

Clun
and
Bishop's
Castle

Official
Guide

D. & N. MORGAN

(TRANSPORT) LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE:
CHURCH STREET

BISHOP'S CASTLE

TEL. 463/4

REGULAR SERVICES TO

ALL AREAS

Depots: CARDIFF
LIVERPOOL
LUDLOW

PICKARD & COMPANY

(Subsidiary of S. Shropshire Farmers Ltd.)

'Phone : Bishop's Castle 434

BISHOP'S CASTLE

Ironmongers, Implement Dealers

and Builders' Merchants

OIL and SEED MERCHANTS
HOUSEHOLD FURNISHERS
GRATES AND STOVES
SHELLMEX AND BP GAS
DISTRIBUTORS

•

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY
AND IMPLEMENTS SUPPLIED

•

We carry comprehensive stocks of all
Agricultural and Domestic Commodities

Courtesy, Efficiency and Satisfaction
are Guaranteed

For Quality Meat

R. W. WILLIAMS

— HIGH CLASS FAMILY BUTCHER —

ONLY HOME KILLED, TOP QUALITY MEAT SOLD.
LIVESTOCK OBTAINED FROM LOCAL FARMS
AND SLAUGHTERED IN OUR OWN
HYGIENIC ABATTOIR.

ALSO HOME-CURED HAMS AND BACON.
BEEF AND PORK SAUSAGES A SPECIALITY.
DELIVERIES THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT.
MEAT SUPPLIED FOR DEEP FREEZERS AT
REASONABLE PRICES.

OUR PRICES ARE COMPETITIVE AND OUR
AIM IS TO PLEASE.

23 HIGH STREET, BISHOP'S CASTLE

Telephone : 360

Clun and Bishop's Castle Rural District

Official Guide

Issued with the authority of the
Clun and Bishop's Castle
Rural District Council

©
Ed. J. Burrow & Co. Ltd. Publishers
Cheltenham and London

J. H. SCALES & SON

CHURCH STREET - BISHOP'S CASTLE

We cater for all your requirements concerning :

RADIO — TELEVISION (Black and White or Colour),
ALSO ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND THE
SERVICING OF ALL TYPES OF ELECTRICAL
APPLIANCES.

We supply Television on attractive Rental or H.P. Terms,
Good Service Guaranteed.

Phone : 349

Visit our 1775

OLD SHOP

Gifts for all ages
and occasions

Plumbing &
Hot Water Fitters

Oil & Solid Fuel
Central Heating

Consult us for Servicing

Members of N.F.P.D.H.E.

Building
Contractors

Painters
Decorators

Glaziers
Members of Federation Master
Builders

For Wallpaper
Paints
Dulux Magicote
Crown
Hardware
Glass Cut to Size

Rose & Co. (Bishops Castle) 15/17 High Street
Tel. Bishops Castle 656

Contents

	Page
Introduction	7
Clun	9
Bishop's Castle	11
Other Parishes	15
Around Clun:	
Bedstone; Betws-y-Crwyn; Bucknell; Clunbury	15
Clungunford; Hopesay; Hopton Castle	16
Llanfair Waterdine; Stow	17
Around Bishop's Castle:	
Colebatch; Edgton; Lydbury North	17
Lydham; Mainstone; More; Norbury	19
The Back of the Long Mynd:	
Myndtown	19
Ratlinghope; Shelve; Wentnor	20
The North-West:	
Brompton and Rhiston; Chirbury	20
Worthen	21
Street Plan of Bishop's Castle } folder facing	22
Map of the Rural District }	
District Information	23



