Golden Arrow

There were once two Saxon kings who fought a battle to acquire the hill fort that is on top of Earls Hill. One of them shot a golden arrow but it got lost. Anyone finding the golden arrow will be assured of good luck and fortune. This legend was the inspiration for Mary Webb’s book “Golden Arrow”.

The Lyth Hill Gnome  
There used to be a gnome living under Lith Hill but one day he came to surface and spoke with a shepherd. The shepherd invited him to stay with him and the gnome replied that he would stay for 7 days and then decide whether he would stay on the surface or return underground. Now the shepherd had a beautiful sister and the gnome fell in love with her. After 7 days he told the shepherd that he would only stay if he could marry his sister. The gnome was kind and gentle but also old and ugly, yet the sister agreed to marry him. The gnome returned home to collect some of his things and returned loaded down with gold and jewels. They all live happily ever after but still under Lith Hill is the gnome’s home with treasure that the gnome could not carry away.

The history of The Wrekin

A Welsh giant called Gwendol Wrekin ap Shenkin ap Mynyddmawr had a grudge against the people of Shrewsbury and, deciding to do away with them, he dug a large shovelful of earth and set out to dump it in the River Severn. He hoped that this would cause the river to flood the town and drown all the inhabitants. Not far from Shrewsbury, he met a cobbler travelling towards him on the same road. The cobbler was carrying a large bag of worn shoes that he had collected in Shrewsbury and was taking home for repair. The giant asked the cobbler how far it was to Shrewsbury and the cobbler asked the giant why he was going to Shrewsbury. The giant told the cobbler that he planned to kill all the inhabitants of Shrewsbury so the cobbler pointed to the bag of worn shoes that he was carrying. "See those," he said "they were all good when I left Shrewsbury but I have travelled so far that I have worn them all out." The giant decided that Shrewsbury sounded too far away and so he dumped the earth where he stood. He thus created the hill now known as The Wrekin and the scrapings from his boots became The Ercall.

Monster Fish of Bomere

There is a legend about the Monster Fish of Bomere Pool. It was said to be bigger than any fish that ever swam and it wore a sword by its side. No man can ever catch it and once, when it was nearly netted, it drew the sword and cut itself free. The fisherman then made a net of iron links and caught the fish. When it was brought to land, however, it soon freed itself with the wonderful sword and slid back into the water.

Mermaid at Child’s Ercall

Two men were going to work one morning and, as they passed the pool at Child’s Ercall, they saw a mermaid in the water. They were very frightened but the mermaid spoke to them and her voice was so sweet and pleasant that they fell in love with her. She told them that there was a treasure hidden at the bottom of the pond and she would give them as much as they liked if they would come to her in the water and take it out of her hands. So they went in, although it was almost up to their chins, and she dived into the water and brought up a lump of gold almost as big as a man s head. As the men were just going to take it, one of them swore and said “If this isn't a bit of luck”. At once, the mermaid gave a scream and dived down into the pond. They never saw her or the gold again.

**Earthquakes in Shrewsbury**

**2nd April 1990**

Earthquake at Clun (SO3080) at a depth of 14 kilometres, measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale. In Shrewsbury, there was damage to bricks with a number of chimney stacks being broken off from roofs and collapsing into gardens and streets. Several of the worst affected buildings, including shops, were evacuated.

There was also damage to ornamental features such as crosses and gargoyles, built into some of Shrewsbury's medieval churches and Clun Castle.

Residents of the worst affected areas, including parts of Shrewsbury, reported lateral shaking and swaying to the walls of their houses at the height of the tremor, which was preceded and then accompanied by a rumbling noise that gained strength over a period of 15-30 seconds before reaching and sustaining peak intensity during the most severe shaking.

**6th March 1996**

Earthquake recorded 11 kilometres below Harmer Hill (SJ4922), measuring 3.4 on the Richter scale. It was felt in Shrewsbury and lasted for a couple of minutes. It brought some worried residents out of their homes and into the street in their nightclothes but the energy released at the surface was so slight that, at worst, only a few roof tiles toppled and some cracks appeared in walls.