his encouragement of enthusiasm for Shakespeare" (Historic England).

A metal engraved plaque next to the front door says "There has been an inn on this site since 1718 but the building dates back to 1594 and the site has been occupied since the early fourteen hundreds and possibly before. First called the Greyhound and briefly The New Inn it became the Garrick Inn around 1769 named after the famous actor David Garrick following a three day jubilee in Stratford organised by him."

Although intending to continue south in High Street, making a short detour east into Sheep Street, is Tudor World housed in number 40, **Shrieve's House**. Next to it is Shrieve's Walk. (Photographs on the next page.) Tudor World is a living history museum portraying life from 1485, the beginning of the reign of King Henry VII at the Battle of Bosworth ending with the death of Queen Elizabeth I's in 1603. It is half a block away from Royal Shakespeare Theatre Company.

Shrieve's House is a timber-frame with plaster infill Grade II* listed yeoman's house, with rear outbuildings. Named in the 20th century after the 1st recorded tenant, William Sheryve, in 1542. Historically, a yeoman was a man holding and farming a small property, a freeholder. The building was restored 1908 and 1947 (Historic England).



Shrieve's House photographed 2023 & Shrieve's Walk photographed in 2007. Notice the wooden pillory used for public punishment. Abolished in 1837.



The Shakespeare Hotel.

Returning to High Street a short distance south, to numbers 17 to 19, is Grade II* listed **The Shakespeare Hotel**. It's the combined size of the hotel that attracts one's attention. Three buildings now constitute the hotel. The part to the left (with four gables) is 16th century with later alterations and front rebuilt in 1920. The part to the right (with five gables) is early 16th century, except the gabled part at the right end (number 19) is circa 1720 with 20th century alterations. The buildings are timber-frame with plaster infill on rubble plinth, tile roof with brick chimneys (Historical England).

Further along High Street, near to the corner with Chapel Lane is **Nash's House**, a timber-frame with plaster and brick infill town house on a rubble plinth with tile roofs and rubble/brick chimneys (again!). Grade I listed, it was built circa 1600, rebuilt 1912.

Its significance is that the house was owned by Thomas Nash from around 1630 and "was



Nash's House. In the background Guild Chapel of the Holy Cross.

probably the home of his widow, Elizabeth, nee Hall, Shakespeare's grand-daughter, from 1647." Furthermore, the ground associated with the house, on the corner and along Chapel Lane "are of marked interest and contain the foundations of **New Place**, Shakespeare's last home" (Historic England). An information notice board on the site, seen during a 2009 visit, read "On this site stood New Place, the large Tudor residence which William Shakespeare purchased in 1597. After his busy working life in London, the dramatist returned to New Place and died here in April 1616. The house was demolished in 1759 and the foundations are

preserved in this garden setting. Beyond is an Elizabethan-style knott garden.” Tree-ring analysis of four oak and elm timbers found on the site revealed a felling date “of in, or around, winter AD1617/18. This suggests a construction date for the front range in AD 1618 or shortly thereafter.” The ground and house belong to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust while Nash’s House is now a museum (Historic England).

On the opposite corner, Chapel Lane and Church Street (High Street becomes Church Street), is the **Guild Chapel of the Holy Cross** (see the photograph above) a Grade I listed building with a 13th century chancel with circa 1450 alterations, the nave and tower circa 1490, restored 1804 and roofs rebuilt, further restoration in the 1950s. It was used by the next-door King Edward VI Grammar School from 1553, when the Guild was dissolved (Historical England).

Next to the chapel, is a Grade I listed building that was part of the **King Edward VI School**, formerly known as the Guildhall. Built circa 1417, it is a timber-frame structure with plaster infill on renewed ashlar base. The guild was founded in 1269, reformed after amalgamations in 1403 and suppressed in 1547. The guild's school was reconstituted as the present grammar school in 1555 (Historic England).



Inside the school ground and the classroom.

