



# **Tewkesbury Museum Supporter's Newsletter**

**AUGUST  
2022**

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The school holidays are now with us and visitor numbers in the museum are rising, especially children. A lot are attracted in by the fairground but are kept in the building by mouse hunts. Demand has been exceeded the supply of badges, with a hurried order having to be placed for more badge components because a box turned out to be bottle openers, not badges. It was a temporary glitch, and we've got over it with a batch of 'banner badges' donated by the Battlefield Society to tide us over.

Not a museum initiative, but worth a mention. The TIC has introduced a banner hunt, with a leaflet showing a selection of town-centre banners to identify. It gives some information about the heraldry involved and is an exercise which could occupy a family for most of an afternoon. There's the chance of a prize; a book rather than a badge, but only one is given per month.

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## **Forestalling and Engrossing**

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Market towns were once the engine-rooms of wealth generation, populated and managed by freemen, or burgesses, the middle classes who were the manufacturers and merchants whose activities, and taxes, kept the upper classes in luxury. At the heart of the town was the market, where locally-made or grown goods were traded under very strict rules.

The charter granted by Queen Elizabeth the first, which acknowledges and confirms earlier charters, but also established the town as a Borough included:

*And also granted, that as the said bailiffs, &c. had for time immemorial holden two markets every week throughout the year, viz. on Wednesday and Saturday, for all kinds of grain and other dead victuals and merchandise;*

*That they should also, upon Wednesday weekly, hold therein a market for cattle, wool, yarn, hemp, linen, &c.*

*And also, that they should hold a fair yearly on Saint Marks Day for ever, and a court of pie poudre excepting and saving to the said queen, her heirs and successors, tolling, Stillage, piccage, fines and ameracements, and all other profits commodities and emoluments whatsoever to such like market or fair granted within the town or borough aforesaid belonging. The same to be levied by the bailiffs to the use of the said queen, heirs and successors, and to be accounted for yearly by them to the auditor of the county of Gloucester.*

Fairs provided a wider range of goods and attracted 'foreigners' both to buy and sell. The court of *pie poudre* (literally 'dusty feet') sat through the fair to deal with disputes and to ensure fair trading, which had a greater emphasis than today. St Mark's Fair was held on 25 April. Later charters added more fairs, until William III's allowed seven.

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Markets were more frequent but still heavily controlled by rules established by the bailiffs. Most of these were to ensure precedence for the town's own merchants and traders and to ensure fair trading. Until the law was repealed in 1822, there were regular 'assizes of bread and ale' where the prices of these goods sold at the market were established and all traders had to sell at that price. There were also strict bans on forestalling (selling goods before the market opened) engrossing (buying up all the stocks of a commodity and controlling the price) and regrating (buying goods in from the market and reselling them elsewhere).

The biggest concerns, though, were about quality, where officials like ale-conners were involved, and short measure. Magna Carta includes a statement about standard measures and over time Boroughs were issued with stamped standard measures by the government which they used to check measures used by traders. Tewkesbury's standard measures were given to the museum when they ceased to be needed and are part of the (currently closed) civic display.

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## **TBC HAZ**

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The Borough Council's High Street Action Zone project is asking for views about what is good and bad about the town centre, using an [Interactive map](#) on the internet as a means of collecting comments. Now's the chance to get it off your chest!

The Borough Council have also launched their [Local Heritage List](#), for which they are inviting suggestions. The list gives some recognition to structures but it does not give the statutory protection which the national listing system gives. At present, it's clear that other towns and villages in the District have given more attention to this than Tewkesbury has, judging by the differences in numbers listed.

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## **Street Banner Book**

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The 'Street Banners of Tewkesbury' book was produced by Tewkesbury Battlefield Society to give interested people information about the banners which fly in the streets every summer. It has proved popular and has to date had three updates and reprints. Family history researchers in particular have been adding detail about lives and relationships which were often sketchy, and sometimes incorrect.

The time has come for a major rewrite, and the Society has been working on this for some months. The extended and updated new edition is now at the printers and will be available in a few weeks. Unfortunately the sales calculations were a little awry and all the remaining stock has been sold. Hence a gap on the sales shelf, but it will be temporary.