High Street and the Town Hall, Bishop's Castle

The Square, Clun



Introduction

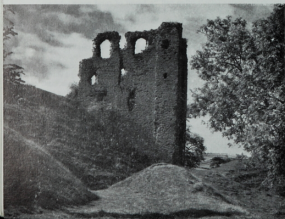
The Rural District of Clun and Bishop's Castle enshrines two ancient boroughs—those named—in countryside of such quality that three-quarters of the area is scheduled as being of outstanding natural beauty. Clun ceased to be, administratively, a borough in 1886; Bishop's Castle in 1967. But no change of status can affect the dignity which a long, eventful history has bestowed upon these towns. This region was for centuries a battleground of English and Welsh, so that almost every village has its castle ruins or pudding-shaped motte; and later the Civil War swept over it and some bitter deeds were done on both sides. Today it is peaceful, but not what guide-books (alas!) often call "a haunt of rural peace wherein time stands still". It is busy enough but most of its business is fairly quiet. Great quantities of good food are produced—milk, meat, eggs, cereals, potatoes—and packed locally. Forestry has transformed much of the steeper hill land. And then, besides its egg packing stations and cattle market, Bishop's Castle has a flourishing timber yard and a small clothing factory, and there are quarries nearby, at More.

The guide-book too is apt to describe places as "ideal for residence"—suggestive of the commuter suburbs. Yet if you want a more individual life, this District is no great distance from the industrial Midlands, and houses for conversion are to be found. Most modern conveniences are laid on, and to compensate for those that are *not*—yet—there is the sense of "belonging", a rare blessing today.

The third stereotyped description applied to areas of great beauty is "a Mecca for the tourist"—this District, thank goodness, is *not*! It is, therefore, just the District to stay quietly in a pleasant hotel or guest-house, to fish, ride, walk, explore. Come once, and you will come again—and welcome!

Above: The Clun Valley from near Llwyn

Below: The Castle ruins, Clun. (photo: Mustograph)



Clun

One of Housman's "quietest places", Clun is on the junction of A488 with B4368, approximately nine miles west of Craven Arms, and nearly 160 miles away from London. Immediately west of the little town (pop. 1,385) the rivers Clun and Unk—also on a small scale—meet; and the Clun flows through and alongside its namesake, passing under a 14th century bridge. The architecture is a sort of miniature Georgian combined with the harsher, Welsh-style use of stone. The church is at the southern end of the town; and in a crook of the river are the castle ruins, impressive enough to uphold the tradition that it was "Garde Doloureuse" in Sir Walter Scott's novel of the marches, "The Betrothed".

Clun as a settlement, however, long pre-dates the castle. In the interesting museum in the Town Hall are flint and stone tools and weapons, the partial cremation of a Bronze Age inhabitant, and maps of several local Iron Age hillforts.

At the time of the Norman Conquest the parish belonged to the famous Saxon Earl "Wild Edric", who caused the Normans nearly as much trouble in the district as Caractacus had caused the Romans many centuries before. But Edric's lands were given to Roger de Montgomery, who leased the manor and honour of Clun to a lesser Norman, Robert Picot de Say. De Say probably erected defences, but the first stone castle was completed about 1100. Forty-five years later the estate went by marriage to William Fitz Alan, an ancestor of the Duke of Norfolk, who is still Baron of Clun. All Saxon resistance had long since ended, but Welsh resistance had not. Four times between 1195 and 1400 the Welsh attacked the castle and burned the town. It was also burned on one occasion by King John. Yet the castle was still being used as a residence in the 17th century and has come to its present state mostly by decay. A church associated with the castle and dedicated to St. Thomas was built about the same time, but has disappeared.

The parish church of St. George probably occupies the site of a Saxon church and part of the tower is late Norman. There are two Norman arches at the end of the nave, the rest being Transitional. Over the north aisle is an angel roof, and over the altar in the chancel a 15th century canopy. Much must have been lost when during the Civil War the church was occupied by Parliamentary forces, and partly burned during a Royalist attack. The porch, however, is 15th century and over it is a room which

was used up to 1840 as a school. Partial rebuilding took place in 1877.

At the other end of the town is Trinity Hospital, the almshouses erected in 1614 by Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton and Lord of the Manor of Clun for 12 poor men. Until this century the inmates wore black cloaks and hats on weekdays and on Sundays blue cloaks with the Earl's badge. The rules have, of course, been much relaxed, and the dwellings—some of which are now occupied by elderly couples—modernised. Permission to inspect the grounds and communal buildings, which are interesting, may be obtained from the sub-warden, whose house adjoins the chapel.

