

The Seaxe



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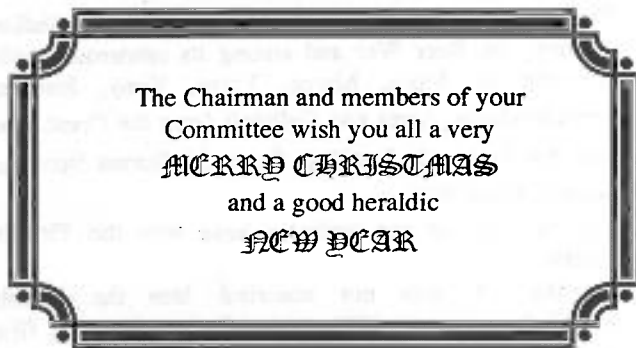
Newsletter of the Middlesex Heraldry Society

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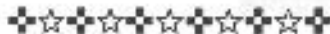
Invitation

Nan says that she and Pete will be delighted to welcome you to the usual "get together" at their home on Saturday, 6th January 1996. Mark your diaries please!



Annual General Meeting held at the **Ruislip Manor Library** on 21st September 1995 - the undermentioned officers and committee members were appointed:-

- Chairman - Nan Taylor
- Vice-chairman - Ron Brown
- Minutes Secretary - Margaret Young
- Hon. Treasurer - Stuart Whitefoot
- Committee - Kay Holmes
- Roger Matthews (Sales Table)
- Don Kirby (Joint Ed. *Seaxe* Newsletter)
- Co-opted - Marjorie Kirby (Joint Ed. *Seaxe* Newsletter)



Subscriptions

The annual subscription to the Society was due in September and remains at £6.00 - if you have not already paid please help us to keep it at this low level by letting your Treasurer have a cheque - and make him a happy man for Christmas!

Editorial

The response to the questionnaire issued with *Seaxe* No.7 was not overwhelming but from those members who did respond we have gleaned some interesting information. It would appear that the present range of topics satisfies most members and the only additional subjects suggested are more foreign heraldry and more historical subjects - so come on you reluctant contributors - we'll find a space for you!

Again most members are in favour of the Military series and most feel that it is immaterial whether the articles appear on the front page or elsewhere.

The majority plump for Old English typeface for headings only whilst *Brushscript* is not well liked - being difficult to read extensively. We have therefore decided to use *Brushscript* and/or **Bold** for highlighting and *Italic* will be used for direct quotes. The illustrations seem to be acceptable both in quantity, quality and size.

We would like to thank the members who have given us their views and hope that *Seaxe* will come up to their expectations in the future.

Valediction

Nan writes - *As you all know Peggy Foster retired recently from her post as long-time Secretary of our Society. On my own behalf and on behalf of the Committee and all our members it is imperative that I thank her for all she has done for us over the years in this arduous and daunting task. The way in which she happily and efficiently performed the job made my own job, as Chairman, very easy. I am glad to say that she intends to remain a member and we look forward to her continued support.*

THANK YOU, PEGGY, FROM US ALL.

Constitution

The amendment to Item 11 of the Constitution of the Middlesex Heraldry Society as set out in *Seaxe* Newsletters No's 5 & 6 was approved by the members at the AGM on 21st September 1995.

Obituary



It is with sadness that we have learned of the death of Henry Alan Walter Richmond Percy, 11th Duke of Northumberland at the very young age of 42. He was our "local" duke and one of a "dynamic dynasty" which included a baron present at the sealing of Magna Carta. He was a godson of the Queen by virtue of the close friendship of his father with the Royal Family. The Duke lived a comparatively quiet life but as the largest landowner in England, devoted most of his time to the administration of the 80,000 acre Percy estates together with the maintenance of Alnwick Castle and Syon House. Henry Percy was a bachelor and is succeeded as the 12th Duke of Northumberland by his brother, Lord Ralph George Algernon Percy, who was born in 1956, is married and has two sons and two daughters. The heir to the title is the 11 year old elder son, George Dominic, who takes the courtesy title of Earl Percy.

Militaria No.6 - The Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Raised in 1674 through the amalgamation of several companies fighting for William of Orange as (Sir Walter) Vane's Regiment. It was known as a Holland regiment - for about eighty years, starting in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, a number of English regiments were employed continuously in the Netherlands but when war broke out between England and Holland those regiments in Dutch service were recalled. It first became part of the establishment of the English army in 1688 as Colonel Babbington's Regiment of



Foot and changed its name with its colonels until 1751 when it became the **6th Regiment of Foot**. In 1782 it became known as the **6th (or the 1st Warwickshire) Regiment of Foot** - the Royal being added in 1832. In 1881 the regiment became known as the **Royal Warwickshire Regiment** and in 1963 its name was changed to the **Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers**.



