

The Seaxe





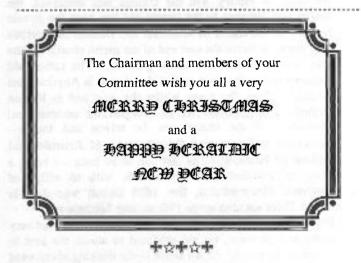
Newsletter of the Middlesex Heraldry Society

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Invitation

Nan says that she and Pete will be pleased to welcome you to the now traditional New Year "get together" at their home on Saturday, 4th January 1997. An important early entry for your new diary!



Cditorial

If any of our readers noticed that there was no No.13 SEAXE only one took us to task over it - and who more appropriate than ex-policeman, Roger Matthews? We are not ashamed to admit that we felt we would be tempting providence if we used the fateful number 13 so early in the life of our newsletter - but we do apologise to those readers, notably Roger, who would rather have had an unbroken sequence for filing purposes!

Congratulations

Thanks to an anonymous benefactor The Norfolk Heraldry Society now has armorial bearings and we send our congratulations to them on achieving this distinction in their 21st Anniversary Year. John Dent, the editor of their newsletter - The Porfolk Standard - with whom we exchange newsletters, is also a country member of our Society. He has kindly agreed that we might copy the article from the September (1996) issue of the Porfolk Standard which gives the full blazon and explanation of the arms.

Society Arms by John Dent

Arms: Per pale indented Or and Sable, between two lions passant guardant a lion counter passant guardant all in pale Ermine.

Crest: On a helm with a wreath Or and Sable issuing from a coronet Or a demi-lion Ermine holding between the paws a mitre Or.

Mantling: Sable doubled Or.
Motto: THE LION IS OUR SHIELD.

Badge: A demi-lion erased Ermine holding in dexter paw an ostrich feather Argent quilled Or and gorged with a coronet Or.



Explanation: The arms are based on the design used on the original issues of the Portolk Standard and the arms granted to the county of Norfolk. The field is that of Norfolk with the palar line indented for difference. The lions are those of the Aorlolk Standard, being ermine as is the bend on the county arms. (Furthermore a rampant lion Ermine was borne by the mediæval family of de Norwich.) The lion is repeated in the crest. The coronet was intended to be an ancient crown representing East Anglia or St. Edmund, King and Martyr (who is arguably still the rightful patron saint of England) and which also appears in the arms of the Heraldry Society. The mitre represents the see of Norwich and seems to be particularly appropriate this year which is the 900th anniversary of the cathedral. The lion and coronet again appear in the badge but this time the lion holds an ostrich feather. The ostrich feather comes from the Norfolk arms and it is felt that it is recognized as a badge throughout the county. The motto refers to our arms and to heraldry being a play on 'shield'; possibly it could also refer obliquely to loyalty through the lions of England. It is a pity that the ancient crown of our application was changed to a coronet but it has in fact been depicted as an ancient coronet; apparently each new Garter has his own idiosyncrasies on blazon and, of course, the heralds have to go along with that. We very much hope that all members will be thrilled by this momentous event in the history of our Society and that they will approve the design of the arms which, except for the coronet and a small change to the badge, is our own. The application for a grant of arms was made in June 1995 so it has taken well over a year to become reality. The Letters Patent should be dated 6th August 1996 - our 21st birthday.

Disit to Arundel Castle by Marjorie Kirby



As mentioned in the last issue of SEAXE we arrived in pouring rain at about noon and made straight for the castle's spacious self service restaurant. Having fortified ourselves against the weather now was the time to inspect the castle itself - a huge edifice built mainly in the 18th and

19th centuries on a site where castles had stood since 1067 when Roger de Montgomery was created Earl of Arundel and given about a third of Sussex by William



Maltravers

the Conqueror for his careful stewardship of Normandy whilst William was busy conquering England. We are all familiar with the names of his descendants who added the arms of Fitzalan, Howard, Warenne, Brotherton, Maltravers and many of their wives to the family pedigree. We

saw evidence of all this in the arms and achievements in stained glass, on fire-places, on newell posts and, most



Hastings

particularly, in the drawing room where the fireplace in Painswick stone displays the complete achievement of the 15th Duke of Norfolk impaling the arms of his first wife, Lady Flora Hastings. whilst the cornice bears painted shields in carved oak of the family quarterings. The

heraldic decorations throughout the castle were sorted out by **Buckler** who, as well as being an architect, was **Surrey**



Surrey Herald

Herald Extraordinary. The building itself is vast with a Barons' Hall, picture gallery and library each over a hundred feet in length and fifty feet high. The dining room -a cosy little place - was converted from a chapel in the 18th century by the 11th Duke who, unlike his ancestors and his descendants, did

not practice the Roman Catholic faith. The fireplace, quite inadequate for its purpose, does however boast some fine Minton heraldic tiles - scant compensation, your editors feel, if you were eating a meal there on such a dreadful day as 29th September!

