



# SHREWSBURY

## AND THE WELSH MARCHES

FBUA ❖ REUNION 1992 ❖ UFBA



The Welsh Marches are a borderland in two senses: historical and geographical. The border between England and Wales marks the limit of Saxon advance into Celtic Britain, and the country, now remote and peaceful, was once a battleground. Perhaps the saddest place is Hopton, where a ruined castle keep guards a road that leads westward into the Clun Forest. The castle was the scene of a massacre during the Civil War, when the Royalists put the Parliamentarians to the sword. Today it is silent, save for the wet, Welsh wind, and the distant hum of a tractor.

North of the river Severn, the Shropshire plain abuts the Welsh mountains and there is much Midland red brick; but south of the Severn one enters a different world. The hills tumble out of Wales into the English plain, and the result is champaign - open, level country, green and gold.

*Julian Critchley*

*Cover Drawing by Jean-Claude Riguet.*



# SHREWSBURY

FRANCO-BRITISH UNION OF ARCHITECTS

ANNUAL REUNION 1992

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FRANCOISE VITRY  
LUC ZAVARONI  
LUCIENNE ZAVARONI



# PROGRAMME

## THURSDAY 28 MAY

Arrival in Birmingham.  
Organ Recital in The Town Hall.  
Lunchtime Reception by the  
Lord Mayor of Birmingham.  
Visit to the Convention Centre  
and Concert Hall.  
Transfer to Hotel in Shrewsbury.  
Annual General Meeting in  
Shrewsbury.  
Dinner at the Prince Rupert  
Hotel.

## FRIDAY 29 MAY

Visit to Concord College,  
Acton Burnell.  
Journey to Much Wenlock.  
Visit to Prior's Lodge,  
Wenlock Abbey, the home of  
Louis de Wet.  
Lunch at Madeley Court Hotel  
in Telford.  
Visit to Ironbridge Museum of  
Iron and to Coalbrookdale  
Bridge.  
Return to Shrewsbury.  
Dinner at Albright Hussey  
Hotel, a 16th Century Manor  
House.

## SATURDAY 30 MAY

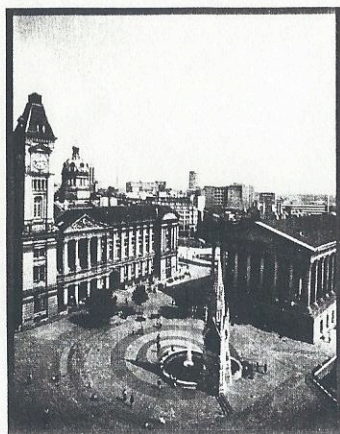
A Shrewsbury walk-about with  
Andrew Awol.  
Visit to Powis Castle at  
Welshpool.  
Lunch in the National Trust  
Restaurant.  
Visit to Pitchford Hall, the home  
of Mr & Mrs Colthurst.  
Return to Shrewsbury.  
Reception and Banquet at Weston  
Park.

## SUNDAY 31 MAY

Depart Hotel for Craven Arms.  
Visit to Stokesay Castle, 13th  
Century Manor House.  
Lunch at Feathers Hotel,  
Ludlow.  
Ludlow walk-about and  
Antiques Market.  
Farewells.



# THURSDAY 28TH MORNING

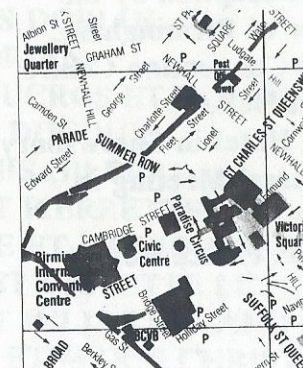


## BIRMINGHAM

The Town Hall in Birmingham was the architectural and musical prelude to our 1992 Reunion. Designed by the inventor of the horsedrawn carriage which bears his name, Hansom won the architectural competition for the building in 1834. Unfortunately he lost control of the building costs and as a result went bankrupt. Judith Penrose gave an enjoyable recital on the Town Hall organ before we crossed the Square to the Council House. The Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Peter Barwell, received us and laid on a welcome lunch.



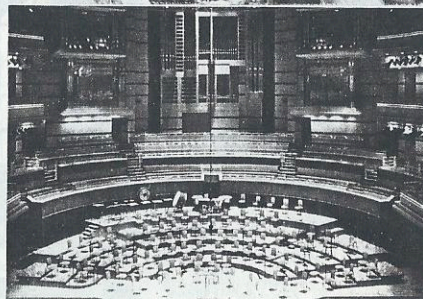
*The Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Peter Barwell.*



*Reception at the Mayor's Parlour in the Council House.*







## AFTERNOON

*Visit to the International Convention Centre and Symphony Hall.*



Architects Robin Derham (Renton Howard Wood) and Rob Firman (Percy Thomas Partnership) were our guides. The Convention Centre is a major contribution to the regeneration of the City Centre and its townscape. The Centre's Mall is designed as an indoor public 'street' connecting the new Centenary Square to the Canal side. The complex contains eleven halls of varying sizes including the 2200-seat Symphony Hall and the main Conference auditorium for 1500 people. EC funding was confirmed in 1986 and a management contractor appointed in early 1987. The project was completed in April 1991.

From Birmingham we travelled to the Prince Rupert Hotel in Shrewsbury. Dinner was preceded by our AGM in the historic Ballroom of the Lion Hotel.





#### THE PRIOR'S LODGING, MUCH WENLOCK.

The Priors Lodging is a purposeful and specially planned building, which although having parallels with other monastic sites, appears to have been provided to answer needs particular to Wenlock. It consists of two elements: firstly a stone built range of considerable length which contains the Priors Hall and apartments, offices and accommodation for the Infirmary; kitchens brewery etc; guest apartments; and in the North corner the Infirmary Chapel. The second element is the two storey access gallery with its free standing stone screen forming the West facing elevation.

## FRIDAY 29TH

Common walling and backing up masonry is formed out of Wenlock rubble stone but the dressings are imported sandstones from three separate quarries. Window heads and isolated courses and dressings are in a yellow unidentified sandstone, mullions in a typical Severn Valley red sandstone (North Shropshire red Grinshill or Nesscliffe?) but the ashlar work is executed in beautiful green and red veined Alveley sandstone. The work to the West elevation is carefully organised and subtle and it is instructive to compare this with the coursing (particularly at high level) on the Eastern elevation where the stone deliveries are haphazard. The beautiful roof is covered with calcareous sandstone tiles from Harnage. (See also Pitchford Hall).



