

# The Seaxe



## Newsletter of the Middlesex Heraldry Society

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### Editorial

It is some years since one of your editors became interested in *Magna Carta* through the display of the shields of the rebel barons in the Main Hall of the Literary Institute in Egham. It was discovered that despite the proximity of Runnymede with its *Magna Carta* monument and the fact that every fifteen years one of the original *Magna Carta* documents is carried in procession on "the meadow called Runnymede", most of the townsfolk of Egham including many members of the local Historical Society appeared to know little or nothing about either *Magna Carta* itself or the dramatis personæ.



Egham UDC

However, about two years ago, the Runnymede Borough Council suddenly realised that they were sitting in the middle of what could become a tourist attraction. (Heathrow is only a few miles away!)

As a result the Egham High Street is now liberally endowed with shields and murals of the barons and their arms together with mosaics of the arms in the pavement, a water feature incorporating the *Magna Carta* and a very imposing statue of King John and Robert FitzWalter, the leader of the Barons' Army. Where main roads cross the borough boundary the signs by the roadside say *Welcome to Runnymede - Magna Carta sealed at Runnymede on 15th June 1215.*

If ever you are travelling along the A30 London - Basingstoke road it is worth a slight diversion just to see what has been done heraldically.

Arms of the Egham Urban District Council (before merging with Chertsey to become the Runnymede Borough Council) - *Vert a representation of Magna Carta with the Great Seal of King John pendent therefrom and in chief King John's crown all proper.*

Crest: *On a wreath Gold and Vert water barry wavy Argent and Azure and thereon a swan swimming in front of a weeping willow tree all proper.*

Motto: *Ut homines liberi sint* (That men may be free)



Runnymede Borough

After the merger of Egham and Chertsey the arms of the Runnymede Borough Council became *Vert a representation of Magna Carta ensigned by a presentation of the crown of King John proper on a chief Argent two barrulets wavy Azure).*

Crest: *On a wreath Or and Vert upon waves in front of a representation of Chertsey Abbey a swan all proper.*

Supporters: *On either side a swan gorged with a crown as in the arms and pendent therefrom by a ribbon Azure a representation of Magna Carta proper.*

Motto: (In English) *In freedom we serve*



### Stormy Weatherbane

In the village of Rolvenden in Kent an 85 years old lady parishioner, **Mrs Enid Ashby**, made Christmas cards,



sold flowers from her garden and organised coffee mornings to raise £800 to replace the weather vane on the village church damaged in the great storm of 1987. **Mrs Ashby's** design of the *Virgin Mary sitting on a donkey which itself is*

*standing on a palm leaf* was dismissed by a local farmer as 'too simplistic and 'wimpish'.' Although originally approved by the parish council another design by a local artist has now been substituted with the result that **Mrs Ashby** is demanding her money back and intends to worship elsewhere. What do our members think?

### 20th Anniversary Issue

**We are still awaiting contributions from the membership.**

**So far we have received - nothing!**

## Hard-up Laird of The Isles Stays on

Under the heading above we received, some time ago, a press cutting from a member whose name, we are ashamed to admit we have lost. It is by **Gillian Bowditch**, Scottish Correspondent, and is printed in the *Home News* section of an unidentified newspaper. It goes on to say that *a former herald of the Queen who owes Lloyd's of London more than £1 million has taken the "for sale" notice off five islands in the Outer Hebrides after islanders asked him to stay on as laird. Robin de la Lanne Mirrlees, who has the French title of Count de Lalanne and is known as the Count, lives in a white-washed croft on Great Bernera. He had offered the five islands for sale to help meet his debts but islanders' fears that they would end up in less sympathetic hands prompted Mr Mirrlees to keep them. Mr Mirrlees, who is vague about the exact extent of his debts, has put up for sale his Austrian Castle, his Paris flat and his French villa. He has already sold a seven-bedroom house in Holland Park, London, a flat in Switzerland and a number of antiques to raise money. He had been asking £500,000 for the five uninhabited islands close to Great Bernera, which is home to about 250 people and which he bought in 1962. Islanders feared that the sale of Flodday, Little Bernera, Berisay, Vacasay and Old Hill would be a precursor to the sale of Great Bernera.*