There were some fine portraits, one in particular of the tragic poet Earl of Surrey, son of the 3rd Duke, who was executed at the end of Henry VIII's reign on a trumped up charge of quartering the Royal arms with his own which was tantamount to treason. Some of the greatest treasures at Arundel relate to Mary Queen of Scots (the 4th Duke was beheaded because of his betrothal to her). We saw her rosary beads, a gold cross, a pearl necklace of River Tay pearls with gold fleurs de lys (bought by the 15th Duke) and a prayer book with 16th century illuminations given by Mary to Lord Herries, in whose house at Terregles she had sought refuge after the battle of Langside in 1568†.

There is a private chapel in the castle built by the 15th Duke and which is said to be one of the most perfect

monuments to the 19th century Catholic revival in England. The columns of polished Purbeck stone were very impressive as was the high vaulted ceiling with stained glass windows in deep colours depicting scenes from the life of Our Lady. We could go on and on - but after the tour of the castle itself and fortified by another visit to the restaurant - this time for tea - we went out through the Barbican, past the Bevis Tower guarded by the Coade stone Fitzalan horse and Howard lion with the straight **Percy**[?] tail at the entry to the tilt-yard and from there into the Fitzalan Chapel. The chapel was founded in 1380 by the 4th Earl of Arundel as a collegiate chapel, however in the reign of Henry VIII the college was dissolved, the chapel was returned to the family and has been the private property of the Earls of Arundel and Dukes of Norfolk ever since. It forms the east end of the parish church but the only access is from the castle grounds. The rather odd outcome is that the west end of the church is Anglican and accessible from the town whilst the east end is Roman Catholic and regarded as an independent ecclesiastical In the chapel are the tablets and tombs structure. memorials to Earls and Countesses of Arundel and Dukes of Norfolk. The last one to be installed being a tablet of polished steel and marble with an effigy of Bernard Marmaduke, the 16th Duke, who died in 1975. There are also seven 19th century hatchments.

By this time your Editors were not only exhausted but very damp and so were, we are ashamed to admit, the first to return to the coach. As we drove home thinking about what a happy day it had been despite the inclement weather we were reminded of Nan's closing remarks in the 20th Anniversary Seaxe - Over the years we have seen lots of heraldry - good and bad - we have visited many places of heraldic interest - but, above all, we have shared a lot of fun and friendship. Amen to that.

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Arms of the **Dukes of Norfolk** are: Quarterly (1) a bend between six cross crosslets fitchée Argent; on the bend an escutcheon Or charged with a demi-lion rampant pierced through the mouth by an arrow within a double tressure flory counterflory of the first (Howard) (2) England in chief a label of three points Argent (Thomas of Brotherton) (3) chequy Or and Azure (Warenne) (4) Gules a lion rampant Or (Mowbray).

Maltravers: Sable fretty Or on a quarter Argent three lions passant in pale Gules.

Hastings: Argent a maunch Sable.

Surrey Herald Extraordinary: Badge - within a representation of a Herald's Collar of SS Argent a tabard chequy Or and Azure (Arms of Warenne, Earls of Surrey)

†The nobleman involved would be William, 5th Scottish Baron Herries of Terregles. Interestingly the title descended through the female side and the 11th Baron, Marmaduke Francis Constable - Maxwell, married to the Hon. Angela Mary Charlotte Fitzalan-Howard, was created UK Baron Herries in 1884. He died in 1908 when the UK barony became extinct but the Scottish barony devolved upon his eldest daughter Gwendolen Mary Fitzalan-Howard, who became the 12th holder of the title. She was married to her cousin, the

15th Duke of Norfolk On her death in 1945 her only son. Bernard Marmaduke, 16th Duke of Norfolk, became also 13th Scottish Baron Herries. On his death



in 1975 the Barony reverted to the female side of his family and his eldest daughter, Anne Elizabeth, became the 14th in line.