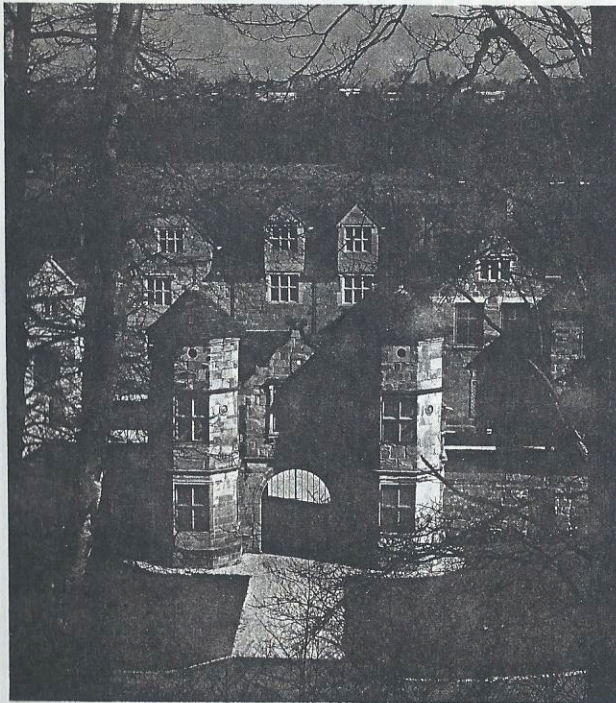
The first visit was Acton Burnell Hall (built in 1811), now used as a School. Recent new buildings include the Sports Hall and the Swimming Pool. From here we travelled by country roads to Much Wenlock. Adjoining the ruins of Wenlock Abbey is The Prior's Lodging (c.1500), regarded as one of the finest surviving examples of English domestic architecture of this period. The present owner, Mr Louis de Wit, speaking in fluent French explained the further improvements he is undertaking, some of which are dramatic.





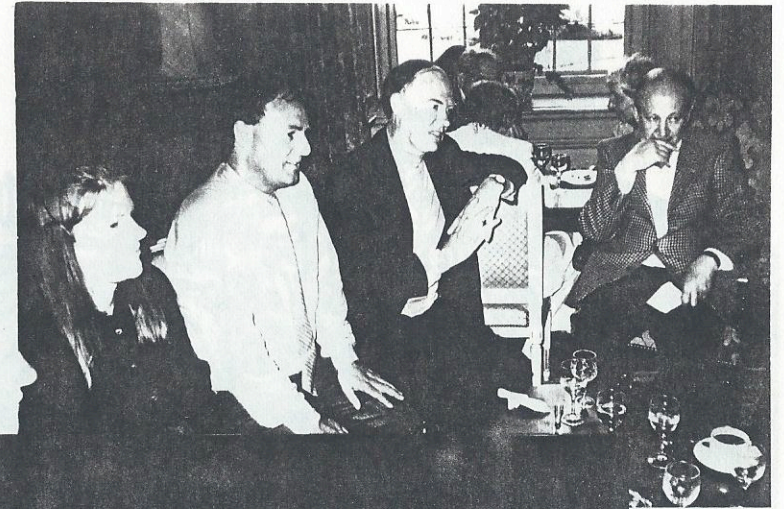
# LUNCH AT MADELEY COURT

## Madeley Court HOTEL

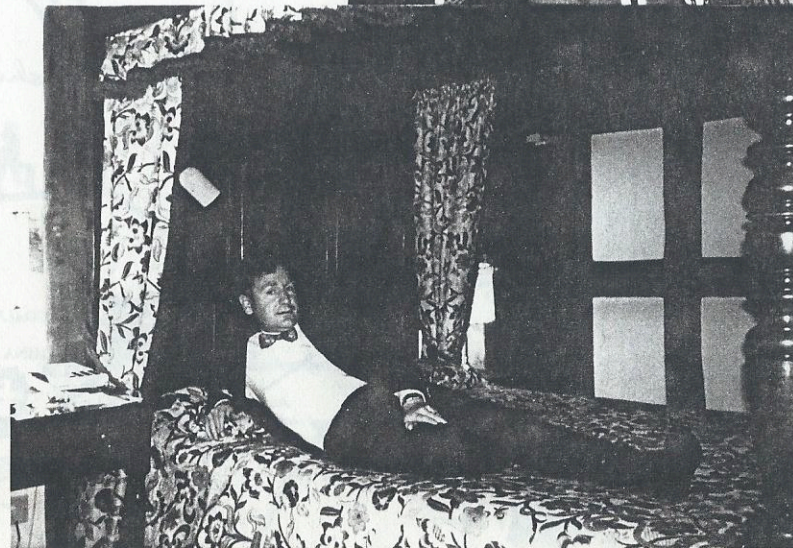


Madeley Court is a 16th century manor house which has recently been restored and converted into a hotel - the external appearance remains unaltered, but inside modern hotel facilities have been introduced without detracting from its period appeal. Within the grounds is the Madeley Court Mill where archaeological excavations are under way.

