

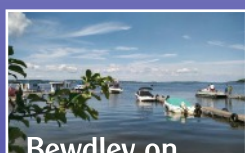
# NEWSLETTER

## AUTUMN 2017

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Coming to a  
plinth near  
you...SOON  
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Hall that never  
was!

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Son et Lumiere  
success

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From the  
Chairman's  
Desk  
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## The bad and the ugly ...the good has yet to come!

by MARTIN GUARD

**A**s we all know the deal was for WFDC, having given more than 100 spaces of the Dog Lane car-park to the new surgery, to replace them with a new car park on the site of the old surgery.

Work should have and could have started as soon as the doctors moved out but problems in making safe the gas and electricity services in the old building began to have an impact on the work starting. WFDC have blamed the delay on the National Grid.

I'm not sure how much delay was caused by the availability of the old library site but this enabled a swap of land with the County Council to essentially slide the new car park up the site enabling a larger developable-site contiguous with the Fire Station (soon to be replaced by a new HQ in between the three towns).

The planning application to support this land swap and relocate the new car park was a surprisingly woeful piece of design lacking any appreciation of its position in the Conservation Area.

It would have had a potentially-damaging effect on the superb copper beech and it even sought to tarmac over the whole of the public open space beside it!

**I would like to think the Civic Society were instrumental in achieving a significant revision to the layout and subsequently saving this small but important public space which the Town Council has subsequently agreed to adopt. Good news indeed. A new car park layout plan was subsequently approved in principle with more detail to follow.**

However, even more problems have come to light: previously unknown ground conditions that have constructional and financial implications and the latest estimate for its completion is now November.

Meanwhile, WFDC have hired weekend parking at the High School to alleviate some of the parking problems in the town. The number of cars circling the town looking for spaces on events and market days has been phenomenal and I know some visitors have given up and gone home. I do wonder what the true cost of this delay has been to the council in lost revenue and to the town.

There is some hope. This land swap has very sensibly enabled a larger and more developable site when the Fire Station is demolished. This opens the door to a whole range of uses that could support the town. Hopefully it might produce a financial margin to enable a fresh and comprehensive look at improving the whole of this ugly, ugly area of our town.

We hope the town's new Neighbourhood Plan will include a policy and a development brief to ensure a comprehensive look at this whole area with a revised parking layout, perhaps a civic space and a safe and friendly pedestrian walkway through to the Town Centre. It is an opportunity not to be missed and we hope our planners have the vision to see this through. This area certainly needs their focus and support now.





Baldwin is in the pantheon of British statesmen says PM

# He gained his strength from the red soil of Worcestershire

A congregation that included the great and the good from politics, the church and the community (*see photos*) packed Worcester Cathedral to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Stanley Baldwin on September 17.

In her message, Prime Minister Theresa May described him as one of the most significant figures of the 20th century. "His lifetime of public service, including three terms as Prime Minister - and the only Prime Minister to serve under three monarchs - marks him out among the pantheon of British statesmen."

The first lesson was read by the fourth Earl Baldwin of Bewdley and he later laid a wreath at the memorial in the cathedral's nave to his grandfather. Other readers

included Harriet Baldwin MP for West Worcestershire (*local MP Mark Garnier was abroad on a trade mission*). Civic Society President Beatrice Grant, Baldwin's great-granddaughter, led the prayer of intercession and the blessing was by the Bishop of Worcester. The sermon was by the Dean, the Very Reverend Peter Atkinson. He reflected on Baldwin's love of the countryside and how it gave him strength in his role as Prime Minister. He quoted from Baldwin's own writing: "I came out of the red soil of Worcestershire...there is no soil like it in the country."

**FOR UPDATE on fund-raising and the progress of the Baldwin statue see page 12**



**Baldwin: firmly rooted in Worcestershire**

**Photos: Barbara Miller**



Earl Baldwin, Beatrice Grant and Richard Perrin







## PM kisses a Bewdley baby *but not that PM...and not that Bewdley either!*

**B**ewdley's sister town in Ontario hit the Canadian national headlines earlier this year when it welcomed popular Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during his small-towns tour.

The accolade is all the more surprising because this Bewdley boasts a population of just 650 (including the baby he found to kiss).

Despite its distinguished name it is little more than a hamlet that has grown from the 200-acre estate of one William Bancks, an emigre from *our* Bewdley somewhere around 1833. He had been a brass-founder and a member of the family better-known in the pewter trade.

When he arrived in what was previously called Black's Landing (the name taken from a local inn), sawmills fuelled the local economy.

He had the grand aspiration to own a sawmill and create a "gentleman's colony" alongside the beautiful Rice Lake. If he built the sawmill, it has long since disappeared and neither is there evidence that his other project bore fruit. No one there seems to have the faintest idea of what he might have had in mind.