The Herries arms are:- Argent three urcheons Sable

[An urcheon or urchin is a hedgehog sometimes called a herisson or herizon establishing the Herries arms as "canting".]



Hatchments from Bill Burgess

This is a short poem I found in The Oxford Book of Local Verse under the sub-title A verse on hatchments and their mottoes; Allerton, Yorkshire

Where'er a hatchment we discern (A truth before ne'er started) The motto makes us surely learn The sex of the departed. If 'tis the husband sleeps, he deems Death's day a felix dies Of unaccustomed quiet dreams, And cries 'In caelo quies!' But if the wife, she from the tomb Wounds Parthian-like post tergum, Hints to her spouse his future doom, And, threatening, cries 'Resurgam!'



whence we copied the specimen hatchments, the only hatchment in the church at Allerton Park is to the 18th Baron Stourton who died in 1846. - Eds]



The Oxford Tube

In the last issue of the Scaxe newsletter we wrote that the Oxford Tube coaches to and from London are named after Oxford colleges but do not depict the arms of that college. We were wrong. On a recent journey to the



Midlands, on the M40 we overtook one of the coaches which bore the name of Emmanuel College and also a line drawing of the arms of the college in black and white (or rather black and maroon) but not hatched. Has anybody seen any others?



In Search of Hatchments by Robin Clayton

I have been asked to write an account of my travels around the counties in search of hatchments - so here goes! It all began as a result of my involvement in the Chenies Report of 1980 and has since developed into a major project of monthly visits, county by county, using Hatchments in Britain by Peter Summers (and, of course, John Titterton) as my guide. Over the past sixteen years have "done" Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, the Isle of Wight, Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Sussex and, in addition, I have visited churches in neighbouring counties.

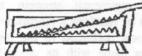
I am now on the point of completing Northamptonshire and regret that I was not on the course at Knuston having toured around some of the lovely churches in that county. One could say Northamptonshire as seen through the eye of the hatchment. I can thoroughly recommend for visits the churches of Ashby St. Ledger, Blatherwick,



East Carlton, Neston, Great Brington, Great Oakley, Lamport, Lowick, Weekley Stanford-on-Avon (with its 17 hatchments involving Cave and Verney (the Barons Braye) and the Otway, and Wyatt-Edgeli families and, whilst we are in the

area let us not forget Boughton House, Deene Park and Rushton Hall. The Braye arms are; Quarterly 1 & 4 Azure fretty Argent (Cave) 2 & 3 Azure on a cross Argent five molets Gules (Verney). The crests are (1) a greyhound courant Sable collared and belled Argent in its mouth a scroll inscribed with the motto Gardez (2) a demi-phoenix in flames looking at the rays of the sun proper. The supporters are two lions guardant Or winged vair and the badge is a hemp breaker.

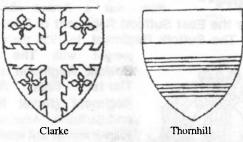
On an earlier visit to the county I had set off to find five



Badge of the Barons Bruye.

hatchments but had ended up with six. The one at Rushton Hall was down in the wine cellar and was for Clara

Capel Clarke-Thornhill. the wife of William Capel Clarke the owner of



Swakeleys House in Ruislip who had taken his wife's name and her arms on their marriage. The arms are Or a cross raguly between four trefoils slipped Vert (Clarke) and Gules two bars gemels and a chief Argent (Thornhill). On this visit I was treated to a grand tour of the house. It had

been built by the **Tresham** family, of Gunpowder Plot fame (or infamy) but has belonged to the RNIB since 1935. Apparently it is used as a primary school for blind children who then have to move about one hundred miles for their secondary education at Candover in Shropshire. There was a splendid hatchment at Upper Benefield and another at Deene Park where I was greeted by the butler and shown the hatchment in the kitchen to where it had been moved from the church. The fourth hatchment, in Polebrook Church, was a bit faded but the fifth, in Barnwell Church, is a little gem - dated 1665 - it is not actually listed as a hatchment but as an armorial board. Also in this church hangs the banner of the late **Duke of Gloucester** who

bore the Royal Arms differenced by a label of three points Argent the centre point charged with a

lion passant guardant Gules and each of the others with a St. George's Cross. Last, but not least was the hatchment at Great Harrowden which, according to Summers should have been in Harrowden Hall - now the clubhouse of the Wellingborough Golf Club. I discovered it quite by chance - restored to its proper place - in the church.