*Andrew Arrol and Louis de Wit with Derek Plummer.*



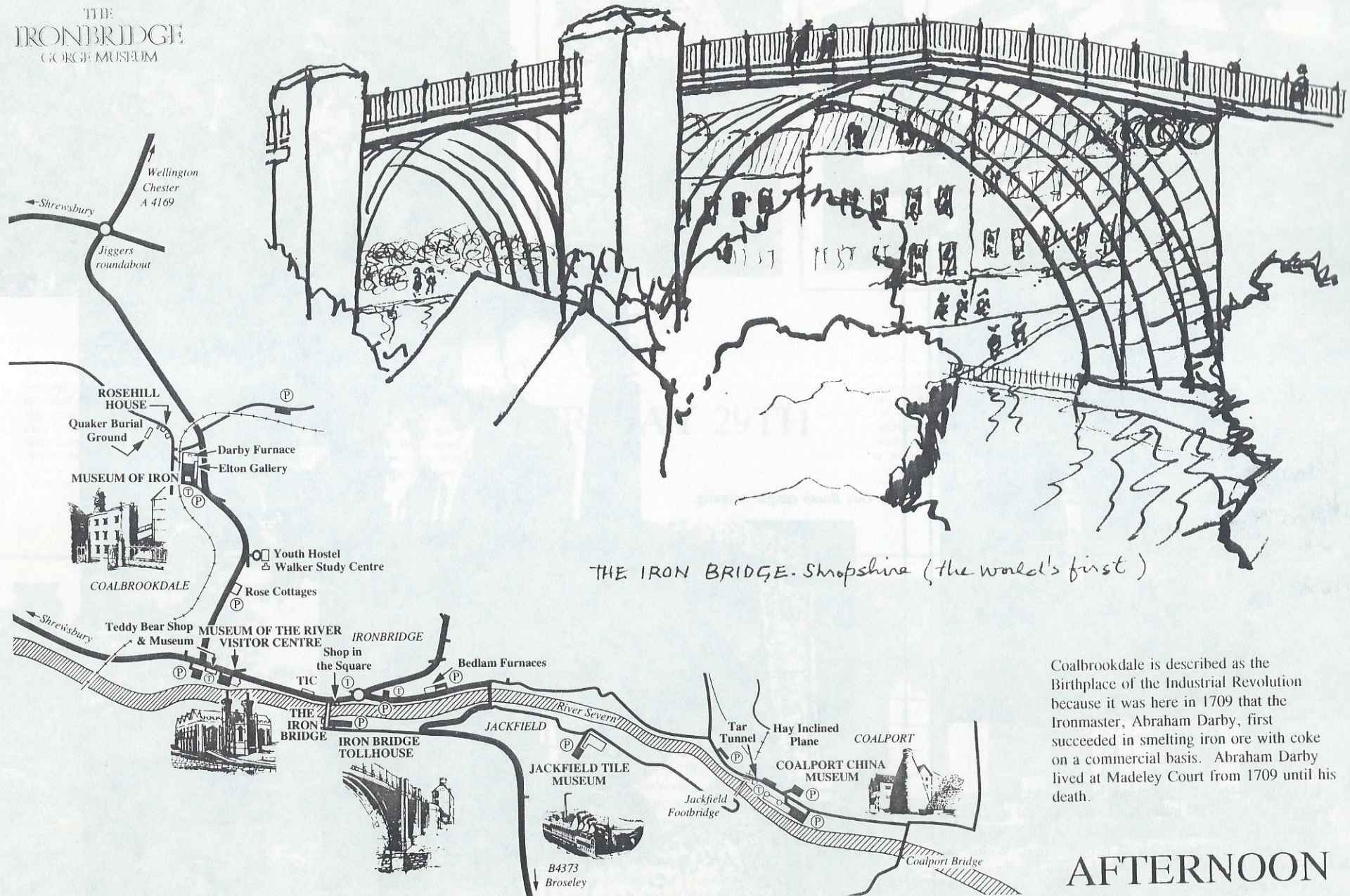
*Guy Booth caught napping.*



HISTORIC BEDROOM



# THE IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM



Coalbrookdale is described as the Birthplace of the Industrial Revolution because it was here in 1709 that the Ironmaster, Abraham Darby, first succeeded in smelting iron ore with coke on a commercial basis. Abraham Darby lived at Madeley Court from 1709 until his death.

## AFTERNOON





BLAST FURNACE.  
IRONBRIDGE OPEN-AIR  
MUSEUM • SHROPSHIRE



#### DINNER

Dinner at the Albright Hussey Hotel, a 16th century moated manor house restored by the present owner, Franco Subbiani.





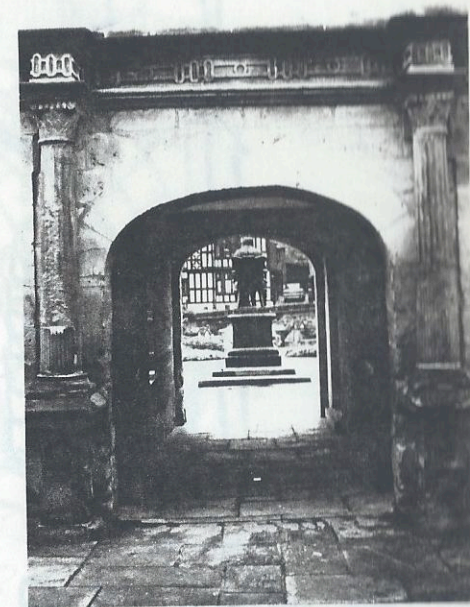
# SATURDAY 30TH

## KEY

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Bear Steps Hall                                 | 24. Old House                    |
| 2. St Alkmund's Church                             | 25. A.W.Ward's classical facades |
| 3. Abbot's House                                   | 26. Lion Hotel                   |
| 4. Kingston House                                  | 27. Henry Tudor's House          |
| 5. Prince Rupert Hotel                             | 28. Mytton's Mansion             |
| 6. St Mary's Church                                | 29. Nag's Head Inn               |
| 7. Drapers' Hall                                   | 30. Sycamore House               |
| 8. Olde Yorkshire House                            | 31. Liberal Club                 |
| 9. St Mary's Cottage                               | 32. St Chad's Chapel             |
| 10. Jacobean Town House                            | 33. Judge's Lodging              |
| 11. Old County Gaol                                | 34. St Julian's Craft Centre     |
| 12. Library  | 35. Old Savings Bank             |
| 13. Castle   | 36. Clive House                  |
| 14. Castle Gates House                             | 37. Music Hall                   |
| 15. Council House                                  | 38. Market Hall                  |
| 16. Old Council House                              | 39. Wooley's House               |
| 17. Adam style house                               | 40. Plough Inn                   |
| 18. Perche's Mansion                               | 41. Owen's Mansion               |
| 19. Windsor House                                  | 42. Ireland's Mansion            |
| 20. The Parade (shopping arcade) and Court (flats) | 43. Lloyds Bank                  |
| 21. Cromwell Hotel                                 | 44. Former Cross Keys Inn        |
| 22. Guildhall                                      | 45. Rowley's House Museum        |
| 23. Welsh Tabernacle                               |                                  |



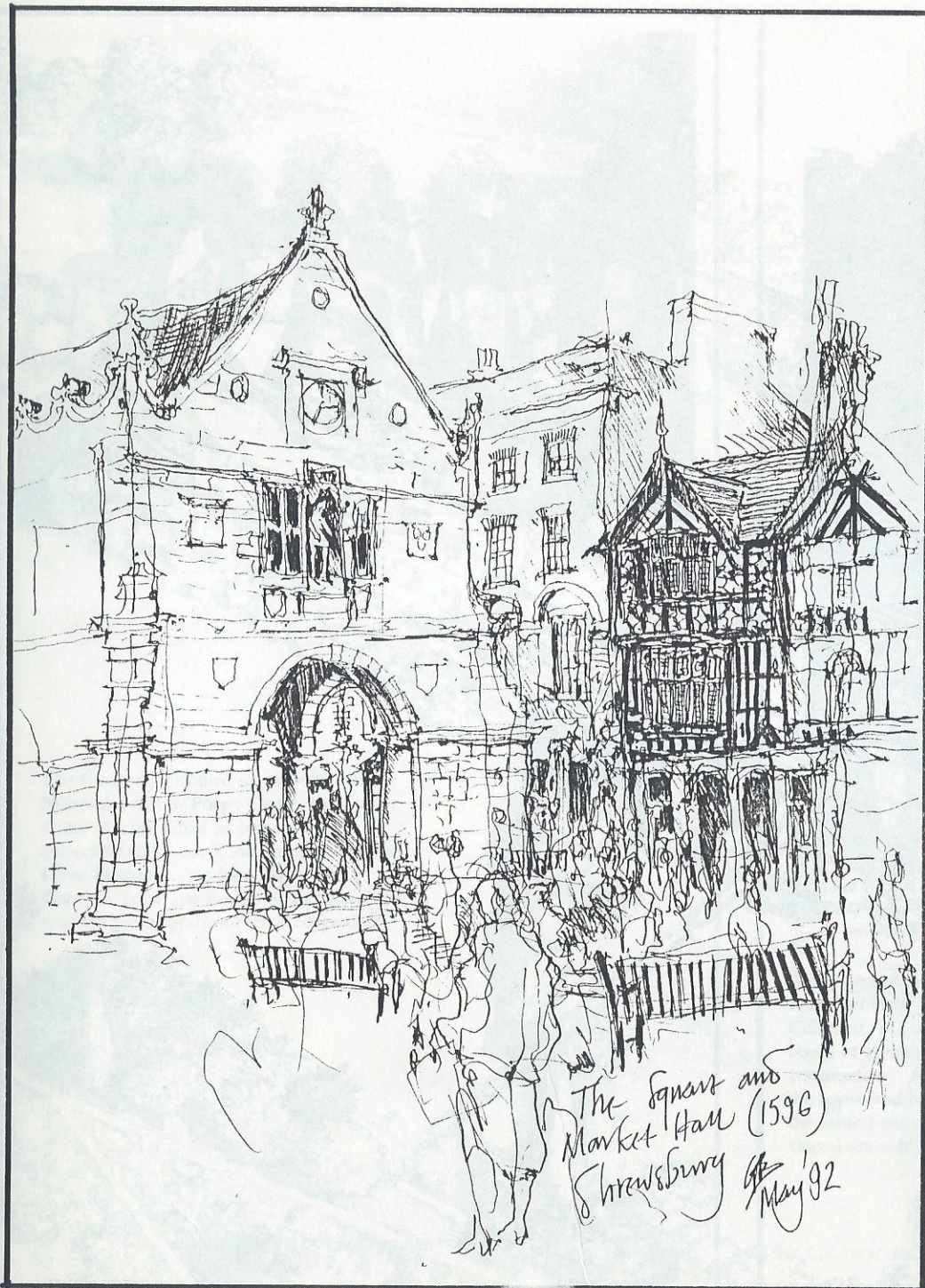
## Shrewsbury Town Trail



A guided walk around Shrewsbury with local architect Andrew Arrol.