Local historians seem more enamoured of the achievements of an Irish poet and preacher called Joseph Scrivens. He arrived in Bewdley around 1847 and became famous for preaching in the streets around the town.

In 1855, he wrote the hymn *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*...and he got the one and only statue in the district!

Our Mr Bancks is remembered for giving the town the name of Bewdley but sadly, for little else. Can anyone here enlighten us?

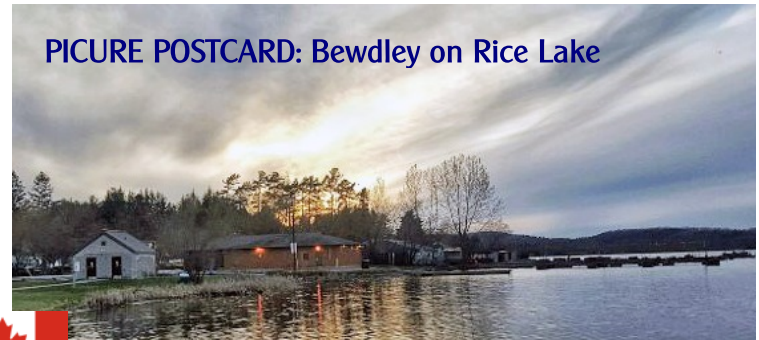
In real estate parlance, Bewdley is "an enjoyable holiday resort attractive to commuters." House prices range from \$1.5million-plus for this five-bedroom mansion (below) to \$300,000 for a more modest two-bed starter home.



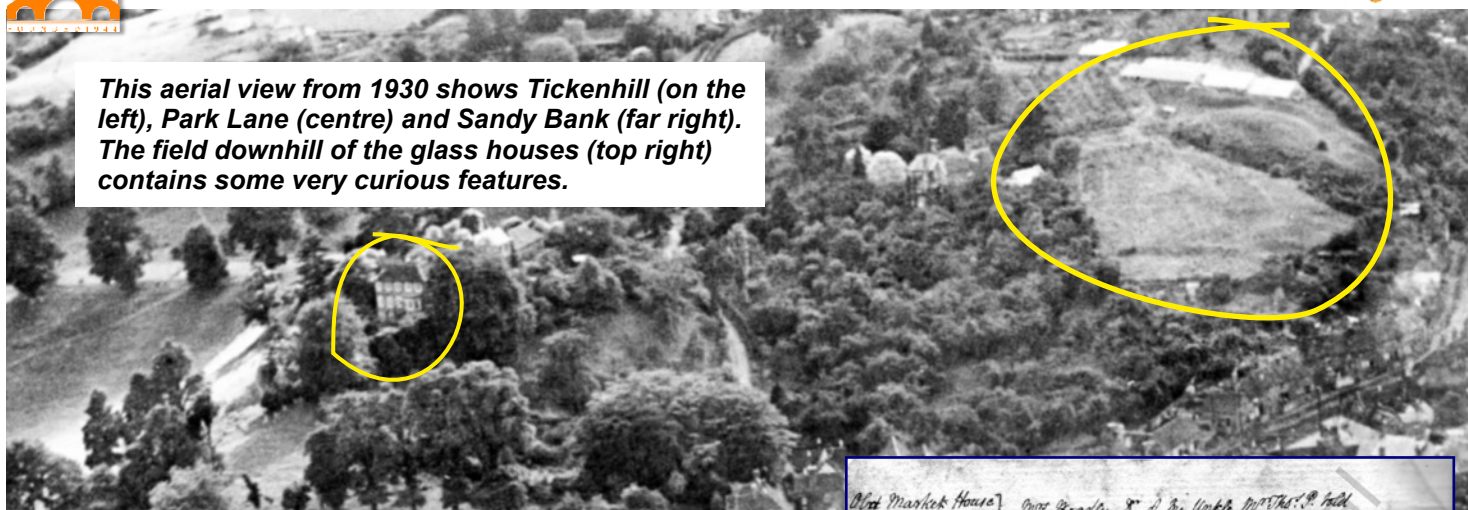
What is it with politicians and babies? In the midst of shaking hands, answering questions and countless selfies, PM Trudeau still found time to kiss the baby thrust into his arms by a doting mum. He had breakfast at Rhino's Roadhouse which suffered a \$million-fire two years ago. Long queues formed outside in the early hours hoping to share maple pancakes with their young Prime Minister.

**FACTFILE:** Bewdley Ontario has a population of 650. It is sixty kilometres east of Toronto. It nestles on the western edge of Lake Rice, which coincidentally is on the Severn-Trent waterway that flows into Lake Ontario! The shallow Lake Rice was once an important source of wild rice for the area's Aboriginal community. It is said to be "a great place to fish and its Bewdley Beach, with two hundred metres of golden sand is popular with swimmers and sun-bathers. Boat-hire is a thriving business. Like its namesake, the town also attracts motorcyclists from around the state. The single-storey Community Centre includes a library, a 200-seat banquet hall, an ice-rink plus a baseball diamond and children's playground.