With a bit of luck I should soon finish Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire and be ready to tackle Kent - my fourteenth county!

[Robin has a staggering collection of colour photographs of hatchments carefully displayed and meticulously annotated in a series of albums. I am sure he would be pleased to show them to our members - perhaps at the next MembersMeeting!

Militaria No. 12 - The Suffolk Regiment

The Suffolk Regiment had originated in 1660 as a garrison company for Windsor Castle under the command



of Henry Howard, Duke of Norfolk. In 1685 the company was raised to regimental strength as The Duke of Norfolk's Regiment and like most regiments of the line changed its name with its colonels until 1751 when it was redesignated 12th Regiment of Foot. In 1782 there was a further change to

12th (or the East Suffolk) Regiment of Foot and in 1881 to The Suffolk Regiment. In 1959 the regiment



merged with The Royal
Norfolk Regiment to form
The 1st East Anglian
Regiment (Royal Norfolk
and Suffolk). After only five
years a second and much larger
amalgamation resulted in the
formation of The Royal
Anglian Regiment of which

The 1st East Anglian Regiment became the 1st Battalion.

Full details and badges are in Staxt No.11 of June 1996.

The regiment served at Dettingen and Minden and in the Boer War. Among its many battle honours are Retreat from Mons, Marne, Aisne, Neuve Chapelle, Ypres, Loos, Somme, Delville Wood, Arras, Menin Road, Passchendaele, Cambrai and Landing at Suvla (Gallipoli) from the the Great War and Dunkirk, Normandy Landing, Singapore and Imphal (Burma) from World War II.

The regimental badge was the Castle and Key of Gibraltar within a circle inscribed *Montis Insignia Calpe* (the arms of Gibraltar) all within a wreath and ensigned with the Crown and was awarded to them after the Siege of Gibraltar (1779-83). The motto means the insignia of the Calpe mountain (Calpe, now Gibraltar, one of the two pillars of Hercules, at the western entrance to the Mediterranean, the other being Abyla on the African side).

Two members of the regiment have won the Dictoria Cross - both in the Great War. However, one of the finest episodes in the history of the regiment had nothing to do with war. In 1852, a draft of fifty-five men commanded by a single officer was on board HMS Birkenhead together with some 360 young soldiers and a number of soldiers' families all bound for South Africa. In the middle of one night she struck a rock and foundered. The men stood fast whilst the women and children entered the only three lifeboats that could be launched. Few of the men could swim but none broke ranks to try for a place in one of the boats. There were few survivors and there is a memorial tablet in St. Mary's Church at Bury St. Edmunds commemorating the event.

The 12th Suffolks were the senior of the six Minden Regiments - at the Battle of Minden on 1 August 1759 these six battalions together with three Hanoverian battalions routed the French cavalry. An astonished French general said afterwards I have seen what I never thought to be possible - a single line of infantry break through three lines of cavalry, ranked in order of battle, and tumble them to ruin. The advance to the battlefield led through gardens with roses in full bloom which the soldiers picked and wore in their hats and to this day men of some of the "Minden Regiments" wear roses in their hats on 1 August every year. A rhyme handed down goes:

The men that fought at Minden,
They was rookies in their time So was them that fought at Waterloo!
All the 'ole command, yuss, from Minden to Maiwand,
They was once dam' sweeps like you!"

They were known as the "The Old 12th', 'The Old Dozen' and the 'Silly Suffolks' - the last because the men of Suffolk speak slowly in a dialect barely comprehensible to an outsider and which seems to preclude intelligence.

The Regimental Headquarters is The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk and recruiting covers the now very wide area of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Suffolk.



My Home Town - £0.2 - Ab Origine

by Kay Holmes

Tucked away among various papers at home was a coloured illustration of a shield with a ship and one or two other odd items. Somehow this unrecognised and neglected piece of paper survived several moves and clearing-out sessions -



and is still on hand - after a search! It was some time after I had learnt a little about such things as **Papworth** and other sources of information that it became possible to identify the coat-of-arms - for such it was - as the arms of the **Borough of Wallasey** in the Wirral in the county of Cheshire, where I was born.