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## **200 Years Ago**

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From the Bath and West Chronicle, August 1 1822:

*Ann Layshaw, the notorious female whose iniquitous conduct at Tewkesbury in March last, and the melancholy consequences which ensued, must be fresh in the recollection our readers, was on Wednesday convicted, at Chelmsford Assizes, of uttering a forged Bank of England note, and received sentence of death, which it is expected will be carried into execution. Several other utterings were proved against the prisoner, viz of £5 forged note to Edmund Stokes, the driver of the Epping coach on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan.; of a £1 note, on the 26<sup>th</sup>*

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*March, to Mr. French, the owner the Chelmsford coach; and the attempt to utter a £5 note at the George Inn, Mountnessing, where she was apprehended. The prisoner, who appeared a good deal affected on her trial, set up an alibi in defence, and called a Mr. Edward Torleigh, who swore that the prisoner lodged in his house and had not been out for many months, except once on Christmas eve, when she went abroad for the day, but returned in the evening! The case went the jury upon the credit due to the witnesses for the prosecution, and they found the prisoner guilty.*

Her iniquitous conduct at Tewkesbury had involved posing as a Lady's Maid to gain the confidence of the landlord and landlady of an (unfortunately) unnamed small public house. He was described as an honest and respectable old man. Before long she had the barmaid sacked and assumed her duties. Then the landlady died, and she became indispensable to the landlord. Rumour had it that she was aiming to marry him and inherit his 'considerable property'. As luck had it, a visitor to the town recognised her as Sarah Wardle, a notorious, and married, forger of banknotes who had escaped from Stafford Gaol, where she was awaiting transportation. She slipped away from Tewkesbury before the magistrates apprehended her, but was caught, as above.

The poor, infatuated, landlord was utterly distraught by this turn of events, and the melancholy consequence was his death, at his own hand, a few days after his Ann was revealed as escaped convict Sarah.

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### **Proposed New Gas Works.**

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This report of a Tewkesbury Town Council Urban Sanitary Authority meeting is found in the Worcestershire Chronicle from March 1891. For context, the Mr W Jackson from the Eagle Works and Councillor Jackson, who spoke and voted, are one and the same person.

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The Surveyor produced plans and specifications for proposed new gasworks for Mr. W. Jackson, Eagle Factory. Councillor Rice asked if they were in conformity with the bye laws. Councillor Jackson said they were. A letter was read from Mr. F. Moore protesting against such a nuisance being introduced into the middle of a neighbourhood surrounded by dwelling houses, and contending that such works would be dangerous and injurious to health and vegetation.

Alderman FOWLER asked what their power would be.

The CLERK said they had to decide whether the plans and specifications were in accordance with the bye laws.

The SURVEYOR said they were in order. Councillor JACKSON dealt with the statement that gas works were injurious to health, and pointed out that in a garden adjacent to the present works exquisitely beautiful flowers were grown, and if it was injurious to health it was strange that a medical gentleman in the town had left a house and purchased another adjoining the gas works.

Alderman THOMAS: What Mr. Jackson has said is false as to vegetation.

Councillor B. T. MOORE: There was great complaint when Messrs. Knight and May had their gas works.

Councillor JACKSON: Any objection to private gas works applies to a public one.

Councillor BOUGHTON thought it was their duty to pass the plans if they were in accordance with the bye laws.

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Councillor JONES asked if gas works were being erected by Mr. Howell's garden, as they had not had the plans of those buildings?

The MAYOR: It's just this; we have moral duty to encourage the Industries of the neighbourhood, but to take care no vested interests are endangered thereby. Would you like adjourn it? (Cries of "No, no.")

Councillor JONES proposed the adoption of the plans.

Councillor BOUGHTON seconded.

The MAYOR: I think in a matter so important as this we ought to defer it.

Councillor JACKSON: I think it is not right for you to say this. You have broken the bye laws. Have any other plans brought before this Board been deferred?

The MAYOR: Since I have known the Council we have never had plans of gas works before us.

Councillor HOLDER: I second the Mayor's amendment.

Councillor JACKSON: I say it is very unfair for a gentleman who has buildings partly erected without the plans being produced at this Board to rise and propose this, and it is seconded by a director of the Gas Works.

Councillor HOLDER: It is not the first time Councillor Jackson has sprung a matter upon us; he did so with the teetotal question.