An information board inside the school, at the time of our visit in 2007 reads “These buildings, comprising the Guildhall and grammar school were erected by the guild of the holy cross in the 15th century and have been in continuous use since then. The property was confiscated by King Edward VI who later restored the school to the town. It is generally believed that Shakespeare was educated in this school. The old school room is part of the present day grammar school.” It is logical that William Shakespeare (1564-1616) attended the school. He was born just up the road so to speak. The interior view is of a room known as the Guild Chamber in the King Edward VI Grammar School on Church Street. It shows one of the classrooms with long, well-worn desks and a teacher's desk against the wall beside the fireplace.



The school house with the Almshouses in the distance.

Next to the school building, in Church Street are the Grade I listed **Almshouses**, a row of twenty-two almshouses with one attached to

the rear. They date from 1427 to 1428, much altered in the 16th century, restored in 1892 and “again restored, modernised and extended to the rear in 1982 to 1984.” The usual timber-frame with plaster infill on renewed ashlar plinth construction with tile roof and five 16th century brick chimneys (Historic England). According to Forrester (1925, in Historic England) the ground floor rooms were occupied by elderly married couples, the upper series were occupied by single or widowed elderly people. It is “probably the oldest surviving domestic building in Stratford” (Historic England).

Walking further, south-westward along Church Street turning left into Old Town, is **Hall’s Croft**. Grade I listed, it is another timber-frame building with plaster infill on coursed rubble plinth, tile roof with stone and brick chimneys. Early 16th century structure with 19th and 20th century alterations and 1920s and 1950s restorations (Historic England).



Hall’s Croft.

It was a town house now a museum. Its significance is that it was the home of John Hall (1575-1635), a local physician married to William Shakespeare’s daughter Susanna (1583-1649) in 1607. They lived here until William Shakespeare's death in 1616 when they moved to New Place. It was bought by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in 1949 (Historic England). John Hall was a “physician of some renown and his case notes, published in 1657, were a popular textbook for other doctors for many years” (Shakespeare Birthplace Trust).

Anne Hathaway’s Cottage is about 2 kilometres in a direct line west of the town centre. A farmhouse, it was the birthplace of Anne Hathaway (1556-1623) who married William Shakespeare in 1582.



Anne Hathaway’s Cottage.

The Grade I listed split level farmhouse is timber-frame with brick and plaster infill on a limestone plinth with thatch roof and brick chimneys. Originally timber-framed with wattle and daub and brick infill, the farmhouse dates from 1463 when it had only three rooms, two of which have survived. It was occupied by Anne’s grandfather a successful tenant sheep farmer. Handed down to his son and then his son, Batholomew (Anne’s brother). He bought the freehold and increased the size of the building. The alteration being completed before his death in 1624. Now a museum, it

was the home of the Hathaway family from the 15th century to 1892, when it was sold to the Trustees and Guardians of Shakespeare's Birthplace. It has been a tourist attraction and of literary interest from around the mid-18th century (Historical England and Shakespeare’s Birthplace Trust).

Mary Arden's House is about 5 kilometres in a direct line north-west of the town centre. Mary Arden was married to John Shakespeare and was William Shakespeare's mother. The house where it was previously believed Mary was born, lived in as a child and young adult is not the correct house. The attractive and somewhat wobbly timber-framed building was the Palmer's Farm farmhouse built by prosperous yeoman Adam Palmer who died in 1584. The red brick cottage nearby to the south-west is where Mary Arden lived. Both properties are under the care of The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Historic England and Illustrated Shakespeare).

The photograph shows the Palmer farmhouse, on present day Station Road, that, at the time everyone believed was Mary Arden's home. It is a Grade I listed building dating from the late 16th century. The oldest part is the herringbone timber-framed cross-wing on the right circa 1569.



The Palmer farmhouse.

The house that belonged to the Arden family is on Glebe Farm on the corner of present day Aston Cantlow Road and Station Road. The early 16th century Grade I listed building was “originally timber-framed with wattle and daub and brick infill, almost completely underbuilt and refaced in 19th century brick” (Historic England). It was “acquired by the

Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in 1968 for preservation as part of the farmyard without knowing its true provenance.” Using dendrochronology it has been dated to 1514 (Wikipedia).