PICTURE POSTCARD: Bewdley on Rice Lake







This aerial view from 1930 shows Tickenhill (on the left), Park Lane (centre) and Sandy Bank (far right). The field downhill of the glass houses (top right) contains some very curious features.

From Bewdley's archives

Lizzie Hill

## The 'Old Town Hall' that wasn't!

Ask anyone well-acquainted with Bewdley about its history and chances are, they will confidently tell you it was originally upon Wyre Hill and that the *Old Town Hall* was, naturally, the old town hall.

To suggest otherwise will sometimes elicit scorn because, after all, this is what John R. Burton told us in his *History of Bewdley*, and he got it from the highly respected Dr. Peter Prattinton (below left courtesy of *Worcestershire Archaeological Society*)!

Indeed, the current (1995) archaeological assessment of the town tells us categorically that Bewdley's first marketplace was on Wyre Hill.

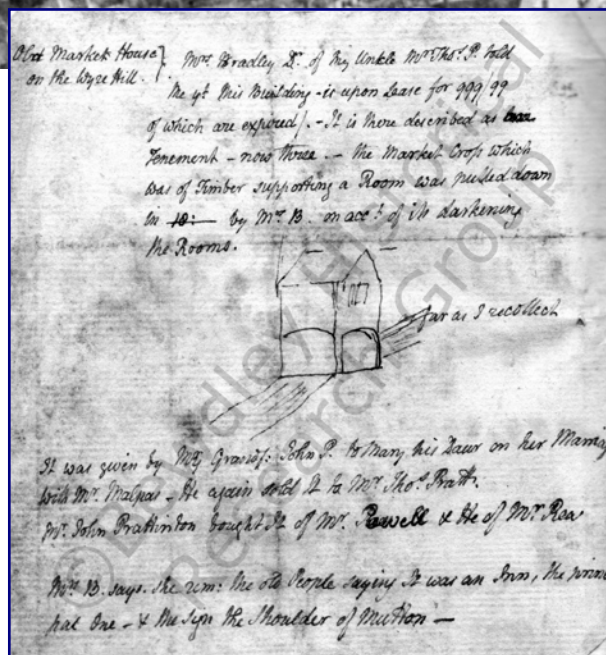
However, if you read Burton's account carefully and also the entry for Bewdley in the authoritative *Victoria County History*, both refer to a mere *tradition* that the original town of Bewdley was situated on Wyre Hill.

Certainly, this tradition goes back to before even Prattinton; the first known reference to it being in John Hayley's account of the town's history (written c.1770) where he stated: *Tradition tells us that the town was originally situated on the side of Wyrehill and that what is now the main body of it & lies between that and the river, is of more modern date.*

But what did Hayley actually mean by the *side* of Wyre Hill?

Clearly Prattinton thought Hayley was referring to the area where the Prattinton family had happened to own an old timber-framed building since the early 1700s. That building later became the Old Town Hall Inn but the pub's name did not appear until the 1870s, possibly on the strength of Prattinton's belief alone.

It is a misnomer anyway because Prattinton actually thought the building was the old *market hall*. He even drew a little sketch of the front part of the building as he recalled it, prior



This sketch, in Prattinton's inimitable hand, was recently found amongst documents held by the Bewdley Historical Research Group

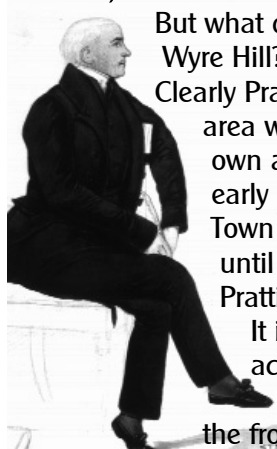
to it being pulled down by his second cousin, Elizabeth Bradley, "on account of it darkening the rooms." The structure appears to straddle a road.

Prattinton never published his research so we should be wary of reading too much into his notes which contain no tangible evidence to corroborate this interpretation of Hayley's words.

