

STEDMAN COUSINS



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No.23

Dear Cousins,

Thankfully summer, or rather, the sun has finally arrived and the rain has ceased (well, for now!) just in time for the Reunion.

Unfortunately, due to other commitments, only ten Cousins were able to meet up this year. Nevertheless, we had good weekend. St Leonards church in Bridgnorth was our meeting point on the Saturday. There was a short sharp shower while in the church, fortunately most of us were inside the church, but some got a soaking but quickly dried off.



We found the memorials for Thomas Stedman and his wife Dorothy. However, they were not placed together, possibly having been relocated during the Victorian 'restorations'.

Thomas' reads: *" Here lyeth the body of Thomas Stedman, Gent, late of Bridgnorth who departed this life Feb 29th 1707 adged 82 yrs"* His crest at the bottom.

Dorothy's reads: *"Here lyeth the body of Dorothy the wife of Thomas Stedman who dyed the X of Jvne DCC I aged LXXIII "* at the bottom of her memorial is a skull and crossbones.

1.



Thomas' memorial



Dorothy's memorial

Among other interesting things in the church were these rails at the end of the pews. Apparently for people to put their umbrellas in during the service. (They were obviously used to lots of rain).



Under the command of Colonel Billingsley in 1646, the Royalists tried desperately to defend the town but were forced back into the Castle. Colonel Billingsley was killed during the encounter. His sword was displayed in St Leonards. However, it disappeared when the British Museum reconditioned it and all that remains now is the case on the wall which held it and an inscription beneath.

The town was bustling with people enjoying the market stalls in the streets. We found a nice friendly pub for lunch before exploring further. Unfortunately, the Costume/Toy museum was closed, but there were plenty of other things to enjoy including a short trip on the funicular railway from upper to lower Bridgnorth. It seems that this had been closed for some years until quite recently.



Some of us went in search of the castle remains. Obviously not much remains after the Parliamentarians 'visit' when it was blown up. All that remains are these remnants of the 12th century castle.



Saturday evening was spent having our meal together at The Horse and Jockey. This gave us time to chat about the day's activities and catch up on other news. I apologise that I forgot to take any photos of our meal together – too much chatting.



Knighton clock tower

As the original plan for Sunday had to be changed; we had hoped to go to the Knighton Museum but it has not yet reopened following refurbishment. About half of us went to Rhodds Farm just over the border in Herefordshire, whilst others went to Brampton Bryan to look in at Aardvark Books.



Rhodds Farm, formerly a farm, I believe, but now a beautiful garden set out on different levels. In addition to the lovely garden, looking at its Summer peak, there was a collection of classic cars on display.

4.



The one above left has a “dicky seat” and you can see the steps to use to gain entry to the seat on the left-hand wheel hub. The car on the right fascinated me because it looked to be covered in leather.

I will endeavour to take more photos of everyone next time. Enjoy the rest of the Summer



Best wishes Sandra and Stephen