A different type of visit was on the 11th September, 2013. We went for a **country walk** south-westward from Stratford along the path on a long-removed railway line between Stratford and Cheltenham.



On the way we passed a piece of remaining track with two railway carriages that served as Bobby's Café, past the race course and over the remnants of Stannells Bridge over the River Avon. The path extends about 8 kilometres from Stratford; 16 kilometres return walk. We walked about 8 kilometres return. Bobby's Café carriages looked rather dilapidated then. Looking much better as seen on the internet recently.

Back at lower Bridge Street to the bus stop for our X18 bus to Coventry and another bus home in Solihull.

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WARWICK

The main attraction is Warwick Castle, visited twice and described in a separate article. Warwick has many grade listed buildings, too many to take note of all of them, let alone photograph them. Contained here is a small collection of places caught the eye during two ambling walks in the town centre.



The castle from Castle Bridge and Warwick Castle Lodge.

Arriving from Coventry one crosses **Castle Bridge** to Banbury Road. It is worth stopping at a viewing position on the bridge to look at the castle towering above and take photographs. The Grade II* listed, single span, ashlar sandstone bridge, with monumental balustrade, was built between 1790 and 1793 (Historic England).



Mill Street.

Further on at the traffic circle where Banbury Road, Mill Street, Castle Hill and St Nicholas Church Street meet is the **Warwick Castle Lodge**, an entrance to the castle grounds. Grade II listed. 1796-7. Rectangular ashlar block with Neo-Gothic details, including crenellated parapet. Banbury Road and Castle Hill Road circle (Historic England)

It is worth going left along the cul-de-sac that is **Mill Street** to where there is an attractive collection of similarly graded and type of structure cottages between the castle wall and



St. Peter's Chapel.

the River Avon. One is also aware of how astonishingly high is the castle above the river. The photograph shows 16th century Grade II and II* listed two storey timber-framed, plaster infilling cottages, some with gable attics (Historic England).

Continuing up Castle Hill, at the junction of Castle Hill, Jury Street, The Butts and Smith Street, is the delisted **St. Peter's Chapel**, now a scheduled monument. It was built in the 14th century, 15th century rebuilding, with 18th and 19th century alterations (Historic England).



Church of Saint Mary.

Walking along Jury Street then right into Church Street is the **Church of Saint Mary Including Beauchamp Chapel**. Grade I listed. Standing at the junction of Northgate and Church streets (where the main entrance juts into the street) and Old Square, the tower can be seen for many miles. Nave, transepts and tower were rebuilt by Sir William Wilson in 1697-1704 after destruction in the great fire of 1694. "His curious and interesting building retains much of the Gothic spirit although details and mouldings are Renaissance in character. Late C14 chancel. Norman crypt" (Historic England).

Old Square becomes Market Place at the southern end of which is **Market Hall**. Grade II* listed. Late 17th century, 2 storey Market Hall was built from finely cut and dressed local sandstone. Lower storey was originally an open market place with continuous semi-circular-headed arcade, but circa 1880 this was filled in with incongruous windows and plain boarded door (Historic England). Now a museum.



Market Hall.

South from the Market Hall through Market Street is the bus station and beyond it are the grounds of the **Lord Leycester Hospital**. The photograph on the next page is of the building at the opposite side in High Street, an extension of Jury Street.

An information board reads "This ancient group of buildings (never a medical establishment) originally the home of the Warwick Guilds, comprise a chantry chapel, great hall and guildhall



The Lord Leycester Hospital.
Robert Dudley – the Lord Leycester himself” (Welcome to The Lord Leycester).

and various buildings of the 14th and 15th centuries. They were acquired and endowed in 1571 by Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester, as a home for retired ex-servicemen and their wives, which it remains to this day.” It houses The Queen’s own Hussars regimental museum.

“For over 450 years, The Lord Leycester has been home to the Brethren, a community of former servicemen who remain an active part of Warwick today. The charity provides a home and community for veterans, continuing the vision set out by our founder,

The Welcome to The Lord Leycester website goes on to state the “property includes one of the finest surviving medieval timber courtyard complexes in the world.”