Richmond  
Herald

*Yesterday Mr Mirrlees, 71, Richmond Herald of Arms from 1962 to 1967, said he had been touched by the kindness of the islanders, who have cooked him meals, knitted jumpers and left gifts of salmon and shellfish. "They are absolute angels. They were very suspicious at first in 1962 but the more I've lived here, the more I like them. It's almost paradise. There is no crime, no unemployment and everyone lives until they are 97 or 98." Mr Mirrlees who also owns a group of Adriatic islands given to him by the late King Peter II of Yugoslavia and a castle in Grampian that has been in his family for 400 years, says he will live the rest of his life on Great Bernera with his two dogs and will attend ceilidhs. "I have to go to charge my batteries once a year in Paris or London but this is a forgotten world which retains its purity and innocence". He said that estimates of £2 million for his Lloyd's losses were exaggerated. "I'm not sure of the figures, they keep changing." But if the sale of his other assets is completed he will be able to retain his Scottish islands. "There is a chain across the whole of Europe when it comes to selling property," he said. Mr Mirrlees, a godson of the 11th Duke of Argyll, has one son, Patrick, who lives in Germany. He is philosophical about his Lloyd's losses and is sorry only that he cannot provide the university scholarships and indoor swimming pool he wanted to give to the island. "My mother's family lost nearly everything in the French Revolution and came back. Now it is up to my son to do the same."*



Rouge Dragon

From *Heralds of Today* by **Hubert Chesshyre** and **Adrian Alles** we learn that **Robin Ian Evelyn Stuart de la Lanne Mirrlees** was **Rouge Dragon Pursuivant of Arms** from 1952 until 1962 when he became

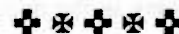
**Richmond Herald** until resigning in 1967. He was born in Paris in 1925, the son of **Duncan William Grinnell-Milne** and educated at Marlborough and Merton College, Oxford where he gained a Master of Arts degree. During WWII he served in India as a captain in the Royal Artillery and as a staff officer at New Delhi. He was an Embassy Attaché in Tokyo in 1947. He assumed his surname by deed poll in 1952 and succeeded to the title of **Count de Lalanne** in 1962. He was ADC to **King Peter II of Yugoslavia**, 1963-70.



Mirrlees

The arms of **Grinnell-Milne** (granted 1953) are:- Or, a cross moline between three molets, a bordure embattled Azure.

The motto is *TAM ARTE QUAM MARTE* (As much by art as strength)



## Scottish Pillar Boxes

**Peggy Foster** refers to the article in *Seaxe* No.9 and asks *why shouldn't the present Queen's crowned cypher be on all the pillar boxes in Scotland?* Also those of any remaining of the reigns of **Queen Victoria**, **Edward VII** and **George V**? It was on her deathbed that that the first **Queen Elizabeth** affirmed the accession of **James VI** to the English throne, then the Act of Union during the reign of **Queen Anne** ratified the position. And, of course, we didn't have pillar boxes until much later anyway. So, our **Queen** ascended the throne in 1952 as **Queen of Great Britain and Ireland**. I shall certainly take a good look at the pillar boxes the next time I am North of the Border!

Perhaps **Peggy** missed the point that the Scots accept the present queen as their **Queen Elizabeth** but not as their second queen of that name - and as the royal "ERII" cypher cannot be just "ER" they will, understandably, not have it on their pillar boxes. But having said all that, there was one **Victoria** only and all the **George's** have been kings of the UK but what about **Edward VII**? He was the first **Edward** to be King of the United Kingdom - so what royal cypher did they use during his reign? Are there any still left about and have our members any views or information?



## The Cliffords of the North

- from a talk given by **Stuart Whitefoot**  
on Thursday, 20th July, 1995.