The prosperity of old Clun depended almost entirely on livestock; the useful (and somewhat agile) breed of sheep known as the "Clun Forest" originated on the unenclosed acres of the area, which were extensive up to 1837. As early as 1204 William Fitzalan obtained a charter for a three-day fair beginning on St. Martin's Day. By 1272 there was also a one-day May fair and a weekly market (which lasted up to the Second World War) the tolls paid to the Lord of the Manor being £10 a year from the market and £6 from the fairs—something like £1,800 and £1,080 in modern terms. During the feudal period Clun became a manorial borough with Bailiffs and other Officers, Burgesses with rights of a sort, and regular Courts.

The Town Hall was erected about 1780, probably of stone from the Castle; the ground floor was used as a temporary prison and the first floor was the Court Room. Today the Parish Council uses the upper room for meetings and the former gaol is the museum; included in its exhibits are the insignia of the old borough. The silver maces (of about 1580 and 1614) and the seal are the property of the Clun Town Trust.

S. J. CADWALLADER

Builder and Funeral Director

COLEBATCH, BISHOP'S CASTLE
TELEPHONE 479

Bishop's Castle

This old town is on a winding section of B4385, from Leintwardine to Montgomery, and just off A488 from Shrewsbury to Knighton. It stands over 500 feet up, and around it in all directions are hills rising to over 1,000 feet.

Three miles west runs Offa's Dyke, and near the town there have been defences of some sort from the 7th century onwards. A Saxon landowner, Egwin "Shakehead" was cured of his palsy at the shrine of St. Ethelbert at Hereford and in gratitude bequeathed his Manor of Lydbury to the Bishops of the City in perpetuity. They built on the land a castle to protect their villeins and flocks against the Welsh, and a settlement grew up around it for security. The present castle, now only fragmentary, was built in the 12th century, and in 1203 the Bishop granted the settlement a charter. Later in the 13th century, "Bishop's Castle" became a separate parish with its own church. Probably the Bishops used the castle mostly as a residence when touring the northern part of the diocese—the site is poor strategically and at one time an extra defence post ("Bishop's Moat") was also maintained.

About 1570, the Bishop exchanged this estate for other property with Elizabeth I, who sold it immediately to the tenants, the Walcofs of Walcot. In 1573 the Queen granted (for all practical purposes, *sold!*) a new charter to the town, establishing a Bailiff, a Recorder and 15 Aldermen. Representation in Parliament then began.

Bishop's Castle was not the scene of any major Civil War battle, but was loyal to the King—William Walcot was his page at his execution—and perhaps this was why the church was badly damaged.

During the 18th century the town was one of the notorious "pocket boroughs", and bribery in connection with elections ruined the Walcofs. They had to sell their vast estate to Robert Clive (of India) whose family exercised control over the parliamentary seats until they were abolished by the Reform Act of 1832.

In 1863 a group of local landowners founded the Bishop's Castle Railway, which ran, often at a loss, until 1930, to Craven Arms by way of the Plowden Valley. It had seven engines, "Progress", "Perseverance", "Plowden", "Bishop's Castle", "Bee", "No. 1" and "Carlisle".

Until 31st March, 1967, the Council in recent years had consisted of a Mayor and 15 other members, including four aldermen; and meetings

W. T. MORRAY & SON

BISHOP'S CASTLE

HOME BAKED BREAD,
ROLLS AND CAKES

A
SPECIALITY

also The Famous Family Loaf

15

Union Street Garage

PETROL — OIL
ALL MAKES OF TYRES
BATTERIES A SPECIALITY
REPAIRS AND SERVICING
to all Makes of Cars
Under my Personal Supervision

BISHOP'S CASTLE - SHROPSHIRE
Telephone 579

13

B. O. BURD & SON

(Established 1886)

High Class Grocers and Provision Merchants

MACE GROUP (Deep Cut Prices)

SELF SELECTION OR COUNTER SERVICE
VAN DELIVERIES OR TRAVELLING SHOP
TO ALL PARTS OF DISTRICT

VISITORS TO AREA PLEASE NOTE

*Questions gladly answered regarding places of
interest in Bishop's Castle and District*

12



Blunden Hall, formerly the Old Hall, Bishop's Castle

were held monthly in the Town Hall in the Market Place. This building faces southward down the steep High Street; it was erected some time before 1608. It has a small clock tower, and contains Council Offices on the ground floor, an impressive staircase leading to the Council Chamber and Mayor's Parlour. As at Clun, it once housed a gaol. The insignia are of rare quality, particularly two beautiful silver maces.