Of the building in the photograph (above), it was built by the Guild of St George and the Holy Trinity in the 15th century, requisitioned by Lord Leicester in 1571 to be used as a pensioners'



Another view of St. James Chapel and west Gate.

hospital in the old sense of the word, a place to be fed and sheltered. It was extensively restored in the 18th century. It is Grade I listed (Historic England).

Next to Lord Leycester Hospital in High Street is **St. James Chapel and west Gate**. Grade I listed built late 14th century. The tower on the western side (far side in the photograph) was added in the 15th century (Historic England).

The Grade I listed arched West Gate dating back to the 12th century was one of three gates in Warwick’s medieval town defence wall. An unusual structure, it supports James Chapel, part of the Lord Leycester Hospital (Warwickshire County Council). The gate is now a pedestrian footpath next to the High Street.



The Dispensary. Grade II listed.

Returning eastward along High Street to where it becomes Jury Street turning right into Castle Street is **The Dispensary** established 1826 at 8 Castle Street. An 18th century house, it was used from 1826 for the premises of the "Warwick Dispensary for the sick and poor of Warwick and its



Oken House.



The Pageant Garden.

neighbourhood." Known from 1859 to 1948 as the Warwick Provident Dispensary (Historic England).

Further on is **Okens House** at 20 Castle Street. It is a Grade II* listed, late 15th century timber-framed house, now serving teas.

An inscription on the gable end facing the street states that "Thomas Oken, who was a wealthy mercer of the town (died 1573), gave this house for charitable purposes," It was restored in 1864, forming one of a group of buildings including numbers 10, 12, 16 and 20 (Historic England).

Opposite The dispensary is **The Pageant Garden**. A notice at the entrance reads "This garden by courtesy of Warwick District Council, is available to members of the public for rest and meditation. Anything likely to disturb such use is expressly forbidden. This applies specifically to the playing of ball games and the riding of bicycles. The council reserves the right to exclude the public at any time and for any period." A nice idea.

The sign in the foreground of the Photograph reading "Warwick Visitor Centre and Court House", refers to the restored and reopened, the Court House in Jury Street (partially seen in the photograph). It is a Grade I listed building now used for community events such as private parties, weddings and conferences. It also houses Warwick Town Council offices and Council Chamber (Warwick Town Council). One assumes the group is there for a couple getting married at the registry Office and a reception party.

Then back to the bus station for our X15 transport to Coventry and another bus home in Solihull.

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WOLVERHAMPTON

We went to Wolverhampton on a day trip on the 14th August 2023. Travelled by bus and train to Birmingham then tram to Wolverhampton. A long tram journey, time about 50 minutes, 35 stops, 25km. More travelling than walking, but interesting to see a new place.

It was an overcast and drizzly day. From the tram terminus we meandered the nearby streets. Being the city centre, we saw shops, eating places, shops and more eating places.

Eventually arriving at the oldest place in Wolverhampton according to a notice board in **St. Peter's Garden**. To quote "This is the oldest place in Wolverhampton. By the 10th century its



importance had increased and a monastery had been established at what had been a royal estate or settlement. St. Peter's Church and gardens now stand on what was probably the site of the ancient monastery."

There are another three notice boards. Always like them. Useful information on site. Another notice board proclaims that Wolverhampton has a history back to Anglo-Saxon times in the powerful Kingdom of Mercia and earlier.

In the garden is a tall column, or a cross shaft according to a third notice board that informs one "possibly dates to the 9th century A.D." The only remains of the Anglo-Saxon monastery, it may be that it was a Roman column from Viriconium (full name Viroconium Cornoviorum) near Wroxeter in Shropshire. Attention is drawn to the "remains of the elaborate carving" on the upper part, now minus the cross.