Let this small Monument record the name  
Of CADMAN, and to future times proclaim  
How by'n attempt to fly from this high spire  
Across the Sabrine stream he did acquire  
His fatal end. 'Twas not for want of skill  
Or courage to perform the task he fell:  
No, no, a faulty Cord being drawn too tight  
Hurried his Soul on high to take her flight  
Which bid the Body here beneath good Night.  
Feb<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 1739 aged 28.

*Plaque to a pioneer.*



*Sketch by Guy Booth.*



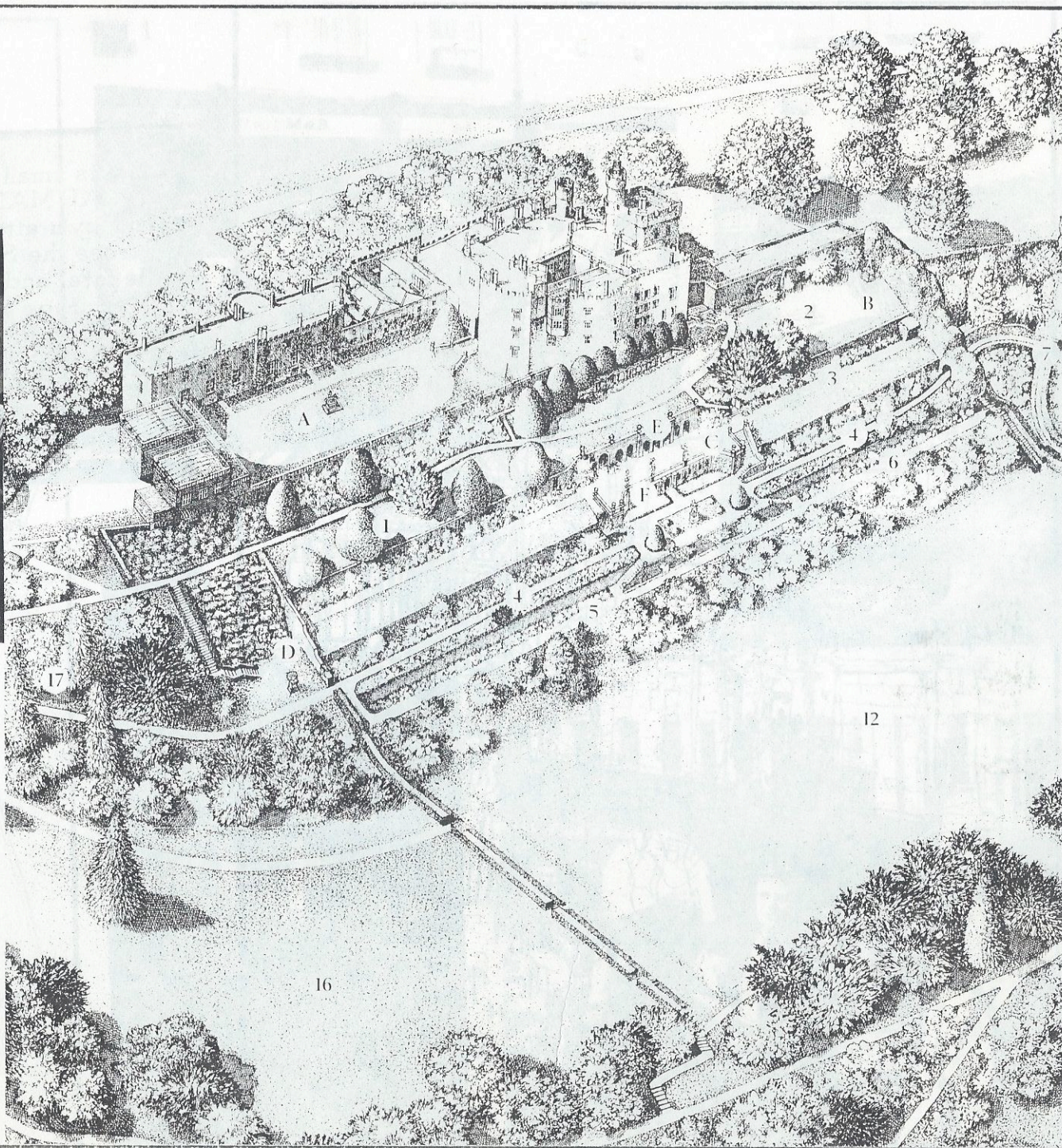


# Powis Castle

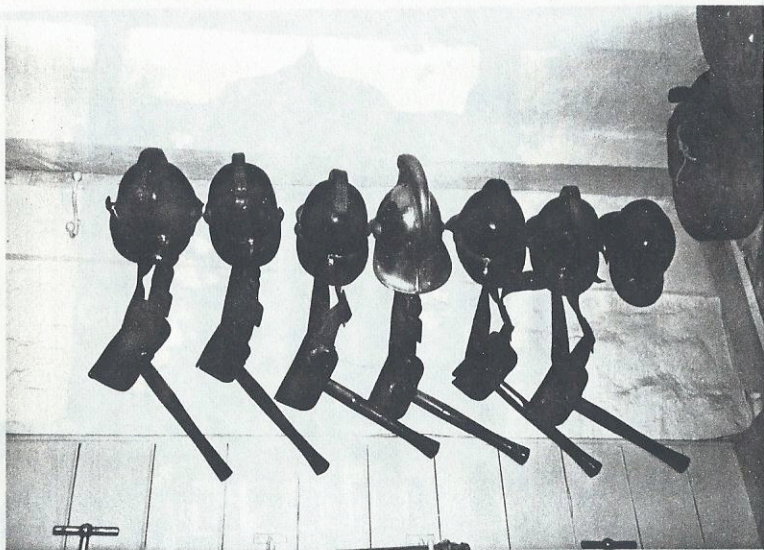


The famous hanging terraces at Powis, which rise to 450 feet, constitute the greatest surviving example of the Baroque garden in Britain. Although the clean lines, regimented planting, and the classical symmetry of the architectural features shown in early views of the garden must have looked at odds with the irregular form of the great castle above, the yew trees that were planted as restrained obelisks have been allowed over the centuries to swell to the vast rounded shapes that now seem ready to slide from the walls they overhang. In the later 18th century benign neglect was preferred to Improvement (one tradition has it that 'Capability' Brown advised that the reign of nature be reinstated); the terraces survived, and perhaps now more than ever before the garden and castle appear in perfect harmony with one another.