There are several Georgian houses. Tudor buildings include Blunden Hall, formerly known as the Old Hall, the probable birthplace of Edmond Plowden, the Tudor legal expert and—though a Roman Catholic—adviser to the Queen; the House "on Crotches", and the Old Porch House; others are concealed by later frontages.

The church of St. John Baptist, at the southern end of Church Street, is mostly 19th century but there have been more than one on the site; it has a 17th century tower and 13th century font. On the tower is a series of faded red lines marking where long ago youths played fives.

Behind the Town Hall is the Castle site, with a bowling green, and very little to show of the Castle.

Bishop's Castle has, also, modern features—its industries, mentioned in the Introduction, and market, noted for cattle sales and seasonal sales of hill sheep. The Borough Council built 120 council houses, including bungalows for old people; the County Council built here one of the first purposed-designed homes for elderly people. The secondary school for the whole district is here, set in excellent playing fields.

13

THREE TUNS HOTEL

BISHOP'S CASTLE

FREE HOUSE

FULLY LICENSED

Telephone: 229



HOME BREWED ALES

*One of the last Home Brewed
Houses in the West Midlands*

Parties Catered For

Proprietor:

JOHN C. E. ROBERTS

Other Parishes

Around Clun

Bedstone is a miniature parish and the village itself is in proportion. Upon the hill above it are the mysterious Castle Ditches, now scarcely detectable. Bedstone is a cosy little spot, far removed from uncomfortable, hilltop-dwelling times. The church is a "forest" church with timbered bellcot and some Norman work. Bedstone Court is a private school for boys.

Betws-y-Crwyn, along the Welsh border, is an exceedingly scattered parish. The isolated church, of the 13th century with screen of carved oak and pews bearing farm names, is on a minor road beyond Poundgate; away to the north is new Kerry Forest, on its very fringe the famous "Cantlin Stone" marking the spot where William Cantlin, a traveller, died. After some dispute as to parish responsibility for his burial, he was buried in Betws-y-Crwyn churchyard, the parish gaining thereby a large tract of Clun Forest. *Poundgate* is the site of a gathering pound where "black cattle" being driven from Wales to English markets were shod before taking to the metalled roads; "Betws-y-Crwyn" has been translated as "Church of the Skins"—possibly "poor doers" were slaughtered and skinned here and the monks of Chirbury, the landowners, sold the skins for the church. The Tudor "Hall of the Forest" was built by direction of the widowed Lady Maltravers about 1550. At Newcastle is a farmhouse known as Lower Spoad (formerly a hunting lodge) which has a remarkable chimney beam with a hunting scene (about 1550). The source of the Teme is among the high hills of the parish.

Bucknell village is at the entrance of the wooded valley from which the River Redlake hurries to the Teme. The font of the much restored church is Norman, with a characteristic interlaced pattern. In the churchyard are two great aged yews. Timber is largely produced here, including walnut and other furniture woods; there is a large timber-yard and sawmill. Coxall Knoll in the parish is one of the sites credited with the last defeat of Caractacus.

Clunbury is a parish of hamlets and hills. The village itself is compact and pretty with black-and-white houses. The church, partly Norman, has unusual 11th-15th century windows. Clunton has a small Victorian church. At Purslow "The Hundred House" inn formerly contained a



Hopesay Church with its fortress tower

court-room. There is a menhir on Clunbury Hill but the most interesting stone in the parish is the (restored) signpost between Purslow and Clunbury, a relic of stage-coach routes.