The **Cliffords** are descended from a member of the Norman family of **PONS** who came over with William the Conqueror. He settled in Herefordshire and founded a dynasty of Marcher lords who controlled a string of castles along the Welsh border. For the purpose of his talk **Stuart** began with **Richard FitzPonce** who was the closest ancestor of the **Cliffords** not bearing that name. His son **Walter (I)** acquired **Clifford Castle** in Herefordshire on the Welsh Marches and assumed the name of **Clifford** - he lived in the period when heraldry was in its infancy and was probably the first **Clifford** to assume the original arms of *Chequy Or and Azure a bendlet Gules* in turn borne by his son and grandson, **Walter (II)** and **(III)**. **Roger**, the brother of **Walter (III)**, according to the armorial rolls of Henry II replaced the red bendlet with a red fess but retained the chequy field so the arms became *Chequy Or and Azure a fess Gules*.

The first northern **Clifford** was **Roger** (1248-82) whose wife, **Elizabeth de Vipont**, daughter of **Robert, Lord and hereditary High Sheriff of Westmorland**, brought to her husband vast estates in the North including both **Appleby** and **Brough** and their castles. The **Cliffords** always marked their inheritance by using the **Vipont** arms with their own *Gules six annulets Or*. **Roger** was drowned when crossing a bridge of boats across the Menai Straits in 1282. His grandson, **Robert of Appleby, 1st Lord of the Honour of Skipton in Craven** (1274-1314) inherited the estates in 1291 - this was most timely as with Wales effectively conquered Edward I had his eyes on the Scottish marches - and **Appleby** was a good base. He fought with Edward against the Scots and was appointed Captain General of the Marches of Scotland (1299). He was at Falkirk and his chequy arms were recorded in the Falkirk Roll whilst his valour is celebrated in the verses of the Siege of Caerlaverock.

In the reign of Edward II **Roger** was acting Marshal of England and, as today, responsible for the coronation arrangements. In 1310 the King granted him the **Honour of Skipton in Craven** with its castle which dominated an easy line of communications across the Pennines. Although, along with forty other English Barons and Knights, he was killed in 1314 at the Battle of Bannockburn he was clearly one of the most powerful lords in the North which became the main **Clifford** sphere of influence for the next three and a half centuries. He had married a **Clare** and one of his daughters had married **Lord Henry Percy** - there were to be a number of **Clifford-Percy** alliances.

It is not clear if the son and heir of **Roger I** ever married but

suffice it to say that on the way to Dunstanburgh Lancaster's party were intercepted by the King's force. Most of their men fled and the leaders were captured - Lancaster was later beheaded, **Roger II's** uncle, **Bartholomew de Badlesmere**, was hanged but **Roger, 2nd Lord of the Honour of Skipton**, (1299-1326) who had been severely wounded in the fight, was allowed to die, which he duly did in 1326 at the age of twenty-seven. His lands had already been seized by Edward.

He was succeeded by his brother, **Robert, 3rd Lord of the Honour of Skipton**, (1305-44) at the beginning of Edward III's reign when his lands were restored to him whilst the castle and manor of **Skipton** were settled on him and his wife, **Isobel** - daughter of **Lord Berkeley**. On the death of **Robert's** great-aunt **Idonea de Vipont**, he inherited the other half of the family estates. One of their sons became **Lord of Thomond** and his arms were those of his father *within a bordure Azure* impaling those of his heiress wife



**Joan**, daughter of **Eaglesfield of Eaglesfield** - *Or three eagles displayed Gules*.

Another son, **Robert, 4th Lord of the Honour of Skipton**, (1329-45) inherited the title at the age of fifteen but died fighting for Edward III in France before he was seventeen and only a short time before the great English victory at Crecy. In 1343 he had married **Euphemia**, daughter of **Randolph, Lord Neville of Middleham**.

He, in turn, was succeeded by another brother, **Roger, 5th Lord of the Honour of Skipton**, (1333-89) who spent much of his life defending the Scottish Border - he was governor of Carlisle Castle and Warden of the Marches in the reign of Richard II. When Lord Scrope fell out with the Cheshire knight, Sir Robert Grosvenor, over their arms - both claimed the right to *Azure a bend Or* - **Roger** was a witness for Scrope who won the day. He married **Maud**, daughter of **Thomas Beauchamp, 3rd Earl of Warwick** - a founder Knight of the Garter and a commander at Crecy.