The form and disposition of the terraces was dictated by the massive outcrop of rock from which they were blasted in the years around 1700, but derives ultimately from Italy by way of France. Their design may have been the work of the gentleman-architect William Winde, who was working on the 1st Marquess of Powis' London house in the late 1680s, but it is known that one Adrian Duval, a Frenchman who was in the retinue of the Countess of Powis on her return from exile in Holland in 1703, was also involved, possibly as an expert on hydraulics. The water gardens, which lay at the foot of the terraces, made way for the Great Lawn formed in the 1770s by the landscape gardener William Emes, who was responsible for much of the park planting. The lead statues, including the massive groups of Fame and Hercules, were originally placed in the water gardens and may have been cast in lead from the mines at Llangynog, owned by the Marquesses of Powis, which were working between 1692 and 1745.







*Les Pompiers de Powis.*

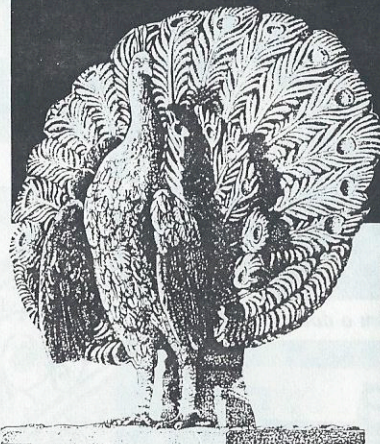
The Curator welcomed us on behalf of the National Trust to Powis Castle, the former home of Lord Clive of India whose collection of treasures are on display in the Clive Museum. We lunched in the National Trust Tea Rooms and afterwards enjoyed the magnificent terraced gardens.



*One of the original lead statuary.*



## PITCHFORD HALL

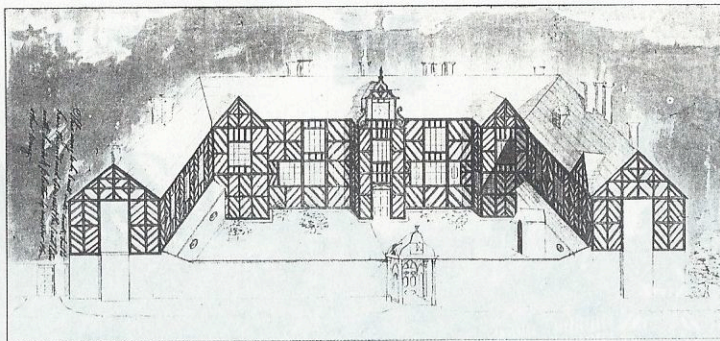


Although little known to the public Pitchford Hall, home of Mr and Mrs Colthurst, is a very fine 16th century house of completely timber-framed construction. At the time of our visit the house had been in the ownership of the same family for 500 years. (It has since been sold.)



*Mr Colthurst describing the house's history.*





An unexecuted proposal for rebuilding the west wing in the 18th century



*Tea in the kitchen whilst sheltering from a downpour.*



THE TREE HOUSE  
PITCHFORD HALL





WESTON PARK



# BANQUET

## ~ ~ ~ MENU ~ ~ ~

Smoked Chicken & Peach Terrine

Cold Salmon with Chive Sauce

Rack of Lamb with Onion Marmalade  
Selection of Fresh Vegetables

Sticky Toffee Pudding

Coffee

Macon Blanc Villages  
Cepage Chardonnay B Sandler 1989

Cedar Creek Cabernet Sauvignon  
Hunter Valley 1989

## ~ ~ ~ TOAST LIST ~ ~ ~

Her Majesty The Queen

The President of the French Republic

Our Guests  
Proposed by the President

Response  
By M. Georges Delabroy

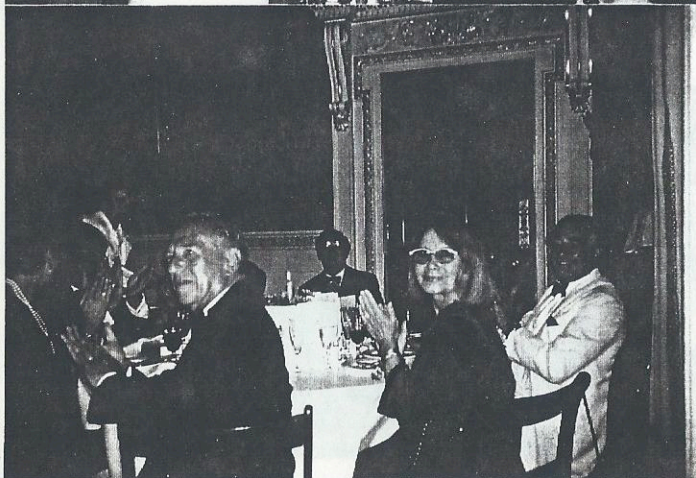
The Immediate Past President M. Gerard Benoit

The Secretary General's Toast





**THE BANQUET AT  
WESTON PARK  
ON  
30TH MAY 1992  
THE PRESIDENT  
DEREK PLUMMER  
PROPOSED  
THE TOAST  
TO OUR GUESTS**



*Top Left:  
The President, Derek Plummer,  
with Georges De La Roi,  
French Cultural Attaché.*

*Centre Left:  
Steven Gillian, Chairman  
of the Shropshire Society  
of Architects, making a  
presentation to  
Derek Montefiore.*

Monsieur le President Francaise, Monsieur le Tresorier, Mr Secretary General, Past President, members of the Union, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen ...

Why did we bring you to this part of the British Isles and why to Shrewsbury in particular? Perhaps because it is so different from London and from Lille? Well yes. Because it is so close to Wales, where no Reunion has yet been based? Yes certainly. For the British, the Welsh are in some ways the most enigmatic of the countries that make up the Isles. Partly because it has the longest and closest border to the heart of England. Perhaps we have the most in common, a fact which is often irksome.

In the Middle Ages a travelling churchman (described as three parts Norman and one part Welsh), wrote about his travels in Wales in 1188. This is what he wrote about the Welsh:

"The Welsh people are fierce and totally dedicated to the practice of arms. Not only the leaders but the entire nation are trained for war. Sound the trumpet for battle and the peasants will rush from their ploughs to pick up their weapons. They esteem it a disgrace to die in bed, but an honour to be killed in battle.

Shrewsbury was one of the three Royal Palaces and at that time was part of Powys in Wales. It was a staging point for travellers from Chester to London and its history was bloody (as well as glorious).

So why have we brought you, our dear French guests, to a place where much blood was shed, and what is more to a place where the British mourn the loss of some very previous land. You may perhaps have heard of Chateaux Talbot. I would like to quote from the wine connoisseur, Clive Coates:

"Talbot is said to take its name from John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, commander of the English expeditionary force defeated at the battle of Castillon in 1453. The English had been fighting a rear-guard action in south-west France against the recently revived French army, and by 1451 had been driven out of Bordeaux and reduced to a garrison at Lesparre in the northern Medoc. Talbot, an old man already in his nineties, was dispatched by Henry VI and was welcomed by the town of Bordeaux - who knew well where their best markets lay - with open arms. After some initial success he was lured out to Castillon and persuaded to do battle without waiting for the arrival of his main army, with results fatal for both the English and himself. The date of the battle of Castillon, 17th July 1453, should be engraved on the heart of every claret lover. It represents the end of the hegemony of the greatest wine area in the world.