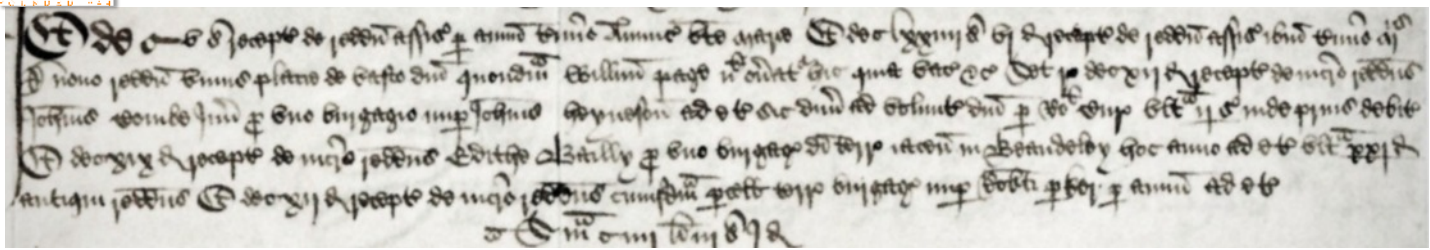
Burton, whilst clearly open to the idea, found nothing to support Prattinton's version of the tradition either but the *Victoria County History* used it to interpret the Ministers' Accounts of 1472 - thus giving academic credence to a theory that, as a result, went on to be accepted as "fact" by local residents and professional historians alike.

However, when the Old Town Hall Inn was listed in 1950, its description stated: "This building is traditionally said to be the original Bewdley Town Hall, but the structural evidence suggests it was an ordinary late medieval house."

Stuart Davies' doctoral thesis of 1981 also casts serious doubt on the *VCH's* interpretation of the Minister's Accounts, arguing /continued over







## Re-assessing the past

/Continued from Page 3

that any early settlement on Wyre Hill can only have been secondary to the one by the river.

*But a traditional belief is very hard to budge!*

The Bewdley Historical Research Group's recent reassessment of the 1472 Ministers' Accounts (*written in Latin with obscure abbreviations and archaic letter forms*) reveals that the several burgages described as being on Wyre Hill, had in fact all been created within the previous decade while there was an income of 79s 6d from "assized rents" which must have been established earlier - perhaps a very long time earlier. If one assumes the standard rent of 1 shilling per burgage, that could account for eighty or so houses which, in all probability, were mostly located near the river.

**The new burgages on Wyre Hill were manifestly a recent expansion of the riverside town, almost certainly because there was no more space for development down there**

One can perhaps understand why Prattinton may have believed Hayley's fleeting mention of an earlier hillside development referred to the top of Wyre Hill. By the late 18th century, many of the medieval buildings in Load Street and High Street had undergone makeovers and would have appeared much newer than the dilapidated timber-framed dwellings up on the hill. Perhaps Prattinton did not appreciate the antiquity of the structures hidden behind those Georgian façades.

Ironically, his notes also make reference to something that may actually have been what Hayley had meant by "the side of Wyrehill." He refers to a possible "castle" below (i.e. downhill of) Barratt's Stile where, he was told, old foundations had once been visible. Could these have been in the area of the curious humps and bumps that were photographed in 1930?

*If anyone knows what these might have been please do contact the Bewdley Historical Research Group or email the newsletter editor on [jyg@cix.co.uk](mailto:jyg@cix.co.uk)*

*The first entry for the manor of Beaudley in these 1472-73 accounts (above) concerns the totals of assized rents received at Lady Day and Michaelmas. Unlike the new burgages on Wyre Hill, these properties and their locations are not described in detail and the significance of their existence has been hitherto overlooked.*



## Town's first Son et Lumiere is 'dazzling' success

**D**azzling illumination and imagery, enchanting music, a gripping narrative and a River Severn at its most serene contributed to the outstanding success of Bewdley's first Son et Lumiere.

The history of Bewdley was knit together beautifully by a comprehensive commentary that reflected the dominant forces that have shaped the town - the river, the Wyre Forest and of course, the royal connections through Tickenhill, where Prince Arthur married by proxy Catherine of Aragon in 1499.

The two-day event, created by Jim Ineson, was one of 300 staged as part of national Heritage Open Days. The Civic Society was one of a group of local sponsors, including the town council, the museum, Wyre Community Land Trust, the Choral Society. The Helen Mackaness Trust and the Rowing Club.

The crowds - many of them bringing their own chair - gathered on Severnside North to watch the performance across the river.







## Balsam bash 2017!

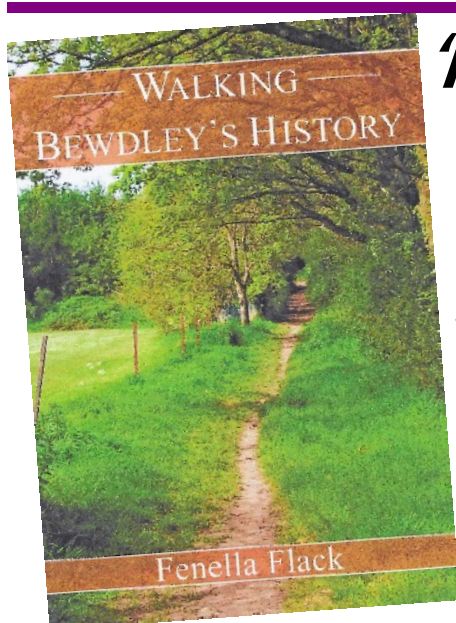


## Another sterling effort

**H**imalayan Balsam, a Victorian garden escapee, is rife along the river. It stifles other

native plants and being an annual, it also leaves the banks bare in winter and prone to erosion. On dates between late July and early August groups of volunteers cleared this pernicious weed from both banks up and down river from Bewdley Bridge.