On his death he was succeeded by **Thomas, 6th Lord of the Honour of Skipton**, who married **Elizabeth**, daughter of **Lord Ros of Hamlake** and died whilst on a crusade with the Teutonic Knights against the pagan Lithuanians. Next in line was his son, **John**, a KG and **7th Lord of the Honour of Skipton** (1388-1422). A soldier who fought with Henry V at Agincourt but was killed in action at the siege of Meaux - his body was brought home and buried at Bolton Abbey. He had married **Elizabeth**, daughter of **Henry, Lord Percy (Hotspur)** son and heir of **Henry, Earl of Northumberland**.



**John's** son **Thomas, 8th Lord of the Honour of Skipton** (1415-1455) was brought up by his mother and grandmother who were determined to make a good match for him and he married **Joan**, daughter of **Lord Dacre** - *Gules three escallops Or*. He took part in the 100 Years War and was an early user of camouflage - dressing his



troops in white during a snowstorm which enabled them to scale the ramparts of Pontoise unseen. He supported the Lancastrian king, Henry VI, but was killed by an arrow when defending St Albans against the Duke of York.

According to Shakespeare, his son, **John**, swore a lifelong vendetta against the House of York. **John** became the **9th Lord of the Honour of Skipton** and was the principal Lancastrian commander at the Battle of Wakefield where he is said to have beheaded the Duke of York's corpse and, after bedecking it with a paper crown, presenting it to Queen Margaret. He is also reputed to have stabbed to death Edmund, the youngest son of the Duke of York. Within a year he was killed at Ferrybridge on the eve of the Battle of Towton when his honours and lands became forfeit and remained so for more than a quarter of a century. He was married to **Margaret**, daughter and heiress of **Sir Henry Bromflete, Baron de Vescy**. She brought to the **Cliffords** the estates of **Aton, Vesci, St John and Bromflete**.

**Henry**, the son of **John**, became the **10th Lord of the Honour of Skipton** and lived for many years not knowing his real identity. His mother found him a safe refuge in a cottage on the fells where he lived as a shepherd boy until the victory of Henry VII at Bosworth Field. So he was over 30 years of age when the attainder was reversed and his estates were returned to him. Nevertheless he continued to live in semi-retirement at **Barden Tower**, near Bolton Abbey but becoming, at the age of sixty, the commander against the Scots at Flodden Field. He died at the age of seventy the greatest age so far reached by any **Clifford** lord.

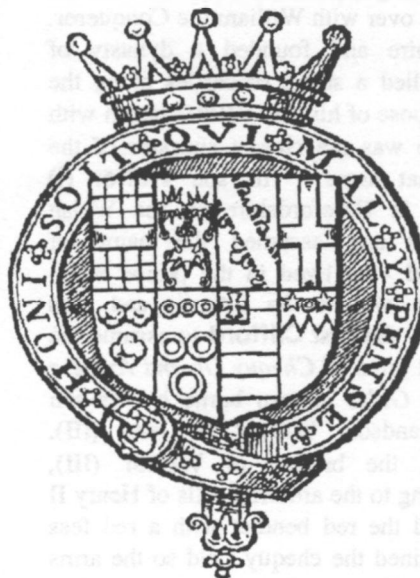
**Henry**, 11th Lord of the Honour of Skipton, was created **Earl of Cumberland** in 1525 and Knight of the Garter in 1532. He had been created Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Henry VIII. He defended **Skipton Castle** when it was attacked during the Pilgrimage of Grace, supported Henry in his efforts to divorce Catherine of Aragon and served as Captain of Carlisle Castle which had become almost a family tradition. **Henry Clifford** married twice - firstly **Margaret**, daughter of **George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury** and secondly **Margaret**, daughter of **Henry Percy, 5th Earl of Northumberland**.