"The routed troops held out in Bordeaux for a while, but were eventually pursued through the Medoc in the late autumn. Legend has it that they sailed for England from the quay at Chateaux Issan, taking a large amount of the 1453 vintage with them.

"There is no evidence that John Talbot ever owned any property in Bordeaux, let alone in the Medoc, yet his name persists in many locations in the area and his exploits, as the tragic saviour of the city, persist in medieval texts. In local Gascon patois he is described as 'Le noble et poyssant' (noble and powerful) senhor mossen Johan, Compte de Cherosheri, Senhor de Talbot'."

So you will understand that the English view John Talbot as both a tragic and a heroic figure. Tragic because he lost us that most wonderful land in Bordeaux; heroic because he behaved like a gentleman. I do not expect our French guests will share our feelings about the former but I hope they will share our appreciation of the latter!

This brief history and explanation demonstrates some of the more tempestuous nature of the complicated web that unites Shrewsbury with the Welsh and with the French.

Since the humble origins of the Franco-British Union itself back in the early 1920s there have been many Banquets spread over more than seventy years. These Banquets have taken place against a tapestry of the ever changing and tempestuous 20th century.

May I wish you all a calm and constructive beginning of the new Europe. I would ask all members of the Union Franco-Britannique to join me in drinking a toast to our guests.



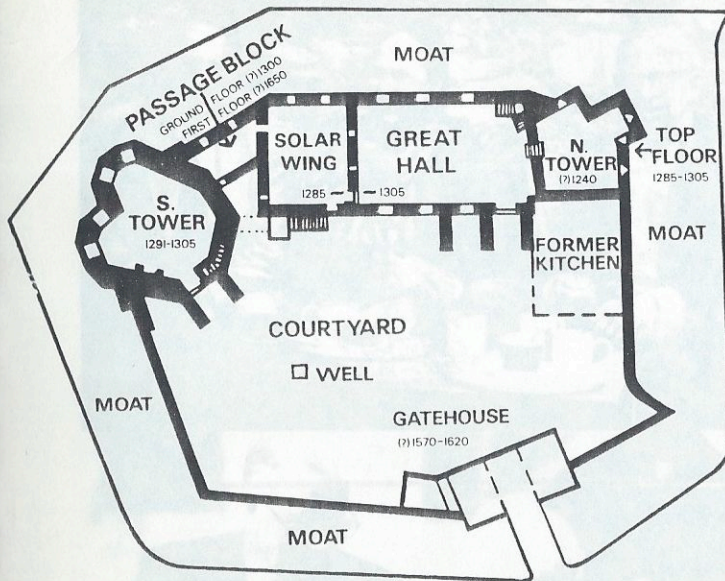




# SUNDAY 31ST

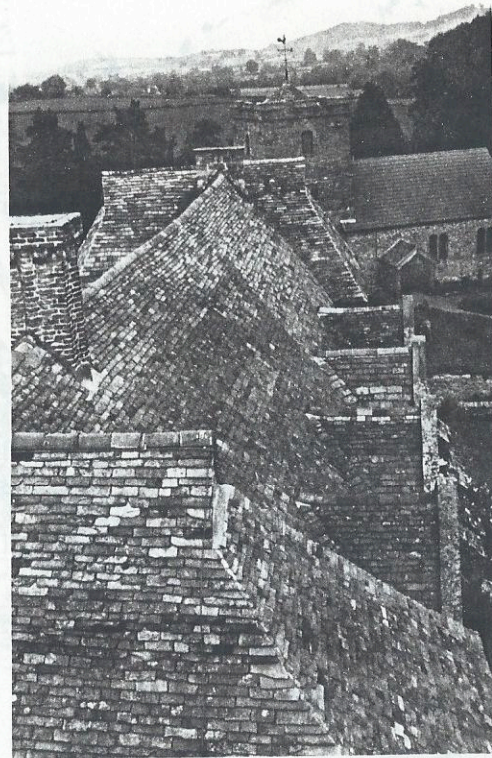
## Stokesay Castle

Stokesay Castle, despite its name, is in fact a fortified manor-house. The visitor enters through an Elizabethan timber-framed gatehouse and finds himself in a walled courtyard. This courtyard is surrounded by a moat, which is now dry but was formerly supplied from the nearby pool and stream. (In a print of 1731 the moat is shown full of water.) Across the courtyard are the main buildings of the Castle, all completed by the early 14th century. They consist of a residential block, containing the hall and solar, lying between two defensive towers. The north tower is the older.



Other buildings once existed in front of the solar block and south tower; and although all these vanished buildings were probably erected about the middle of the 17th century, they must have succeeded earlier buildings in the courtyard.

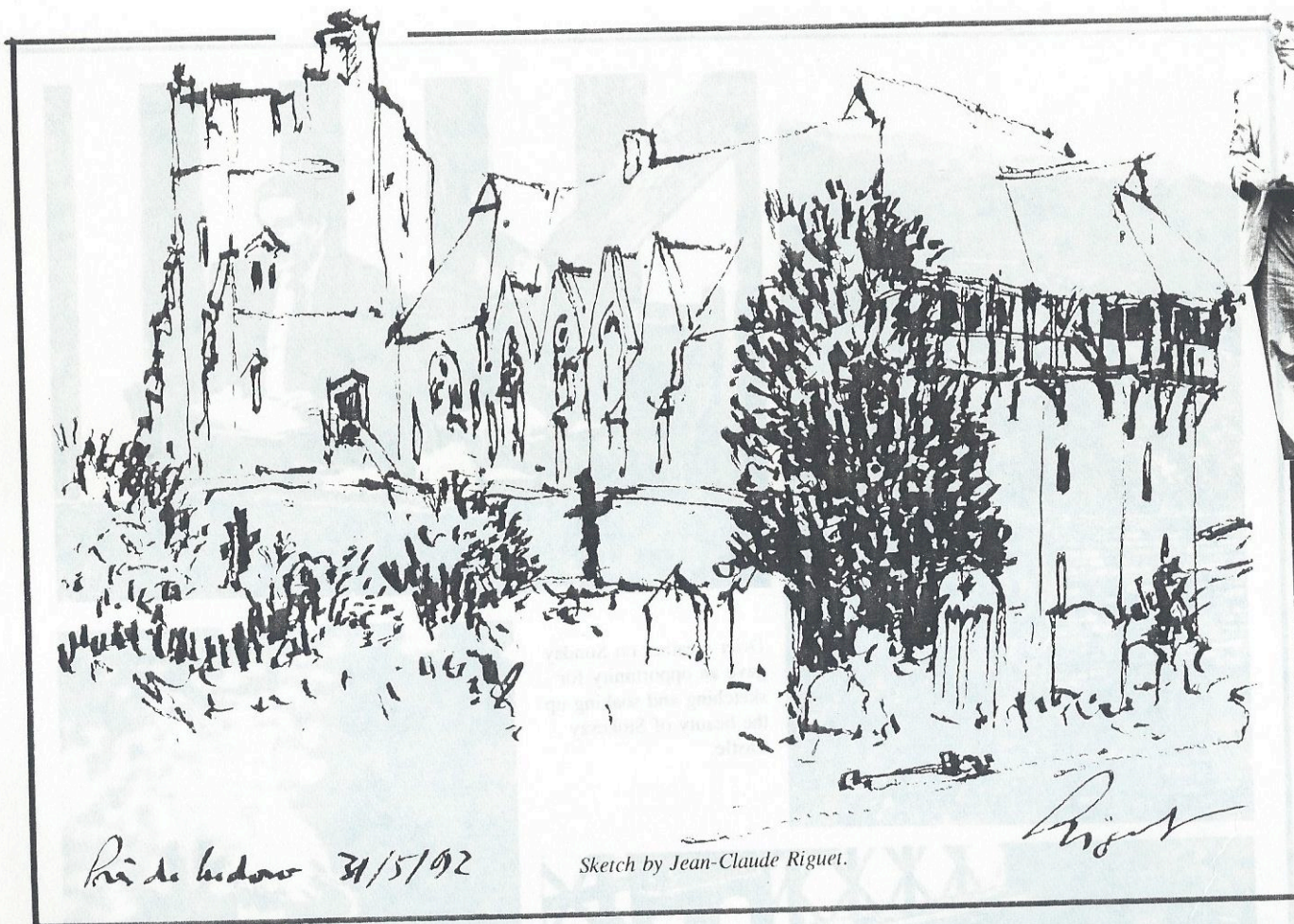
In the southern part of the courtyard the well, which is fifty feet deep, was formerly surmounted by a canopy roof resting on thick oak timbers. The nearby church, mainly rebuilt in the 17th century after being damaged in the Civil War, probably served the Castle as a chapel.