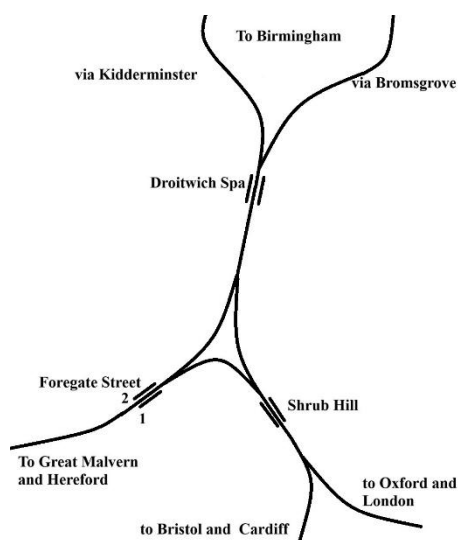


There is also an interesting stone in the garden. Notice board number 4, says according to folklore, during the medieval age, deals were finalised by shaking hands through the hole in the top left of the stone. The reader is asked to imagine wool sellers from the Welsh marches striking deals on market days. However, it is “probably the remains of a Gargoyle and rainwater discharge spout from the church tower.” Nice story.

We had a late lunch at a corner eatery, exact location forgotten, then we headed home.

WORCESTER

The first time we went to the cathedral city of Worcester for the day was the 7th January 2013, it was overcast and cold. The second time, 26th July 2024, was sunny and warm. The first time we travelled by train to and from Shrub Hill station on the eastern outskirts of the town with close to a kilometre walk down hill to the city centre. The next time was via Foregate station, a very much shorter distance to the centre.



There is an unusual track interaction between the two railway stations. Particularly Foregate Street where the platforms are bi-directional, serving different routes. There are signs on both platforms cautioning two-way working on both lines. Our return train from Foregate Street was cancelled and the following train late. There was more than an hour to observe the train movements. Due to there being no junction to the north-east of the station (there is a junction to the south-west), trains travelling to and from Bristol, Oxford and London to and from Hereford have pass through Shrub Hill and the left curve around to platform 1. Trains from and to Birmingham, via Droitwich Spa, to Worcester or on to Great Malvern and Hereford have to use platform 2.

Another oddity is the fixed railway semaphore signalling still in use. Now mostly confined to

heritage/preservation railways. Although still seen in places, such as witnessed at Worcester. The signals, using pivoted arms on posts, operated by cable from a signal box, are used to signal train drivers.

A pretty city centre. Information boards and plaques abound. Worcester was the site of the last battle of the Civil War on the 3rd September 1651 after which Prince Charles, later King Charles II, famously hid in an oak tree in Boscobel Wood with Colonel William Careless (or Carlis) to avoid capture while hiding in a safe house, namely Boscobel House.

The two most imposing buildings are the Guildhall and the Cathedral. The ornate brick and stone dressed **Guildhall** was rebuilt and completed in 1724.

A statue of Queen Anne stands above the entrance while statues of King Charles I (holding a church) and King Charles II (holding an orb and sceptre) stand left and right of the entrance.



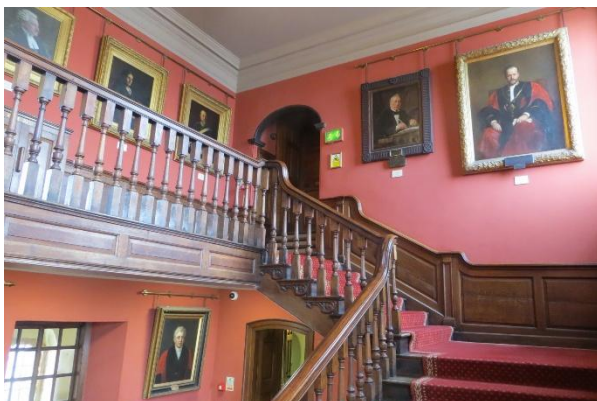
Guildhall. Charles I left of the door, Charles II on right. 4 of the 5 parapet figures visible.

The five figures on the Guildhall parapet represent, from left to right, Labour (Hercules), Peace, Justice, Plenty and Chastisement (with an axe). They took chastisement seriously then. One is allowed into the ornate large assembly room and an upper floor room.