He was succeeded as **2nd Earl of Cumberland** by his son, **Henry**, who was created a Knight of the Bath at the coronation of **Ann Boleyn**. He married **Eleanor**, daughter and co-heiress of **Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk**, and niece of Henry VIII. His second wife was a **Dacre**. His son, **George**, became **13th Lord Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland, Lord Vipont and Baron Vescy**. He was adventurous and took to buccaneering but not very successfully because he had to sell land to finance the operations but he did command a ship at the defeat of the Spanish Armada. He was made a Knight of the Garter in 1592 and Queen Elizabeth was present at his wedding to **Margaret Russell**, daughter of the **2nd Earl of Bedford**. She founded an almshouse for twelve widows and a governess at **Beamsley in Craven** and they are still in existence today.

The **4th Earl** was **Francis**, **Henry's** brother because his sons had predeceased him and his only daughter, **Anne**, could not succeed to the earldom. **Francis** (1559-1641) was born and died at **Skipton Castle** - his wife was **Grisold**, daughter

of **Thomas Hughes of Uxbridge**, widow of **Edward Nevill, Lord Abergavenny**. His son, **Henry**, became **5th Earl of Cumberland**, but survived his father by only two years and, at his death in 1643 the **Earldom of Cumberland** became extinct.

Arms of 1st Earl of Cumberland KG



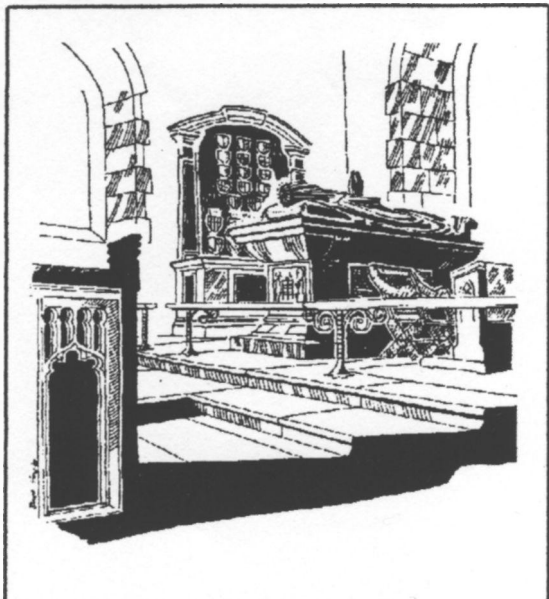
*Clifford - 1 chey Or & Azure a fess Gules (Clifford) 2 Azure three chain shot Or 3. Vert three flintstones Argent (Flynt) 4 Gules 6 annulets Or (Vipont) impaling Bromflete - 1 Sable a bend flory counterflory Or 2 Gules a cross Argent (Vesci) 3 Or three bars Azure on a canton Gules a cross patonce Or 4 Argent on a chief indented Gules an annulet between two molets Or.*

As **Stuart** said "Now we come to the last but by no means the least of the northern **Cliffords**." **Lady Anne** was the only daughter and heiress of **George**, the **3rd Earl** and was born at **Skipton** in 1589. At the age of thirteen she began to attend Court where she records in her writings "I was much loved by the renowned Queen Elizabeth." In 1609 at the age of nineteen she married **Richard Sackville, Earl of Dorset**, who was a man of spirit and talent but also a notorious spendthrift. The marriage was not happy and when her husband died in 1624 she remained unmarried until 1630 when she married **Philip Herbert, Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery**, who was intolerable, choleric and offensive but had a handsome face. He was a patron of literature being one of the "incomparable pair of brethren to whom the first folio of Shakespeare's works is dedicated".

When, in 1643, her father, the **3rd Earl of Cumberland** died she, could not succeed to the earldom but, in accordance with the terms of her father's will, came into possession of the vast **Clifford** estates. **Lady Anne's** mother claimed the barony on behalf of their daughter. The claim was not accepted and she came under severe pressure from her uncle, the **4th Earl**, from James I and even from her first husband to forego her rights. She was staunchly supported by her mother and with great determination refused to give way to coercion. She is reported as saying to the King "I would never agree to do without **Westmorland**". From 1649 she returned to the North and from then on spent her life organising repairs to her castles at **Appleby, Brough, and Brougham** together with **Barden Tower** and **Pendragon Castle**.