It was a sterling effort and has made a noticeable impact. Many thanks to all who attended. It's an ongoing annual campaign. Let's keep up the momentum next year! **STEVE BENT**



## *'I never knew that!'* Heather Flack walks through hidden history

**I** never knew that! is a typical comment from someone on my tour of Wribbenhall. So much of our town's history is hidden or simply not common knowledge. We do our best to enlighten people by offering tours of Bewdley and Wribbenhall but these are only occasional.

I have written a book called "Walking Bewdley's History", which enables people to enjoy our town's fascinating history and the beautiful countryside in which we live.

It includes (in four sections) a potted history of Bewdley, taking in Wribbenhall, Ribbesford and Dowles, and has twelve walks of varying lengths. It is suitable for both the local resident and the visitor and has written directions as well as maps. It is small enough to go in a decent-sized pocket and has a spiral binding for easy use. You can have treasure for only £6.50! Email [jyg@cix.co.uk](mailto:jyg@cix.co.uk)

Heather Flack (aka Fenella Flack)

### From the archives of ROB LIMBRICK



The Venerable Rowland Tracy Ashe Money Kyrle MA was the Rector of Bewdley and Ribbesford from 1898 to 1902. He then spent eight years in London before returning to the West Midlands as the Rector of Ross-on-Wye 1910-26 and later became Archdeacon of Hereford from 1923 until he died on Boxing Day 1928. He was a member of the family that has owned Homme House at Much Marcle, near Ledbury



Homme House: now a wedding venue





# Return of the elm trees

**W**e all remember the devastating epidemic of Dutch elm disease, a fungus spread by the elm bark beetle, which killed millions of elms in the Seventies.

In 1982 David Bellamy and David Shreeve founded the Conservation Foundation Charity to promote awareness of the environment and to instigate action through various projects. The first of these was *Elms across Europe* and they distributed many disease resistant saplings, a lot through schools. We bought one and it is thriving today in our previous garden (now The Rectory.) Indeed it now has a TPO in place on it.

I thought no more about the initiative until they launched a new project *The Great British Elm Experiment* about 10 years ago. Over 2000 saplings were struck from existing healthy mature elms still surviving in the country. Young elms have always been found in hedgerows but if infected do not survive to adulthood, and the hope is that these offspring of surviving trees will do so. I bought one which sadly died 5 years later, and the Civic Society also presented two to WFDC. These are growing well in Jubilee Gardens and can be seen on the left as one enters from High Street. Many of you will have received an e-mail from our secretary, Barbara, asking you to notify The Conservation Foundation if you know of any mature elms in the district and I thought people would be interested to know a bit more about the charity. Jenny Frow



**BRIAN STEPHENS** reports on The Cherry Fair 2017 and the first Stone Fruit conference

**S**ince the Civic Society first sponsored the revived Cherry Fair in 2011, it has coincided with the Rowing Club Regatta. In addition this year, the museum's 'Forties Weekend' added extra attractions.

Local traditional orchards bore little fruit this season, for various reasons, so the samples for visitors to taste and compare had to be bought in from supermarkets.

However, the museum staff had five modern varieties to sell - *Kordia, Simone, Skeena, Sylvia, and Zoe* - obtained from a local farm growing cherries using poly tunnels and modern techniques.

Visitors were surprised to learn how many varieties were available from local shops and how much information about the fruit could be found from the small print on the labels. Indeed it is one purpose of the 'Cherry Fair' to encourage an interest in local fruit as well as an awareness of the once important cherry trade.

Our selection of cherry trees sold promptly and orders were taken for the supply of more trees this autumn when fresh stocks come on to the market. Now is the season to place orders if any members would care to get in touch. (01299 402524)

The familiar 1940s music, classic cars, a variety of stalls and activities for children, created an enjoyable occasion. The Civic Society stall attracted attention, customers and new members. Thanks are due to those members of the Civic Society who helped on the two days.

## Growing importance of Bewdley's cherry trees

**E**fforts to restore local orchards and rescue old cherry varieties received some stimulus recently at the first Stone Fruit Conference, organised by the Three Counties Orchard Project and held at Hartpury former agricultural college near Gloucester.

As an exhibitor, it was an opportunity to demonstrate the work of the Wyre Forest Study Group and the support of Bewdley Civic Society to a large gathering of fruit experts and representatives of most of the fruit and orchard organisations nationwide.