Drier weather on Sunday gave an opportunity for sketching and soaking up the beauty of Stokesay Castle.

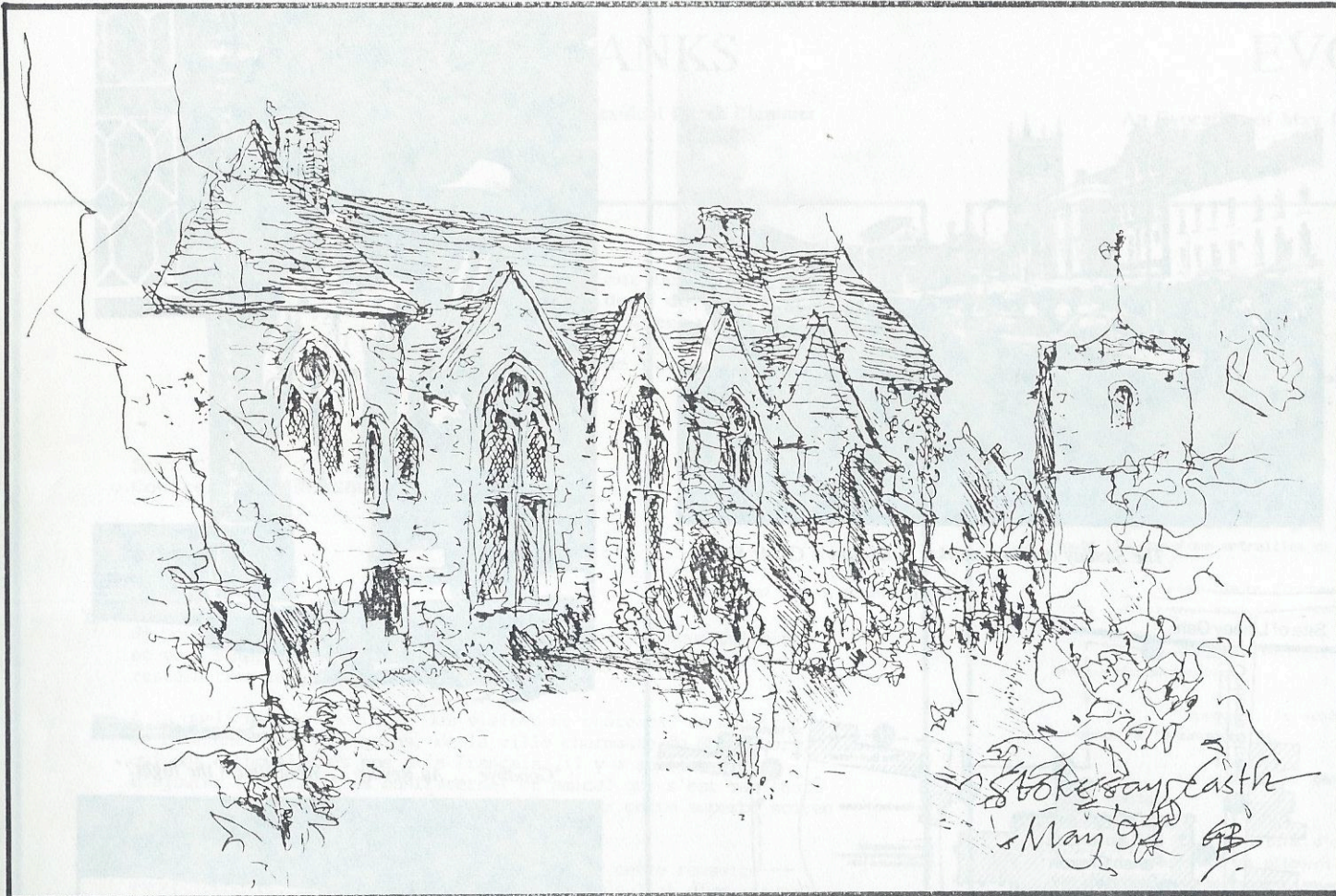








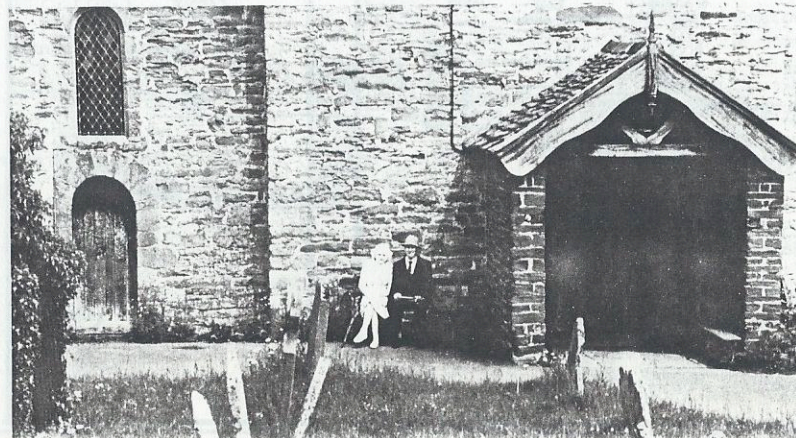
# LUDLOW



Sketch by Guy Booth.



On to "The Feathers" in Ludlow for lunch.



Ludlow is small, harmonious and built on a hill. It is three parts surrounded by the river Teme, and is renowned for nothing save its beauty. What I like so much about it is the clearly marked demarcation between town and country. Save for the east, there are no modern suburbs. Stand on its castle battlements and to the north lies the whaleback of The Long Mynd and Church Stretton. To the south the red lands of Herefordshire, to the west, Bringewood and Mortimer Forest, to the east, Titterstone Clee.