Councillor JACKSON: I say that's untrue it was sprung upon us first by the then Mayor (Alderman Thomas) and the Town Clerk, but it was on the second occasion I brought it forward. Are you prepared to drive industry away? I can move Gloucester and pay my rent there out of the saving I can effect in the gas. You have to deal with this matter on public grounds. It is your duty to foster what is for the benefit of the town. I have it in black and white that your lighting of the town is to be revised, and what does that mean? I am fighting a monopoly, and I ask you to pass the plans and not compel me to lose a month.

The MAYOR: What Mr. Jackson has said I told you before, but whilst we help forward industries we must also see that nothing is an injustice or injury to other people, and I ask you to defer it for a month.

Councillor JACKSON: As to what Mr. Moore writes, it does not touch his premises; at the same time, he has a chemical manure works adjoining.

Councillor HOLDER: That is untrue; it's a gross charge, a falsehood, there is not an ounce manufactured there, but up beyond the Perry Hill.

Councillor JACKSON: I never said it was manufactured, and I ask you to withdraw it?

Councillor HOLDER: I shall not, I believe you did say manufactured now.

After a little further discussion the amendment was put, when five voted for it and seven against. Upon the original proposition being put eight voted for it and none against.

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There is no further record, as far as I know, of a private gas works at the Eagle factory, so perhaps Mr Jackson had second thoughts. What the teetotal question was is a mystery.

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## Past Tewkesbury

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A Tewkesbury guide book from 1902/3 contains a series of sixty full-page advertisements for Tewkesbury businesses, most with photographs of the premises. This contribution, relating to the history of No 5 Barton Street has come from Wendy

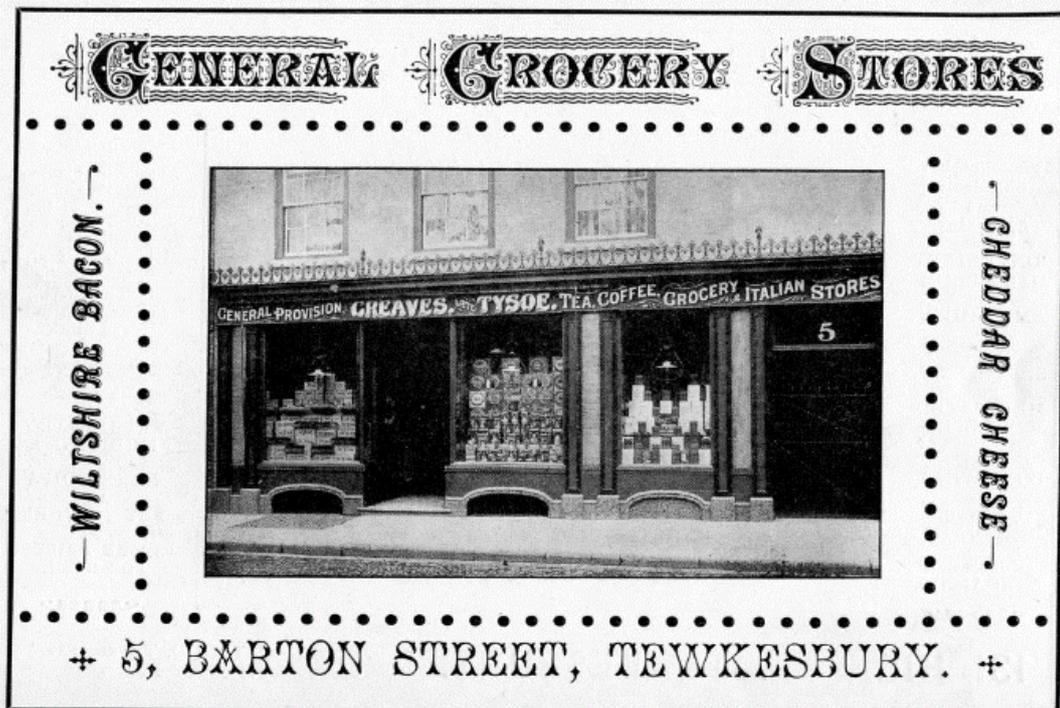
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Described by historian Bryan Linnell as a Grade II listed 18<sup>th</sup> century building with a painted brick front to a 17<sup>th</sup> century timber frame, A Victorian shop front and a wrought iron balustrade over the ground floor

A long range of 17<sup>th</sup> century outbuildings was taken down in about 1970.