A feature of our display was to show that, from one old orchard at least, over the twelve years since the original study of the cherry trees living in 2004, 53% are now dead and the varieties and genetic resources of those trees lost for ever.

It was clear from the discussions that, nationally, little effort to distinguish and rescue cherry varieties is taking place and that the orchards and trees remaining around Bewdley are of increasing significance as a resource for the future.

Obtaining funding to determine, by DNA analysis, the identities of surviving cherry trees, and propagating from these, new trees of known provenance, is a very urgent priority.





# **BEWDLEY: *an historic market town and popular tourist destination* WFDC**

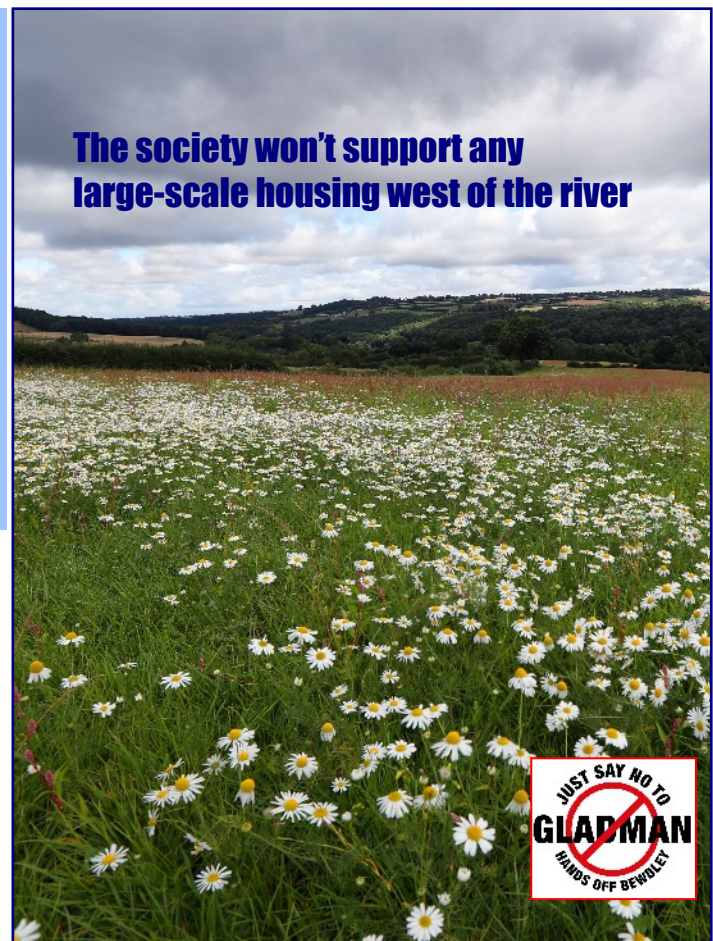
**W**hile generally supporting the Review, the Civic Society has asserted the need to be alert to protect what the District Council itself says is *an Historic Market Town and popular tourist destination*.

- It underlines the District Council's drive and desire to...
- continue the role of the Green Belt and other Landscape Protection Policies to protect the town's identity, historic setting and the attractiveness of the surrounding countryside.
- continue to preserve and enhance the Conservation Area and its Listed Buildings
- provide new housing in accord with the Neighbourhood Plan's consultation results
- protect the town from large-scale retailing
- to enhance sustainable transport links between the various tourist attractions and the town.

The Society objects to *any* large-scale housing west of the river because of poor infrastructure and sustainability (including a lack of public transport possibilities), the exacerbation of traffic and pollution/air quality problems in the town, the visual impact of the landscape quality of the area and surface water drainage issues.

In particular, the natural beauty of the land off Highclere is well-documented in the government's report when a proposed development on this site was rejected at an appeal hearing in 1989. While there have been changes in the planning framework, the value of this landscape has not altered, so the comments are still valid.

The Society offers qualified support for using the Stourport Road triangle for housing and for its removal from the Green Belt. The housing should be a mix of affordable homes, homes for the elderly and private housing. If this piece of land is to be developed for housing, then it becomes imperative that other sites on the river side of the road, ie the schools, Leisure Centre and piece of land up to the new bridge are earmarked for community uses. The addition of new housing may benefit the school in terms of numbers attending but it might also mean that some expansion of their facilities will be required, including additional classrooms and increased parking provision. In the past there has also been talk of siting a theatre at the school for combined community use. A comprehensive assessment of community need is required before land in this area is committed for housing and that in any event, mitigating measures should be included to offset the current and potentially worsening traffic and parking issues.



The Society also objects to the site in Habberley Road being zoned for use by traveling show-people for storage and accommodation. The use is a wholly inappropriate use in the Green Belt. The size and scale of the vehicles and rides involved in the use would destroy its openness and have a very deleterious impact on the area's bucolic character and its tourism value generally.