Clungunford has a Bronze Age tumulus near the church. Apart from the tower, which is 19th century, the church is 15th century and the windows contain fragments of old glass. East of the village is a section of Roman Watling Street from *Viroconium* to *Gleum*, still a public road though now of secondary importance in the parish.

At Aston-on-Clun in the parish of **Hopesay** stands the famous Arbor Tree, which, according to tradition, was first decorated by the villagers on May 29th, 1786, to celebrate the marriage of John Marston, the local landowner, to Mary Carter. Until the Marston family died out in 1951 they gave, annually, the flags to continue the decoration. In 1954 the Parish Council took over the custom and there was a service and a pageant. The tree is now dressed without ceremonial. Hopesay itself lies a mile north of Aston-on-Clun in a deep valley. The church tower is the fortress type, capped with Tudor work, and the building contains some fine wood-carving both in the roof and furnishing. On the hill-top west of the village is Burrow Camp where prehistoric tools and weapons have been found which are now in Clun Museum.

Hopton Titterhill, 1,300 feet high, looks down on the village of **Hopton Castle** with its half-timbered cottages, old rectory and castle. For many years the castle and parish belonged to the family of Hopton and in the 17th century the last of this family, Ralph Hopton, took part

in wars on the Continent, rescued the Queen of Bohemia from Prague, and received a reward for his services. This reward may have been used to keep the castle in repair, and during the Civil War it was held for three weeks for the Parliamentarians by Colonel More. All the garrison except the Colonel were shot by the Royalists and were not even given decent burial, but were thrown into the pool nearby.

At **Llanfair Waterdine**, a fine old bridge crosses the Teme. A century ago the church suffered a ferocious restoration, losing almost all of its wood-carving. The pity of this can be seen by an inspection of the altar rails; Welsh words carved on one of these refer to the original cost of making the chancel screen of which only these scraps remain—ten pounds! This is typical Mary Webb country of the "forest" type; up the valley are Beguildy and Felindre. At Llanfair Waterdine is a gipsy's grave with an inscription in Romanes.

The church was originally a chapel of St. George's church, Clun, and passed with the mother church to the Prior of Wenlock in the reign of Richard I. This may account for the Welsh names of two farms in this parish indicating a monastic association.

Stow, west of Bucknell, is the district's most southerly parish. The village is off the road and is in a half-hidden, high valley, with a little 13th century church with rood-beam *in situ*, and below it is the site of a Roman villa. On the hill above is a barrow.

Around Bishop's Castle

Colebatch is a clustered village on the main road (A488) between Clun and Bishop's Castle. The parish stands high; ecclesiastically it is part of the market town.

Edgton, north of Hopesay, is a parish with magnificent views. The small village is a well-knit community with its shop, church, chapel and village hall. The church now under the care of the Vicar of Lydbury North, contains a Norman font, two interesting old slate memorials and parts of some old windows.

Lydbury North was part of the original Saxon estate which contained the site of Bishop's Castle. Nothing appears to remain of the Saxon church. The transepts of the church form chapels associated with the families of Plowden and Walcot. The chapel in the north transept still belongs to the Plowden family, who have remained Roman Catholic. It is not now used. From this chapel a recently reopened Rood loft and staircase (1300) leads to the main church. The remainder of the church contains much rich wood-carving, and a pair of magnificent Laudian altar candlesticks. A mile east of the village lies Plowden Hall, a half-timbered, partly Elizabethan and partly Jacobean mansion, the home of the Plowden family. It contains secret passages and chambers and has its own private chapel. South of the village, across the valley of the River Kemp, stands Walcot Hall with its wooded park-lands and chain of narrow lakes, once

LET GOOD JUDGMENT BE YOUR GUIDE

for

Your Summer Holidays
For a Pleasant Weekend

or

Bed and Breakfast

Stay at:

The Old Brick Guest House BISHOP'S CASTLE

We welcome you all the year round

Every Comfort — H. & C.

