

# SHROPSHIRE UNUSUAL & QUIRKY

Andrew Beardmore

Shropshire is a county of great geographical contrast, from the plains and meres in the north, to the ancient and stunning Precambrian Shropshire Hills in the centre, all the way down to the remote and beautiful Clun Forest in the south-west. Meanwhile its history is glorious, too: from the hugely important Roman Wroxeter, to the momentous and hideously brutal Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403, to pivotal 18th and 19th century Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge, crucible of the Industrial Revolution.

However, lurking not far beneath the surface is a host of oddities and peculiarities that turn the apparently staid and conventional into something much more intriguing. Therefore, even the *Conventional Shropshire* section is interspersed with the book's idiosyncratic "Quirk Alerts"; like anecdotes about the Shropshire Chief Justice who hanged a builder from one of his chimneys because it wasn't "the finest in Shropshire", or the Royalist Major who took a do-or-die plunge down a steep 200ft escarpment, rather than surrender!

Elsewhere, read about the 19th century Shropshire rake who frequently hunted naked in the depths of winter, fed his 2,000 dogs on steak and champagne, and once set fire to his nightshirt to cure a bout of hiccups! Or find out which Shropshire Lord became convinced that a ghost had invaded his vacuum cleaner, and which orange-haired Shropshire Lady, moved out of her hall into a nearby tree house!

Naturally, though, it is the Quirky Shropshire section where things turn very strange, and where a seemingly random almanac of 100 Shropshire places have their quirkiest facts laid bare: like the village which used to duck "disorderly women" into Marton Pool whilst strapped to a chair, or another where the Lord of the Manor blew himself up attempting to remove tree stumps with dynamite, or another which is home to an archery range... in a chicken shed! Alternatively, how about discovering which Shropshire border village was home to "the oldest Englishman who ever lived", which one was top of the national jam-making leader board in 1943, and which one was home to the vicious Sleep Rouser! If you think you know Shropshire, read this fascinating and profusely illustrated book and think again...



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

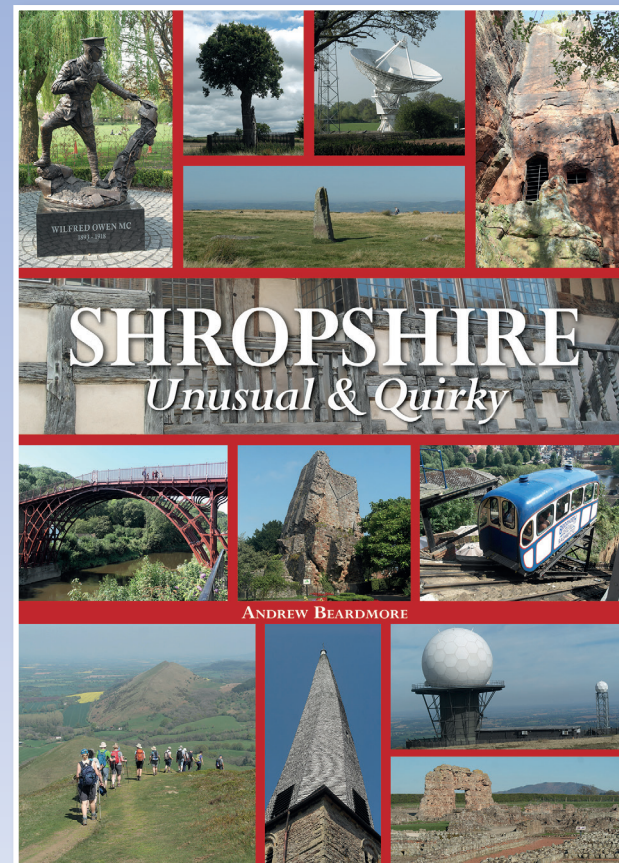
**Andrew Beardmore** spent his formative years nurturing his love of sport, history and geography in his home county of Derbyshire. He also learned to play various musical instruments which led to him playing guitar in his father's dance band, supporting dance band giants like Victor Silvester and Joe Loss when still aged only 17. Nevertheless, it was Computer Science in which he graduated, with a First, before embarking on a 30-year technical career in I.T.

Today, Andrew still works full-time in the I.T. industry, but now as a professional writer. He also writes in his spare time. *Shropshire: Unusual & Quirky* is his eighth book in the Unusual & Quirky series that reunites those historical and geographical loves of his childhood, while 2018 saw him also start to release books on football, including *Barmy Derby*, also published by Halsgrove.

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