Land south of Habberley Road. *Qualified objection.* The Society remains very concerned with the impact any development may have on the openness and the important Green Belt tenet of preventing the coalescence and maintaining the visual gap between the towns. Its development should *only* be allowed in very exceptional circumstances ie to provide/fund/enable an extension of the bypass to the Habberley Road to mitigate the traffic chaos at Catchems End.

commentary continued on next page/





# New housing could diminish the Green Belt

**T**he Civic Society is determined to maintain the Green Belt separation between the town and Kidderminster and will strongly object to the development of the site adjoining the by-pass at the Wribbenhall end.

Using this site for housing would seriously diminish the openness of this narrow and highly sensitive part of the Green Belt in an area that will already be seriously compromised by the WMSP's planned £80million Waterpark and Hotel & Conference Centre alongside the by-pass. It will compromise the area's ability to maintain its identity.

The two developments together would significantly affect the openness and the visual gap between the two towns and being so close to Wribbenhall/Bewdley it will read as an extension of the built-up area.

This proposal is seen to compromise the established Green Belt principles of preventing coalescence, sprawl and encroachment and the preservation of the setting and special character of the historic town of Bewdley.

**T**he Society would support a very modest number of houses on the southern end of this site adjoining All Saints Church but any development should provide not only housing but should include a cemetery extension, car parking for the Church/Town, and an area of Public Open Space to mitigate its loss of openness and take account of drainage issues

**All Saints Church**



PHOTO John Shepherd

**Bunker Hill**



PHOTO: Adam Fradgley  
Kidderminster Shuttle



The Civic Society supports proposals to improve the poor links of Bewdley with/to the Kidderminster Rail station and will also support any improvement of links especially pedestrian, between the SVR and Bewdley.

The full report of the Society's response to the Local Plan is available from the Secretary [bmlongmore@gmail.com](mailto:bmlongmore@gmail.com)

The Society will object to any proposal that exacerbates the air-quality issues in Welch Gate





# Sinking under a sea of cement

**W**orcestershire County Council has launched a £6million scheme to improve the county's pavements. So a simple question: when will Bewdley get it's share? Hopefully before our heritage sinks in an ever-widening sea of cement.

It would be nice to think that this totally random selection of photos - and the camera doesn't lie - might be a spur to some of the money being poured into our cement mixers!

Having recently stumbled in Load Street, my eyes are more firmly fixed on the pavements. The result is not good. A full shopping list would soak up the county council's £6million in no time. We - or rather our utility companies, local authorities and private builders - have clearly abandoned the art of paving. There's shoddy work, careless work and downright dangerous work.

There's no uniformity of awfulness. Cement is used unevenly between ancient setts, sometimes as a substitute for broken or missing setts. Setts are raised, sunken, skewed and broken.

There seems to be no accountability. Who has signed off the hundreds of repairs? Who has agreed to pay for this awful standard of workmanship. Do the workmen feel no sense of shame?

When I queried some work outside my front door, I was told the repairs were only temporary "in case we need to come back to do do some more work." That was four years ago. So I guess we shouldn't hold our breath



ALL THESE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN IN THE TOWN CENTRE...A CONSERVATION AREA! Even more on next page!





The bottle in the wall

by Chris Griffin



\*This preparation possesses all the tonic and febrifuge properties of Peruvian Bark in an agreeable and highly-concentrated state. *Dose* one or two teaspoonfuls in a wine-glass of water twice a day.

Famous Victorians said to have used tincture of quinine include: General Gordon of Khartoum; David Livingstone, the missionary and the Pre-Raphaelite artist. Dante Gabriel Rossetti

# History in the plasterboard

Earlier this year, Dave and Sally Ellis of Rose Hill Corner (Lower Park) were having a wall re-plastered and they found an empty bottle hidden in a cavity. It had been placed there by Benjamin Richardson on November 23 1881.

Inside was a note saying: *Plastered by Benjamin Richardson Nov 23 1881 he is the owner of this property.*

The label on the bottle was labelled *\*Aromatic Tincture of Quinine supplied by R. Newman Pharmaceutical Chemist of 65 Load Street Bewdley.* (now Editions, previously Blunts shoeshop) In 2010 local historian Heather Flack provided a report for Mr and Mrs Ellis and she discovered that the house had been bought by Benjamin Richardson from the Crown on 12 October 12, 1870 for £150 10 shillings.

In the 1881 Census it states that the following people lived at Rose Hill Corner:

Benjamin Richardson aged 60 occupation: builder

Eleanor Richardson aged 28

Sebright Richardson aged 19

Benjamin's wife Mary had died in 1875 aged just 44. When Benjamin died on November 13 1902, he was 81. His daughters continued to live in the house until Sebright died in 1939 aged 76 and Eleanor died the following year aged 80.