This independent identity was to be short lived for in 1968 it was one of the regiments which merged to form the **Royal Regiment of Fusiliers**

The regiment took part in the Crimean War, the Indian Mutiny, the Boer War and among its numerous battle honours are Mons, Marne, Ypres, Vimy, Somme, Passchendaele, Arras and Gallipoli from the Great War and the Normandy Landing, Caen and Burma from the second World War.

Six members of the regiment have won the **Victoria Cross**.

As the 6th was not absorbed into the British establishment until 1688 it thereby acquired its first nickname "The Dutch Guards". It was also known as "Guise's Geese" - from 1738 to 1765 the CO was **Colonel John Guise** - a dashing soldier whose men would follow him blindly. The last Colonel of the Regiment was "Monty", **Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein** who joined the regiment from Sandhurst in 1908. **Field-Marshal Viscount Slim** was commissioned into the regiment in 1914.

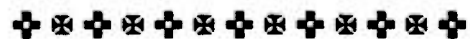
After the Battle of Echalar (Peninsular War) in 1813 the **Duke of Wellington** said, of the performance of the 6th, *It was the most gallant and finest thing I have ever witnessed.*



The regimental motto is the same as the Order of the Garter - *honi soit qui mal y pense.*

The Regimental Headquarters is that of the **Royal Regiment of Fusiliers** at the Tower of London. The recruitment area is as shown for the **Royal Northumberland Fusiliers** (Seaxe No.7) who are

now also part of the **Royal Regiment of Fusiliers**.



Red Hatchments

Pete Taylor mentions that the Tradescant hatchment in the Church of **St. Mary at Lambeth** is the second he has come across recently - the other is in **Breamore Church, Hampshire** to the **Hulse** family. He wonders *why a red background - but why not - who said it had to be black? Did the local artist/handyman belong to the Communist party - or had he run out of black paint?*

Life of Attlee

Kenneth Harris in his recently published biography of **Clement Attlee** writes that *what he liked and admired about him was his seriousness about life but also his complete unseriousness about himself. He was always conscious of how his own perceived shortcomings might cause problems for other people. And his sense of values was egregious. He told me in his eightieth year that being prime minister had been "second best"; if he had got a first at Oxford*



Arms: Azure on a chevron Or between three hearts of the last winged Argent as many lions rampant Sable
(The winged hearts are from the arms of Haileybury College.)

he would have become a don. He was more amused than impressed by becoming prime minister, hence this famous limerick. I discovered it in a letter to his beloved elder brother, Tom, in 1956:

*Few thought he was even a starter
There were many who thought themselves smarter
But he ended PM
CH and OM
an earl and a knight of the garter !*

The Right Honourable Clement Richard Attlee, 1st Earl Attlee, (cr.1955)

Born Putney 3rd January 1883

Died 8th October 1967

PC 1935 - CH 1948 - KG 1956 - OM 1951

Prime Minister 26/07/45 - 25/10/51

Educated - Haileybury Coll. and University Coll., Oxford

Labour MP - Limehouse District of Stepney 1922-50

- Walthamstow West 1950-55

(We are indebted to **Pete Taylor** for the biographical details and for the **Attlee** arms and blazon - Eds.)



British Prime Ministers

This seems to be a suitable point at which to mention the recent production of a book by **Dermot Englefield, et al**, with the title above and published by the D. W. Wilson Company, New York. It is a compilation of biographical and historical information about British Prime Ministers from **Robert Walpole** in 1721 to **John Major**. 47 of the 50 Prime Ministers featured were armigerous and each of their shields of arms has been drawn by **Pete Taylor**. The book is available from the Heraldry Society at £45.



Walpole Again

By a strange coincidence one of your Editors is reading a book loaned to her by Vera Brown and entitled *Reminiscences of Lady Dorothy Nevill* - who was, of course, born a **Walpole**. In it she writes -



Walpole

Chancing on my recent visit to enter the vestry, [at Ilington in Dorset] I found, covered with dust and rubbish, the hatchment of George, Earl of Orford, my eccentric ancestor. On mentioning my discovery to the Vicar, an exceedingly courteous gentlemen, he most kindly assured me that if the assent of the Bishop of the diocese were obtained, I might have it. In due course I contrived to waylay the said Bishop and obtain his consent. Before giving it, however, he inquired whether I was certain the villagers would not miss it; but I assured him that we had all been forgotten long ago, and so now the hatchment hangs in its proper place in the Norfolk church where we have all been married and buried.



Bertie

On referring to *Summers* we find that in Houghton Church there are no fewer than ten hatchments - four to the **Walpole** family and the other six to **Bertie**. Nos.2,3 & 4 are exactly similar and a note in parenthesis states *There is an identical hatchment in the parish church at Wickmere*. At **Wickmere** there are four hatchments - all to **Walpole**.