LUNCHEONS — TEAS — DINNER

SERVED DAILY TO NON-RESIDENTS

Wedding Receptions — Private Parties

OPEN SUNDAYS TELEPHONE 471

The Valley Cafe

Breakfasts - Morning Coffee

Lunches - Afternoon Teas

Evening Meals - Packed Lunches

Bed and Breakfast

OPEN SATURDAY and SUNDAY

THE SQUARE — CLUN

Telephone : CLUN 370

the home of the Walcot family who sold it in the 18th century to Robert, Viscount Clive of India. Clive practically re-built it and most of the present Hall dates from that period. From the Clive family it passed by marriage to the Earl of Powis, who sold it in the 20th century. On top of a wooded hill, south of the village of Brockton, is the large hill-fort of Bury Ditches.

Lydham has an ancient church, probably the bailey-chapel of a very early timbered keep on the mound nearby. This village was the head of the joint manor in ancient times when Lydham and More belonged to "Wild Edric", the Saxon earl who rebelled against the Normans. At the Lea are the remains of a stone marcher castle held long ago by Richard de Lega, deputy Constable at Bishop's Castle; and believed to have been built to guard the Churchstoke valley from the Welsh.

Mainstone, west of Bishop's Castle, was one of those places where trade and truce prevailed on the uneasy border long ago. The Saxons called it Stantune—the enclosure of the Stone. The fair which developed at this international trading post was held up to the early years of last century. The stone—*mæen*—is now inside the church; it weighs about two hundredweight and is generally held to have been a corneweight. It may also have been used for trials of strength. The fine ceiling in the church, part of the original building, is a pointer to the past importance of Mainstone. Offa's Dyke runs near the church.

More was made by Henry I into a "Grand Serjeanty", the Lord of More to be Constable of the King's Host and to assume command of 200 foot-soldiers whenever the King crossed the Welsh border in hostile array. Samuel More resisted the King's men at Hopton Castle; his father Richard built the chapel on the north side of the church; and his son Richard in 1680 gave the rector a library of religious books still kept in the church. Robert More, a celebrated botanist, introduced the larch tree in England. The remains of the medieval castle were excavated in 1959. At Linley Hall (unexpected here, but perhaps connected with early administration of the lead mines), the site of a Roman villa was discovered in the park. Fragments of mosaic pavement were taken up and let into the floor of the church. The Hall (1742) is a handsome Palladian mansion set in beautiful surroundings.

Norbury church has been wholly rebuilt apart from the tower. Standing on a gradually rising slope, the village looks down to the meadows of the West Onny.

The Back of The Long Mynd

Myndtown is today but a farmstead, but the banks of the Saxon settlement are still to be seen; the tiny church has a 12th century font, and two richly-carved wooden screens and other woodwork. There is evidence of a very considerable area of medieval wall-painting, as yet uncovered with the exception of the original 12th century consecration mark. The

hamlet of Asterton contains most of the people. The Longmynd's ancient rocks rise to over 1,500 feet and the ridge is traversed by a medieval portway, which may in fact be much older, to judge by its attendant tumuli.

Ratlinghope has a Youth Hostel and it has always been a resting-place and refuge for travellers in these hills. It has been inhabited since before history; on Ratlinghope Hill behind the present village there are two camps, one of them strong and extensive. There are several peculiar earthworks and numerous barrows, the Longmynd, and a Celtic village-site at the Plowden end of the ridge. The Saxon settlement that followed gave the place its name: the colonist was called Rotel. In 1204 the Abbot of Haughmond built a small chapel at Stitt, and it is believed that its stones were later used to build a wainhouse on the Ratlinghope-Shrewsbury road. There was an Augustinian cell of Wigmore Abbey near the site of the present, probably 17th century parish church, the prior of which seems to have received some sort of protection from Llewellyn the Great. The prince reprimanded some of his chiefs for attacking the priory. On the summit of the Stiperstones ridge is the "Devil's Chair" rock, at 1,730 feet, mentioned in Mary Webb's *Gone to Earth*. Also on this haunted ridge ride the Saxon partisan leader, Wild Edric, and his fairy wife, to warn of national disasters—they were seen in 1914, but not in 1919.