Mr and Mrs Ellis decided to continue the tradition and left a new £1 coin, a copy of the original note from Benjamin, a copy of *The Bridge* from June 2017 and the following note: *This room was re-plastered in June 2017. The owners of the house are David and Sally Ellis. We have lived here since June 1995. Our children Catherine and Robert are 23 and 21.*

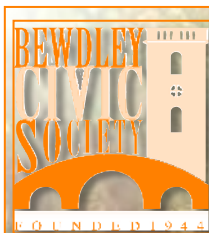
*We are having a general election this week (June 8th) and Britain is in the process of leaving Europe (Brexit) We hope whoever lives here in the future will be as happy as we have been in this house.*

This find of the bottle has provided a fascinating reminder of times gone by. Was this a tradition at that time or a one off?

*\* Quinine was used in the treatment of malaria and associated febrile states, leg cramps caused by vascular spasm, internal hemorrhoids, varicose veins, and pleural cavities after thoracoplasty.*







There's nothing like a deadline to concentrate the mind and that's how it is with the unveiling of the Stanley Baldwin statue. Our editor has reported in this issue about the service held at Worcester Cathedral to commemorate SB's birth in Bewdley 150 years ago and hence there is keenness to ensure that the unveiling takes place this year.

We were informed by our auditors recently that there is a little-known scheme offered by the Department of Culture whereby registered charities can reclaim VAT paid in connection with such activity. Hence the society has entered into a contract for the construction and supply of the statue with a company called the Stanley Baldwin Statue Appeal Construction Company Ltd.

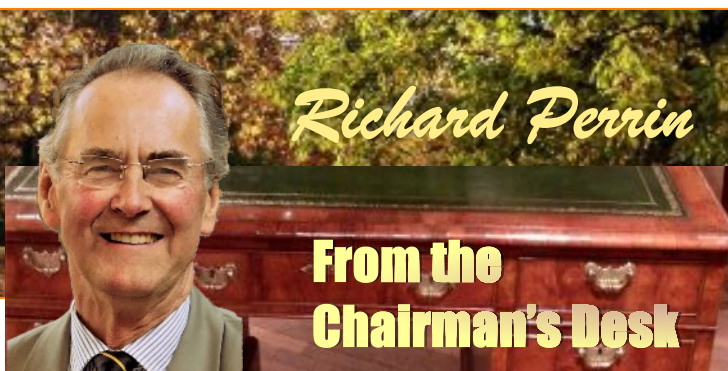
The latter takes on all the risks associated with the project until the Society takes ownership on completion.

When this happens, it is our intention to give the statue to the Town Council along with a dowry for its future maintenance and costs of insuring it.

The statue itself is currently being cast in the foundry and the society has sufficient restricted funds in its bank account now to meet the contract it has entered into.

However, monies are still needed to pay for the installation costs and the society is therefore holding another major fundraising event on **November 29** at Tree Tops Pavilion, West Midland Safari Park called the **Hope and Glory Dinner**.

The venue has very kindly been provided free of charge and help in running the event is being offered by Hewett Recruitment. Entertainment will come from a range of professional opera singers headed up by Bewdley's Alan Fairs and Elizabeth MacDonald who will be accompanied by a 20-piece orchestra. Invitations are being sent out to members either by email or attached to this newsletter for those for whom we don't have an email address.



## Lord Baldwin to speak at Annual Dinner

The theme for this year's dinner will be about Stanley Baldwin and his statue and we have invited Lord Baldwin to join us and say a few words about his grandfather. Once again, we have engaged Kit Bamford, the well known local caterer (now based at Arley Arboretum), to provide us with another splendid meal. Ever since we returned to St George's Hall, we have had excellent attendances and I hope we shall again this year. The date is Friday November 17 and a booking form is attached to this Newsletter. I do hope to see you there.

## Pupils explore town's sacred places for Society's exhibition

An exhibition of the work carried out by the students of The Bewdley School, for this year's Civic Society School Heritage Project, lead again by Barbara Longmore, is currently on show in the Sawyard Exhibition area of Bewdley Museum until mid-October.

As part of the project the young people spent a day visiting each of the historic town-centre churches and meeting house to research the history of the building and type of congregation.

They were very warmly welcomed at each church and meeting house (even though they asked some very searching questions) and we are very grateful to all those who gave up their time to receive them and to answer those questions.

## Society joins residents in successful objection to late-night licence

A local night club's application for an extension of its existing licence from midnight to 1am was rejected after a public hearing. Opposing the application of The Loft at No 3 Load Street, the Society statement said: *We do not think these extended hours are appropriate in a predominantly residential area where the noise from existing bars already disturbs residents. Many of the customers of pubs with extended licensing hours come into the town from outside, causing additional noise problems of late-night transport.*