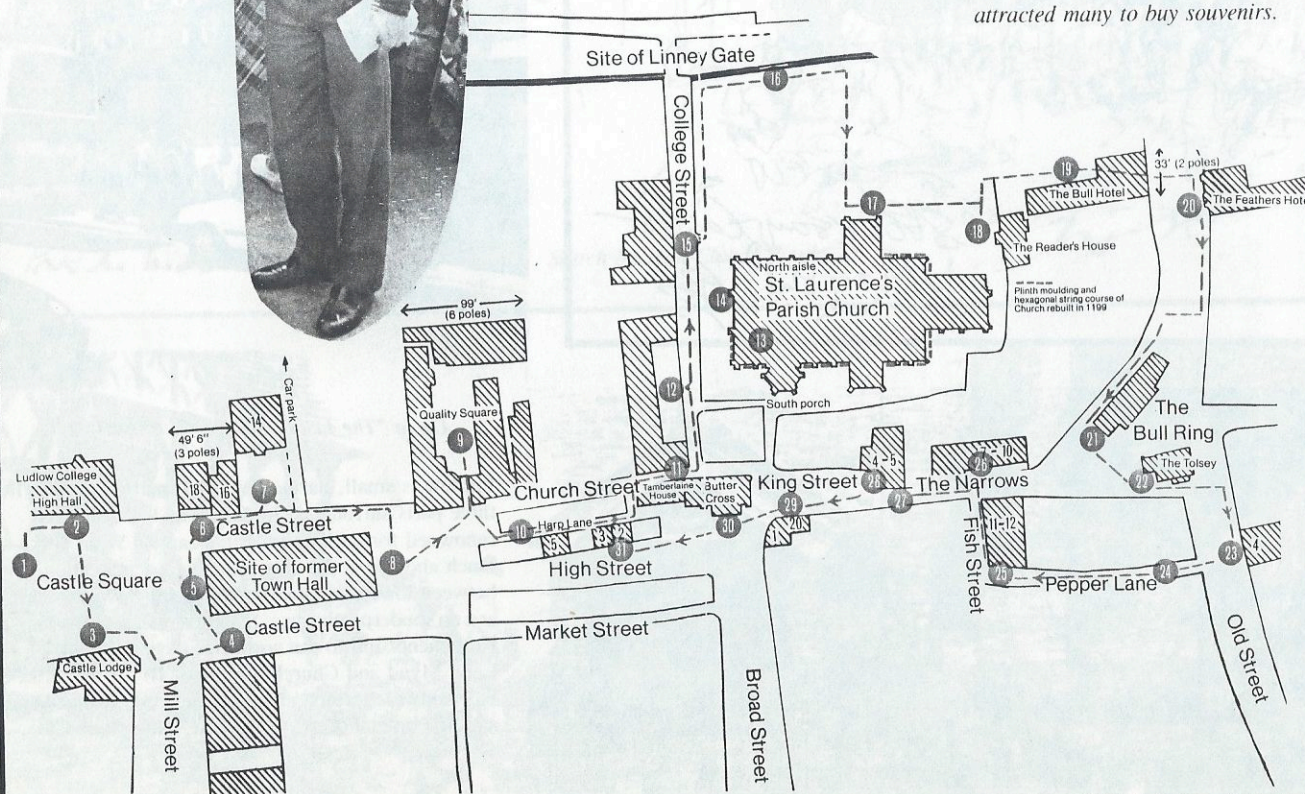
Here's a Shropshire lad .....



The Sunday antiques market in Ludlow's Castle Square attracted many to buy souvenirs.



"Goodbye ... Au Revoir ... What time's the flight?"





# LETTER OF THANKS

From Vice-President Claude Ducoux to the new President Derek Plummer

Monsieur Derek PLUMMER  
Président de FBUA  
14 The Green  
SURREY TW9 1 PX  
(Grande Bretagne)

Saint Cloud, le 15 Juin 1992  
o.Congrès de SHREWSBURY

Cher Président,

Je vous prie de m'excuser pour le retard apporté à vous féliciter et vous remercier pour ce magnifique congrès de SHREWSBURY, qui restera très longtemps dans nos mémoires.

A la qualité incontestable des visites de châteaux, de manoirs, de bâtiments contemporains, de la ville charmante de Shrewsbury, qui ont enthousiasmés nos amis français, il y a surtout lieu d'ajouter l'esprit très confraternel et amical qui s'est manifesté durant tout le congrès achevé en apothéose par cette superbe soirée de gala.

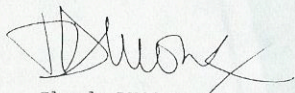
Vous pouvez être fier, mon cher Président, de cette réussite exceptionnelle. Elle fût, j'en suis sûr, le résultat d'un travail considérable de nos amis Tony, Derek, Ronald, John, Howard, Julian auxquels je vous prie de présenter tous nos sentiments très reconnaissants.

Ce sera difficile de faire aussi bien à Toulouse l'année prochaine.

En attendant le grand plaisir de revoir tous les membres du Comité et leurs épouses au mois de Novembre à Paris,

Je vous prie de partager avec Wanda et tous les membres de la F.B.U.A. mes amitiés les plus sincères.

Bien à vous.



Claude DUCOUX

# EVOCATION

An Evocation of May 1992 in Shrewsbury by Luc-Regis Gilbert

2 pommes d'Adam's, 3 fils torsadés, rouge, jaune, bleu, équipés d'aiguilles de cuivre, reliés à un système sophistiqué d'horlogerie...

Révélation étonnante: MARION!

Au Paradis Terrestre, un beau matin, à l'épreuve d'une Alchimie de pointes, elle rebâtit la Bible; parmi ses disciples fascinés, elle séduit, sourit et offre le fruit...

Ce paradis, c'est celui de l'U.F.B.A., au Congrès de SHREWSBURY (POWIS CASTLE GARDEN).

Le ciel est gris de vapeurs, comme si le cataclysme venait d'épuiser toute l'énergie des entrailles de la Terre.

Les Hauts Fourneux sont éteints. Le rougissement s'est évanoui, la fonte a durci pour toujours (IRONBRIDGE).

Quelques vestiges de cette activité infernale subsistent, comme des Antiquités dérisoires.

Cependant, le végétal règne, dans toute sa magnificence. Il règne sur un monde de fantasmagories.

La volupté du péché enveloppe la clarté solaire, la rend diaphane, la neutralise.

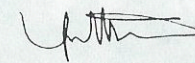
Il n'y a plus d'ombres, seulement des profondeurs, des reliefs plus ou moins obscurs, où se glissent les nuances de couleurs et de parfums: les violines de rhododendrons deviennent mauves de glycines; le vert Anglais des pelouses vire au jaune des jasmins; à la cramoisie des érables, au noir des ifs.

Les essences transpirent, condensent: haute sueur des frondaisons. La brume les unit d'un voile. Les formes d'art topiaire en thuyas et buis dégringolent de terrasse en terrasse.

Elles accompagnent le paon qui saute d'un mur sur l'autre, se met en scène, déploie sa plus belle roue.

Un Anglais le regarde, il ouvre son parapluie!

Combien surréaliste, ce "Jardin sous la Pluie", qui joue de l'échelle pour filtrer sa Musique!...



18.6.92



# POSTSCRIPT