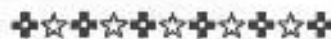
Arms are:- Or on a fess between two chevrons Sable three crosses crosslet of the first (**Walpole**)

Argent three battering rams barways in pale proper headed and garnished Azure (**Bertie**)



Women and Arms

In the September issue of *The Heraldry Gazette* we read that *The English Kings of Arms have decreed that married women who until now have had to adopt the Armorial status of their husbands, can now bear their maiden arms on a shield or banner differenced by a small escutcheon of a suitable tincture.*



Visit to Oxburgh on 8th July, 1995 - from Margaret Young.



Bedingfield

On Saturday, 8th July, we visited Oxburgh Hall in Norfolk, the home of the Bedingfield family for 500 years. The first thing we saw was a very beautiful French knot garden, constructed for the 6th Baronet and his wife, Margaret Paston, in the 1840s. The flowers were yellow, blue and red, which are the colours in the arms of the

Paston-Bedingfield family.

Our first stop was the Chapel which contained a great deal of heraldry. It was built by Pugin in 1836 consequent upon the passing of the Catholic Emancipation Act in 1829. There is a very fine heraldic window by Thomas Willement. In the top of the



Paston

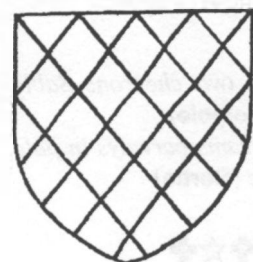
centre light are the arms of Edward IV who was supported in the Wars of the Roses by the Bedingfields. The Royal shield of fleurs de lys and lions is supported by



Edward IV

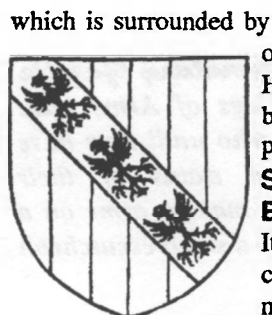
two white lions which were used by King Edward when he was Earl of March. Below is his falcon and fetterlock badge on a standard supported by a red eagle. In the base of the window, between the badge and the eagle, are two Bedingfield shields, firstly Bedingfield impaling Jerningham and Stafford

quarterly - the second either side are the



Tuddenham

shields of Hemenhall and Tuddenham, the latter being the original owner of Oxburgh. The side windows contain shields of Tuddenham marriages and include such names as Beauchamp, Grandison and Tregose.



Grandison

On leaving the Chapel we were taken on a tour of the Hall itself which is surrounded by a moat on which lived a family of swans. A ha-ha separates the Hall from extensive fields grazed by a large herd of cows. The present house was built c1482 by Sir Edmund, the first Bedingfield to live at Oxburgh. It is built of red brick and is classed as a moated, fortified manor house rather than a castle. Above the entrance tower flies the family flag and on two turrets

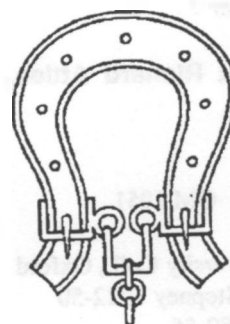


Tregose

there are wrought iron weather vanes - one being the Paston arms with a decorated surround of fleurs de lys - the other Bedingfield with a surround of National Trust acorns. The Trust now own the property although Henry Paston-Bedingfield, who recently became York Herald, and his family live there.

Once inside the Hall we passed through rooms all with a stately dignity and all beautifully decorated. There was heraldry to be seen everywhere together with many fine portraits. We moved through the saloon to the drawing room which had a ceiling crossed by narrow wooden beams making a chequered pattern. Some of the "squares were, in fact, hexagonal and were painted with arms of the family surrounded by delicate floral patterns. Other squares were painted with badges such as the portcullis and fetterlock. The blue wallpaper is patterned with fleurs de lys and roses.

The north dining room is very splendid, with a rich wallpaper of red and gold. There is a lot of elaborate carving introduced by Henry, the 6th Baronet, and his wife, Margaret who were responsible for much of the present interior decoration in the Hall. Lovely carved wooden panels are all round the room; the dado and timber beams across the ceiling are also carved and there

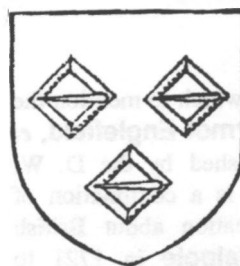


The Fetterlock

is a richly carved fireplace reaching from floor to ceiling. An hexagonal table has a carved edge and the four feet appear to be carriages drawn by gryphons and driven by cherubs. The tile surround bears the arms of Bedingfield on a standard held by an eagle on one side and on the other the arms of Paston held by a gryphon. Above the fireplace is the fetterlock badge of Bedingfield.