Moving on, there has been a cathedral on the site since 680, rebuilt in 983, again in 1084. The present **Worcester Cathedral** was completed in the 1370s with modifications until 1504 in a combination of architecture from Norman to Gothic. Unlike National Trust places, one is allowed to take photographs inside the building.



King Charles I (left) & King Charles II (right).



Stairs to the upper floor and a function room on the 1st floor.





It
has



lovely stained-glass windows, decorative and painted vaulted ceiling and beautifully carved high altar. The cathedral contains the tomb of King John, he of Magna Carta fame and Edward Elgar (1855-1934), master of the king's music and much revered English classical composer, although his music leaves me cold. Much prefer other classical composers.

Outside the cathedral stands a statue in memory of men of Worcestershire who gave their lives for their country (or more aptly, were taken away from them) in South Africa in the 1899 to 1902 second Boer War, or South African War.

For our first visit in 2013 we backpacked and had a picnic lunch. Our 2024 visit after, visiting the Guildhall, before visiting the cathedral we had lunch at the **Farriers Arms** in Fish Street.



The cathedral seen from the riverside & the River Sever with approaching narrow boat.

We then walked downstream alongside the **River Severn** and next to the old city wall below the cathedral where we arrived at the arched Watergate. The gate was built in 1378 at a time when the river was tidal. It would flood the gate twice a day creating a small dock for boats.



Flood levels mentioned in the text. All of them were photographed.

Near to the gate, flood levels have been marked on the wall. The highest level is marked by a brass plate that states on the 18th November 1772 flood water rose to the lower edge of the plate and that it is 10 inches (25 centimetres) higher than on the 23rd December 1672. Next highest to the left is a plate for the 20th March 1947 and below the 1672 plate, carved into the stone, is a May 1886 flood marker. Slightly below and to the right is a July 2007 flood mark. It is about 30 centimetres lower than to 1947 marked. Nearby to the 2007 marker is a slightly lower mark for November 2000. At a rough count,

over 20 markers.

Most of the flood markers are from November to February, around the increased rain winter months, when the river level is higher. Much less in October and March. Flooding in In March 1947 occurred when a severe storm coincided with melting snow. Worcester flooded heavily after a severe storm met thawing winter snow. During the summer of 2007, June was a very wet month with double the average rainfall. Wet weather continued until the river flooded on the 20th July.

The River Severn is the UK's longest river, from its source in the Cambrian Mountains to the Bristol Channel. It flows through one of the wettest regions of Britain's wettest regions, through steep hard rock valleys where water cannot be dispersed. Flooding along the river is not unusual when it meets an open plain. Even in a gorge, as seen regularly at Ironbridge Gorge and flood barriers built at Bewdley. Both upstream from Worcester.



The Commandry on the other side of the bridge and bridge mounted adornment.

Then on to the **Commandry**. Among the timber frame buildings, is the Grade I listed Commandry, founded between the 11th/13th centuries as a hospital/almshouse (a place of hospitality for pilgrims/travellers, or accommodation for poor people). It was rebuilt around

the mid-15th century. The Commandry was used by Prince Charles as his headquarters during the Civil War.

A plaque next to the commemorative adornment on the bridge over the canal reads “The last battle of the Civil War was fought at Worcester on 3rd September 1651. It is for aught I know a crowning mercy Oliver Cromwell. Near this spot in the city wall stood the Sidbury Gate, which was stormed by the Parliamentarian troops. Erected by the Cromwell Association and Worcester City Council with the aid of public subscription 1993.” “It is for aught I know a crowning mercy”, is a quote by Oliver Cromwell in a letter to the Honourable William Lenthall, Esquire, Speaker of the Parliament of England, after the battle from Worcester on the 4th September, 1651 (The Cromwell Association).



Queen Elizabeth House in Trinity Street.

On the way back to the station, July 2024, we missed seeing Ye Old King Charles House in New Street where Prince Charles hid after the Battle of Worcester in 1651. Although we did see Grade II* listed the **Queen Elizabeth House** built early/mid-16th century (Historic England). Also known as **The Trinity Queen Elizabeth House**. The Guild of the Holy Trinity, open to men and women, was founded by Richard Norton in 1371. That is all that could be found about the guild.