In 1808 these premises belonged to Nicholas Player a cooper but by 1832 became the home of Thomas Bowers, who was a Cheese Factor and Grocer, and his wife Sarah.



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Thomas died in 1845 at the early age of 38 leaving a widow and young son, Thomas Holloway Bowers.

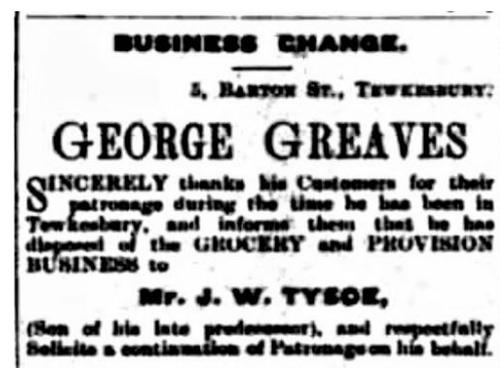
The premises were then taken over by Charles Tysoe a grocer who lived there running the grocery shop until he died in 1891. Congreve Tysoe, his son, ran a grocery business at 19 Church Street and inherited the Barton Street business on his father's death. Congreve himself died in 1900.

It seems the business was sold to or managed by George Greaves at this time. He left the district in 1906, selling 5 Barton Street to Mr John William Tysoe - (son of his late predecessor) and respectfully solicited a continuation of Patronage on his behalf.

In 1910 the premises were described as being a House, Shop and Warehouse owned by Ellen Tysoe (Congreve's widow) and leased to her son John William Tysoe. It had a very large cellar running under the street. Behind the shop was a large three floor warehouse with a smaller two floor one and a stable – the total value being £1000

John William Tysoe was popular for his stock of cheeses and he carried on the grocery business there celebrating it's centenary in 1945 and applying for licence to sell Beer and Cider in 1951 – he finally sold up in 1955

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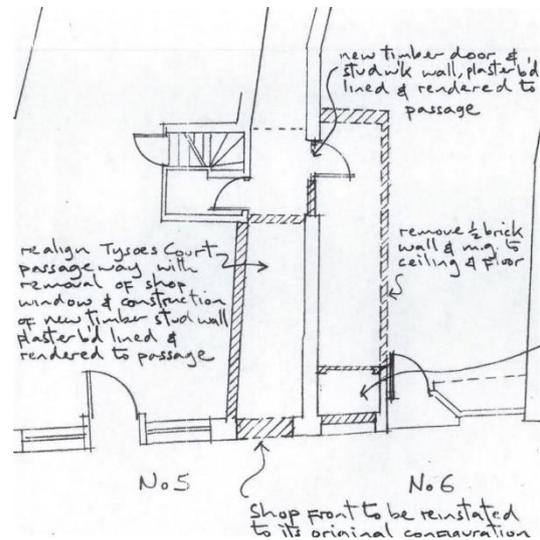
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There then followed a succession of occupiers:

- In 1957 - R.F. Sayers - *Fruit and vegetables nuts tinned fruit etc – cheapest in Town*
- Allen Bros, grocers and provision merchants who had moved from across the road at 2 Church Street – they sold up in 1963
- It then became a Launderette before a Ladies and Children's wear shop called Felicity's in 1971
- In 1995 it was "Collections" selling postcards books and ephemera then part of the tattooing explosion, as "Kinky Angels".

Currently it is being refurbished.

The refurbishment has revealed that Tysoe's Court, on the right of the building, had been altered at some point in the past, with the entrance being moved to No 6, now the computer shop (it is shown in that position in the advertisement above). It has now been moved back to its original position, replacing the old entrance with a window, though the 'Tysoe's Court' legend remains in the fanlight above it.



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## CONTRIBUTIONS

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This newsletter is intended for supporters of the Museum. It is confined to local history, the background to items in the museum collection and things which the editor thinks are interesting. I hope you also find them interesting!

Contributions are very welcome, and will add to the range and variety of topics covered. If you have a few minutes to type up something you're researched, or even to suggest a topic which would be of general interest, please email [info@tewkesburymuseum.org](mailto:info@tewkesburymuseum.org).

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