As we ascended the staircase there were more portraits, more fine carving and some even more elaborate wallpaper. In the library there was another beautiful fireplace which differed from that in the dining room by its more delicate structure in white with a finely carved wooden overmantle. Along the front are the arms of Boyle, Jerningham, Stafford, Bedingfield, Paston and Howard whilst the tiles round the fire alternate the monogram HB with the falcon and fetterlock.

The two rooms in the tower are known respectively as the King's and the Queen's room from the time in 1497 when Henry VII and his Queen visited Oxburgh accompanied



Jerningham



Stafford

by his mother, **Margaret Beaufort**, Countess of Derby, the **Duke of Buckingham** and other notables. The bed in the King's room has a very beautiful cover embroidered in a design of the falcon and fetterlock. There are roses and portcullis painted on the ceiling and a spiral staircase led to the priest's hole - the

Bedingfelds were strongly Catholic and staunchly Royalist - a combination which caused the family a great deal of suffering. The ceiling in the Queen's room is of wooden beams and over the fireplace are the arms of Paston-Bedingfeld with, on either side, banners portraying other marriages. One entire wall is covered by a tapestry of an ancient map of **Oxfordshire**. There is also an embroidered panel of a country scene by **Mary, Queen of Scots**, showing various animals, birds, frogs, trees and flowers and above it another, bearing her name as a cypher on either side of which there is a crown with a thistle over. The chairs in the room have embroidered seats and backs.

Unfortunately, due to our late arrival, our time ran out and we were unable to visit the Chantry Chapel but it was a very enjoyable day and our thanks go to Nan Taylor for making it possible.

Arms are:-

Ermine an eagle displayed Gules (Bedingfeld)

Argent six fleurs-de-lys Azure three two and one a chief indented Or (Paston)

Lozengy Argent and Gules (Tuddenham)

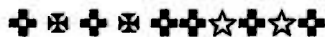
Paly of six Argent and Azure on a bend Gules three eagles displayed Or (Grandison)

Or two bars gemelle and in chief a lion passant Gules (Tregoze)

Argent three buckles Gules (Jerningham)

Or a chevron Gules (Stafford)

[The blazons and most of the shields are taken from that excellent booklet *Heraldry at Orburgh* by Sir Edmund Bedingfeld Bt. to whom and to whose family we offer our sincere thanks for entertaining us in their beautiful home. It enabled us to enjoy the lovely view over the moat from inside the house - turning a memorable day into something very special - Eds]



The Wakefield Mystery Plays

The Wakefield Mystery Plays will take place twice nightly, at 6.30pm and 8.30pm, from Monday, 4th December to Friday, 8th December at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square. Admission is free but there will be a collection on the way out! Angela has asked us to say that everybody is welcome.

Did You Know?

We all know that the British private soldier is called a **Tommy** and on VJ Day we were all reminded by the actor, **Dennis Quilley** of **Kipling's** poem **Tommy**:-
Oh, it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Tommy go away";
But it's "Thank you, Mister Atkins," when the band begins to play.

But do you know from where the name **Tommy** or, more properly, **Thomas Atkins** came? According to **Tim Carew** in the prologue to his book **How The Regiments Got Their Nicknames** - to find the origin of the pseudonym we must go back to July 1843 when the **Duke of Wellington**, now aged 74, was approached by a young staff officer with a letter for the personal attention of the Commander-in-Chief stating that the army authorities were looking for a name to use on a model sheet of the soldiers' accounts to show where the men should sign - assuming they could write! Instead of his usual immediate reply the Duke gazed out to sea searching a packed memory of all the brave deeds he had seen performed in war; he was searching his memory for the man who would best typify the dogged gallantry of Britain's private soldiers - men who swore fearful oaths, indulged in drunkenness at every available opportunity and accepted the lash and enemy fire with equal fortitude. He remembered the bloody battles in Spain, Portugal, India and the Low Countries. In particular he remembered his first command - the **33rd Regiment of Foot** [now the **Duke of Wellington's Regiment**], and how, after one particularly bloody battle the young **Arthur Wellesley**



watched as the stretcher bearers carried the wounded away. Now he stood over the right hand man of the Grenadier Company - a giant of a man, six foot three and twenty years with the colours. He could neither read nor write but was the best shot in the regiment. Clearly he was near death - a sabre slash to the head, a bayonet wound in his chest and bullets through both lungs - but when he saw his commanding officer looking down at him with sadness in his eyes and compassion on his face, he said *It's alright, sir - it's all in a day's work* - and died. **Wellington** emerged from his reverie and turning to the staff officer said *The name is Thomas Atkins.*



Next Meetings

On **Thursday, 21st December** we shall be indulging in **Christmas Festivities** and the 1996 programme begins on **Thursday, 18th January** when **Peggy Foster** speaks to us on **Our Lady of Batersey**.