The house was moved about 10 metres to its present location in 1891 using screw jacks and on greased metal rails due to the threat of demolition. It cannot be confirmed that Queen Elizabeth I visited the house in 1575. The connection is possibly due an endowment to the Trinity hospital, school and almshouses.



Tudor House Museum, 38-43 Friar Street.

During our earlier January 2013 visit, we also missed seeing the house where Prince Charles hid even though we were in Friar Street that becomes New Street. We did see the Grade II* **Tudor House Museum** at 38-43 Friar Street, probably built circa 1575-1625 that houses the small independent museum. Inside the building is “fine early” 17th century “moulded plaster work, design based on flowing curved ribs enclosing prancing horse, fleur-de-lys and rosette motifs” (Historic England). The “only remaining original embossed ceiling in Worcester” (Tudor House Museum).

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GLOSSARY

A number of references were used in this section that are not mentioned in the text of this article. These include: The Pocket Oxford Dictionary of Current English; The Concise English Dictionary; Glossary of Architectural Terms; Historic England Traditional Windows; and List of roof shapes.

Aisle: The outer part of a church that is parallel to the nave separated from the nave by columns.

Aggregate: Coarse to medium-grained construction material. For example, sand, gravel, crushed stone and slag.

Ashlar: Dressed stones. Masonry made of large square-cut stones, used as a facing on walls of brick or stone rubble.

Apsidal: A fancy name for a domed like, or curved projection. It can also mean a vaulted recess.

Architrave: A main beam resting across the tops of columns. Also, a moulded frame round a doorway or window and around the exterior of an arch.

Attic: Room or space inside the roof of a building. Also loft and garret.

Bargeboard: An external board placed at the end of roof timbers to conceal them. Can be decorated.

Blacksmith: A smith who creates objects from iron or steel, sometimes other metals, by forging (heating the metal) and using tools to hammer, bend, and cut. See smith and farrier.

Camber arched window: A curved arch, or lintel, above a window.

Capital: Situated between the top of a column and load bearing being supported by the column. Can be plain, as in Doric, or decorative as in Ionic and Corinthian classical Greek architecture.

Casement: A window attached to the frame by hinges at the side. Popular during the Tudor period 1485-1603 including the reign of Elizabeth I until 1603. Popular again in the Edwardian period 1901-1910.

Chancel: Part of a church that houses the altar, the officiating ministers, sometimes the choir.

Column: A vertical structural support, usually circular.

Corbel: A type of bracket. A structural solid piece of stone, wood or metal jutting from a wall to carry a structure such as a beam lying or resting on, or exerting pressure.

Cornice: Horizontal decorative, or ornamental moulding immediately below the external roof eave, or ceiling in a room.

Cornice, bracketed eave: Broad and widely spaced ornamental brackets that support an overhanging eave.

Daub: Plaster, clay, or another substance used for coating a wall. Can be mixed with straw to fill gaps in a timber frame or half framed building. Or applied to form a wall or fence made from interlaced stakes, twigs or branches, hence wattle and daub.

Dormer: A window that projects vertically from a sloping roof. These are most commonly gable or hip roofed.

Eave: The overhanging end of a roof.

Farrier: A smith who shoes horses. See smith and blacksmith.

Frieze: Part of an entablature between the architrave and the cornice. A broad sculptured or painted decoration. Can be decorative. See bargeboard.

Gable roof: A common and simple inverted V design.

Half-hipped roof: A form of clipped gable. A combination of gable with a sloping hip top.

Hip and hipped roof: The roof consists of two pairs of slopes. On a rectangular building the longer parallel sides would have a ridge.

Lintel: A load bearing horizontal support of stone, concrete, steel, or timber, above a window or door.

Moat: A deep trench, or ditch, usually filled with water and usually found round a fortification for defence.

Mullion: Vertical dividing part of a window.

Nave: The part of a church for most of the congregation, usually separated from the chancel by a step or rail and from aisles by pillars.