Shelve, beyond the Stiperstones, stands over 1,000 feet high set amongst the hills. The little church, restored out of knowledge, has kept its 13th-century font and its old woodwork. During the 11th and 12th centuries it was sufficiently populous to warrant a Royal Charter to hold a market. The reason for this was the lead mines from which the roofing for several abbeys and churches—and probably that for the castle at Bishop's Castle—was obtained.

Wentnor, down the valley from Ratlinghope, has magnificent views. The church has been partly rebuilt, and there is fine wood-carving; the nave roof is probably 15th-century. It may be hard for an overseas visitor to believe the tale told on a gravestone here about a blizzard disaster at Asterton in the 18th-century when seven people were killed, but, in fact, this is hazardous country in a really hard winter.

The North-West

Brompton and Rhiston is a tiny parish on the Welsh border notable only for a fine length of Offa's famous Dyke and various other earthworks. In the pretty Marrington Valley watered by the River Camlad are some curious defence works of long ago so placed that determinedly occupied, they could hold the pass. Marrington Hall is a fine Tudor building.

Chirbury, with its wealth of "maggie" houses and gracious, highest church, could not look more English, although so near the border. The village is noted for its chained library at the vicarage, given to it in the 17th century by Lord Herbert. The "castle site" is reputed one of the

westernmost efforts of Lady Aethelfled, daughter of Alfred the Great, who, being widowed, spent the latter years of her life supervising the defence of Mercia (her late husband's overlordship) against all comers. At the time of the Domesday survey there were two churches, whose position is unknown. The situation of Chirbury made it vulnerable to Welsh attacks, and the defence point was therefore transferred to Montgomery which was better tactically placed. In the 13th century the Augustinian Canons erected a Priory—probably on the site of one of the Saxon churches. This Priory was burnt down by the Welsh, and later rebuilt. The present church has a fine black and white roof and some unusual arcading, and its nave is that of the Priory. Marton, in the parish, has black and white houses and a great pool which long ago, may have been even larger; since a dugout canoe was discovered in the lake there is some probability that the nearby mound was the piled foundation of a lake-house.

Worthen is one of the largest villages in the district. Between the wars there was a restoration of the ancient church, and among the discoveries were 13 skeletons in a concealed vault; the mystery remains unsolved. The church contains lovely, intricate Elizabethan and Jacobean woodwork. Notable houses in the parish (which has many hamlets) include a moated Pound House, 17th century Hampton Hall on the hill above Brockton; Aston Rogers Hall almost on the district boundary; and Leigh Hall. The Snailbeach lead mine was the largest of several in the area. A local legend (of Mitchell's Fold) is depicted in 20th century carving in the church at Middleton, and a track over Stapeley Hill from that village leads to the original stones.

M. & M. WATKINS

GROCERS and PROVISION DEALERS
FROZEN FOODS
CONFECTIONERY

Agents for Unwins Seeds

SCHOOL ROAD — CLUN

Telephone: Clun 214

FOR QUALITY CLOTHES
AT THE RIGHT PRICE



R. EDWARDS

CLOTHIER, HOSIER AND OUTFITTER



38-40 HIGH STREET

BISHOP'S CASTLE - SALOP

Telephone: 301

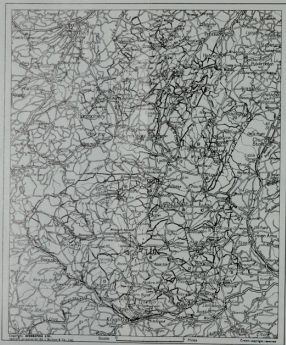


BOYS' BLACK SCHOOL BLAZERS,
FLANNELS, ETC.

THE SHOP FOR VALUE WITH
PERSONAL SERVICE

AGENT FOR MOSS BROS. HIRE SERVICE





Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller at H.M. Stationery Office.

District Information

AREA: 133,469 acres.

POPULATION: 9,880 (Estimated Mid-1969).

RATES IN THE £: 12/4d.

RATEABLE VALUE: £183,691 (1970).