**Lady Anne** was also very active in the restoration of the churches and chapels at **Appleby, Skipton, Brougham** itself and the nearby **Ninekirks Chapel** as well as the chapel in **Mallerstang of Outgill**. She also founded an almshouse for the aged women of **Appleby** - a mother and twelve sisters - complete with chapel.

**Lady Anne** died in 1676 (her mother had died in 1616) so neither she nor her mother were to savour her triumph when she posthumously became the **14th Lord of the Honour of Skipton** in 1691. Below is a line drawing of **Lady Anne's** tomb behind that of her mother in **St Lawrence's Church, Appleby**. As **Stuart** said "**Lady Anne's** own tomb makes a fitting endpiece."



## Militaria No.8 - The King's Regiment (Liverpool)



8th Regiment of Foot



The King's Regiment (Liverpool)

Raised in 1685 by **Earl Ferrers** as **The Princess Anne of Denmark's Regiment** it became

**The Queen's Regiment of Foot** in 1702 on **Anne's** accession to the throne. The name changed to **The King's Regiment of Foot** in 1716 after the **Elector of Hanover** had come to the throne as **George I** and in 1751 it was redesignated the **8th (or the King's) Regiment of Foot**. In 1881 there was a further change to **The King's (Liverpool Regiment)** modified in 1921 to **The King's Regiment (Liverpool)**. There were no further changes until 1958 when the Regiment merged with **The Manchester Regiment** to become **The King's Regiment (Manchester and Liverpool)**. In the great amalgamation of 1968 (**Manchester and Liverpool**) was

dropped and the regiment acquired its present title of **The King's Regiment**.



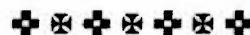
The badge consists of component parts of the badges of both regiments - upon a fleur-de-lys the **White Horse of Hanover** - below, the title **KING'S** in Old English lettering. It is interesting to note that that in deference to **George I** and his successors the grenadiers of every regiment in the English army bore the **White Horse of Hanover** on their caps.

The Regiment took part in the **Indian Mutiny**, the **Defence of Ladysmith**, the **Boer War** and among its numerous battle honours are **Mons, Marne, Ypres, Somme, Delville Wood, Arras, Menin Road, Passchendaele and Cambrai** from the **Great War** and **Normandy Landing, Cassino and Chindits** from the **second World War**. The Regiment took part in the **Korean War**.

Nine members of the Regiment have won the **Victoria Cross**. The Regiment has acquired two nicknames - "**The King's Men**" - for obvious reasons and "**The Leather Hats**" - because British soldiers are reputed to be always losing something, particularly hats, and usually make up the loss by stealing from someone else so, during the **War of American Independence**, the men of the 8th replaced their lost hats by those of the dead Americans which were made of leather.

Most of the **Colours** and books of remembrance are lodged in the **Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool** but there is one **Colour** in **Salisbury Cathedral**. A memorial to men of the Regiment who fell in the colonial wars of the nineteenth century has been erected in **Liverpool** and consists of bronze figures of soldiers wearing the uniforms of 1685, the eighteenth century and the **South African (Boer) War**. The regimental motto is - *Nec apera terrent* (**Nor do Difficulties Deter**).

The Regimental Headquarters is the **TA Centre, Townsend Avenue, Liverpool** and the recruitment area is **Merseyside and Greater Manchester**.



## Good News

We regret that in the last issue of the newsletter we overstated the cost of the proposed visit to **Croydon Palace** in **July**. It is **£4** but **£3** for **Senior Citizens** which includes a

*Guided tour and refreshments*

## Next Meetings

On **Thursday, 18th April**, **J.D. Lee** will be giving us another of his erudite talks, this time on **Thomas Willement: a Monument of Genius, Talent and Research**. Members will recall that **Willement (1786/1871)**, the scholarly designer who was "**Heraldic Artist to King George IV**", was responsible for reviving mediæval style heraldic painted decoration and stained glass.

On **Thursday, 16th May** the postponed return visit of our old friend **Michael Messer** to speak to us on **Heraldry by the Sea**.