Parapet: A protective wall or balustrade.

Pilaster: An ornamental architectural feature used to give the appearance of a supporting column with a plinth (base) and capital, such as at wall corners and each side of a door. Can be highly decorative.

Roofs: See diagrams below.

Rubble: Random naturally shaped stone or boulders. Can be roughly shaped or squared to form a wall.

Sash window: Opens by sliding up and down. Can be one or more movable panels. Each sash can be made up of panes of glass. These days more likely to be a single pane of glass. A common design during Georgian era (1714-1830, the reigns of four successive Kings George) and Victorian (~1830-1901) era.

Slate tiles: A fine-grained metamorphic rock that can be split into flat and smooth platters.

Colours vary from grey, greenish and bluish-purple.

Smith: One who works in metal. Derived from the Old English word smite, which also meant strike. See blacksmith and farrier.

Tile: Old and machined. Thin flat or curved piece of clay for roofing.

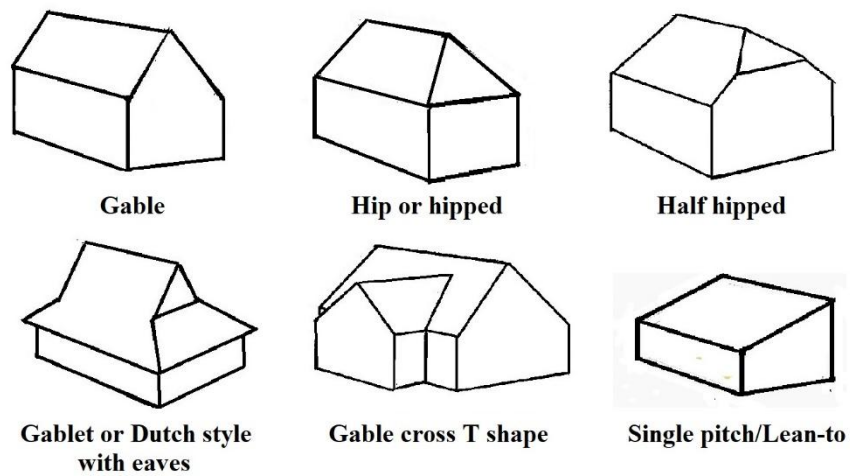
Timber framed: Or post and beam, was a traditional construction method using squared-off, load bearing heavy timbers joined with large wooden pegs.

Timber, half-timbered: When the wooden wall frame is left exposed on the outside and the spaces filled with daub or brick, it may be called half-timbered.

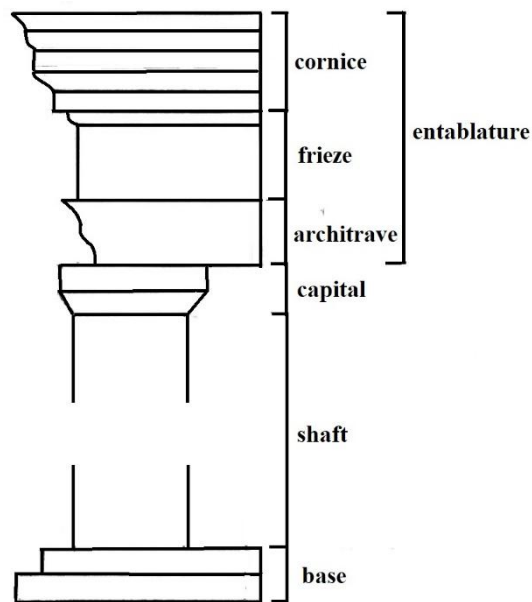
Transom: Horizontal dividing part of a window.

Tudor architecture: It encompassed many forms and features. The popular concept is that of late perpendicular style that was the typical structure of ordinary people, generally around 1485 to 1605. That is, timber frame filled with wattle and daub, or less often brick.

Tudor revival: Not authentic or imitation. Decorative and non-structural. First appeared in England architecture later in the 19th century. Also known as mock Tudor architecture.



Roof types



Column architecture with features mentioned in the text.