ACCOMMODATION: **Bishop's Castle:** The Castle Hotel, The Old Brick Guest House, The Six Bells, The Crown and Anchor, The Black Lion. **Clun:** The White Horse.

BANKS: Clun and Bishop's Castle.

EARLY CLOSING DAY: Wednesday (except Bucknell-Thursdays).

MARKET DAY: Bishop's Castle—Friday; Clun—Tuesday.

PARKING PLACES: Bishop's Castle: Station Street, Harley Jenkins Street; Clun: High Street, Newport Street.

BUS SERVICES: Local firms serve all the larger villages.

GARAGES: **Bishop's Castle:** A. & J. Herrings Ltd., Station Street and Church Street; E. Lewis, Esq., Union Street Garage. **Clun:** A. H. Wood, Esq., Clunside Garage, Clun; H. G. Edwards, Esq., The Clun Garage, High Street. **Bucknell:** Mevris, B. R. & S. C. Green, Belmont Garage, Bucknell. **Newcastle:** D. A. Lewis, Esq., Newcastle Garage. **Aston-on-Clun:** P. H. Fulford, Esq., Forge Garage, Aston-on-Clun. **Lydbury North:** B. W. Griffiths, Esq., Lydbury Garage, Lydbury North. **Worthen:** T. E. D. Williams, Esq., The Garage, Worthen. **Hope:** T. C. Loeke, Esq., Hope Valley Service Station, Hope.

SCHOOLS: Bishop's Castle County High School; Bedstone School (Private Boarding Schools for Boys).

LIBRARY SERVICE: Shropshire Mobile Library visits the villages regularly.

CLINICS AND HOSPITALS: Stone House, Bishop's Castle; St. Catherine's Hospital, Clun.

NEWSPAPERS: *The Bishop's Castle Advertiser*; *The Shrewsbury Chronicle*; *The Shropshire Journal*; *The Shropshire Star* (Evening).

RURAL DISTRICT OFFICES: The Pines, Bishop's Castle. Tel. Bishop's Castle 233/4.

PETER E. CUTTLER

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER and
CONTRACTOR and
GENERAL IRONMONGER

ESTIMATES FREE

11 HIGH STREET - CLUN
Telephone Clun 377

17

SPAR SELF-SERVICE

R. L. PHILLIPS LTD.

HIGH CLASS GROCERS,
BEERS, WINES and SPIRITS,
COOKED MEATS and FANCY CHEESES.

BISHOP'S CASTLE (411)
AND

CRAVEN ARMS (2324)

ORDERS DELIVERED IN TOWN AND COUNTRY.

7

24

CRESSWELL HOUSE

Antiques

BRIDGE STREET
CLUN

Telephone 374

16

Phone : Little Brampton 256

Mr. & Mrs. J. Watkin

THE HUNDRED HOUSE INN

PURSWLOW

CLUNBURY, CRAVEN ARMS, SHROPSHIRE

Ploughman's Lunches - Hot Snacks - Booked Lunches

Parties Catered For - Weddings - Seating for 90

ACCOMMODATION — Bed and Breakfast, Evening Meal

20

Save the Children fund
has a heart for children everywhere

Patron: H.M. The Queen.

29 Queen Anne's Gate, London S.W. 1

Printed in Great Britain

F2R79/38/101

A. & J. HEMMINGS LTD.

Motor Engineers

Authorised Agents for

MORRIS and WOLSELEY Cars

and

MORRIS Light Vans and Pick Ups

Hire Purchase and Insurance facilities available

New vehicles always in Stock

**CHURCH STREET and STATION STREET
BISHOP'S CASTLE**

Telephone 226

2

S. E. & V. ROGERS

NEWSAGENT AND TOBACCONIST

CONFECTIONERY, MINERALS, ICES,
TOYS, STATIONERY.

KODAK AND ILFORD CAMERAS.
FILMS, DEVELOPING AND PRINTING.

**17, HIGH STREET, CLUN, CRAVEN ARMS,
SHROPSHIRE.**

Telephone : 278

18