

## **Shropshire Archaeology and History Newsletter and its predecessors.**

Since 1967 the society now known as the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society has published - under various titles (News Letter, News Sheet, Newsletter) and in varying formats - a twice yearly newsletter for its members.

The first 27 issues of the Shropshire News Letter (1957-64) were published and distributed by Shrewsbury Borough Library on the initiative of Mr. J. L. Hobbs, the borough librarian, who was keenly interested in local history. Mr Hobbs, who edited that News Letter, died in 1964\* and with the issue of no. 28 (in February 1965) Mr. Philip A. Barker took over the editorship, apparently on the Society's behalf. Later that year Mr. (now Dr.) Barrie S. Trinder became editor of the News Letter, and under him nos. 29-31 (1965-6) were said to be edited for the Society and the Shrewsbury Museum. Those early issues of the News Letter (nos. 1-31) were cyclostyled foolscap typescripts.

In issue no. 32 (April 1967) Barrie Trinder announced that the News Letter's 'publication and distribution', which had 'previously been the responsibility of Shrewsbury Borough Library', had been 'taken over' by the Society. Nos. 32-45, edited by Barrie Trinder, appeared in A5 format, and an improved printing quality distinguished them from the earlier cyclostyled issues. The new style News Letter, varying in size between a dozen and three dozen pages, contains notes and short but substantial articles on local history, archaeology, and vernacular architecture as well as notices of museum news, new books, etc. The articles in these, and earlier, News Letters will be found to have been cited in (e.g.) the Victoria History of Shropshire and other academic works. No. 45 (March 1974) of the Shropshire News Letter was the last issue of this first series of newsletters.

In February 1975 the Society issued no. 1 of the Shropshire News Sheet, with more modest aims. Subtitled 'A bulletin of news of archaeological and historic interest\*\*', it at first reverted to being cyclostyled typescript but in A4 (occasionally A5) format. Nos. 1-6 (1975-7) were edited by Barrie Trinder, nos. 7-21 (1978-85) by Carole Ryan, and nos. 22-33 (1986-91) by Penny A. Ward ('Acting Editor'). With the issue of no. 22 the title was changed to Shropshire Archaeological Society Newsletter; it changed again in 1987 (no. 25) to Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society Newsletter to coincide with a change to the Society's name.

With the appearance of no. 34 (1992) the title became, as it has remained, Shropshire Archaeology and History Newsletter. Nos. 34-35 (1992-3) were edited by George Baugh, nos. 36-73 (1993-2012) by Hugh Hannaford, and nos. 74 (Autumn 2012) to the present time (2016) by Shelagh Hampton. The A4 format has continued to the present, but the print quality has been progressively improved - notably from no. 37 (Spring 1994) onwards - from the old cyclostyled-typescript appearance. In 2012, partly in response to some members' observations, the Society decided that a more ambitious treatment of local archaeological and historical news would serve the membership better. The difference between issues 74 and 75 demonstrates the change then made.

For most of the time since the Society has had responsibility for them the Shropshire News Letter, Shropshire News Sheet, Shropshire Archaeological (and Historical) Society Newsletter, and Shropshire Archaeology and History Newsletter have been conceived as being internal circulations to members of the Society - giving them news of the Society's social and other activities as well as such short articles as could not be given space in its more slowly produced Transactions volumes - which, by contrast, appeared as a normally published academic journal.

\* Transactions, vol. 57 (1966), pp. 272-3 (obituary).

\*\* This subtitle last appeared in no. 28 (Spring 1989).