The arms were granted in 1910 - the same year that Middlesex received its grant - and are described in all three books of civic arms - Fox-Davies' Book of Public Arms, Scott-Giles' Civic Heraldry of England and

Wales. Briggs' Ctuic and Corporate Heraldry and also in Lewis's Arms of Cheshire. The arms are:- Or on waves of the sea a three-masted ship in full sail proper, on a chief Azure to the dexter three garbs two and one Gold and to the sinister a bugle-horn proper stringed and garnished Gold.

Crest:- On a wreath of the colours a dolphin head downards proper entwining a trident erect Or.

Motto:- Audemus dum cavemus [We dare though we are wary]

Scott-Giles says that the ship represents the maritime



the Earls of Chester; the horn is the Wirral Horn - the symbol of the office of Forest Master. The third Earl of Chester, Randle Meschines formed a forest of the whole of the Wirral and granted the mastership to Alan Sylvester in fee with the manors

Earl of Chester upof Storeton and Puddington to hold by cornage which is a feudal service or rent according to the number of horned cattle - also known as hornegeld. The office passed through the **Storeton** and **Banvile** families



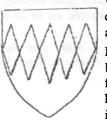
to the **Stanleys** of Stanley in Staffordshire. A branch of the family of **Hooton** in the Wirtal apparently still possessed the horn at the time of the Grant of Arms. **Lewis** states that a further condition of the tenure was that the tenant be required to sound the horn to warn of an enemy raid.

Stanley The arms are:- (a) Meschines (3rd and last Earl of Chester) - Azure three garbs Or. (b) Stanley - Argent on a bend Azure three stags' heads cabossed Or.

{Your editors were very amused by the wryly canting title given by Kay to this short discourse on his home town.]

Peace at Last

Our readers may remember that in our talk on the Percys



we suggested that there was a graphic description of the Battle of Towton, arguably the bloodiest battle fought in England, in The Sun in Splendown by Sharon Penman. Most of our friends, although not heraldists as such, have either been enthused or browbeaten into reporting any item of news or anything that may be of heraldic interest. As a consequence we recently received

an article from the Workshire Post with a direct bearing on this tragic event: They died more than 500 years ago in England's bloodiest battle but only yesterday were their remains buried on consecrated land. "Give peace to these people," the Reverend Christopher Coates asked of God in one of the most unusual services held in the picturesque cemetery of All Saints' Church, Saxton near Tadcaster. In front of him, poised above a freshly dug grave, was a wooden casket containing the bones of twenty four people. All are believed to be soldiers slaughtered in the Battle of Towton, a pivotal clash in the Wars of the Roses and the biggest military engagement recorded on English soil. Their remains were discovered last Friday by builders working on an extension at Towton Hall. Most of the dead men almost certainly spent their last minutes in the bloody heat of a battle which had long been lost. Some of the skulls are smashed and an arrowhead was found embedded in the spine of one of the skeletons.

Mr Coates, vicar of Saxton, Sherburn-in-Elmet and Barkston-Ash said "As far as I know 30,000 men were killed in the battle - these are just a few of them. We think they died from their wounds and were hurriedly buried in consecrated ground." Permission to exhume the bones and rebury them was granted by the Home Office before the ceremony, which was attended by the builders who



discovered the remains. And because they are thought to belong to Lancastrians the casket has been placed beside the tomb of Lord Dacre of Gilliesland, a Lancastrian noble killed in the battle and buried in Saxton cemetery with his horse. The fact that Towton Hall was a

billet for Lancastrian soldiers during the battle is further evidence

that the bones are those of red rose soldiers killed in the conflict. A mass grave for those killed in the battle is also known to be near the building. The deputy county archaeologist for North Yorkshire said "It would seem most logical given the location of the battle. It is also likely that they were Lancastrians because they were the defeated force and towards the end of the day they were driven back to the village and slaughtered."

The Battle of Towton took place on Palm Sunday, 29th March, 1461. About 120,000 men from the houses of Lancaster and York faced each other across Towton Dale in blizzards. Legend has it that the silence before fighting started was such that the only sound to be heard was the

ringing of the church bell at nearby Saxton. Six hours of hand-to-hand combat later the field was awash with Lancastrian blood and the local Cock Beck is reputed to have run red with blood for several days after the battle. One Yorkist officer is said to have counted up to 20,000 Lancastrian corpses.

The arms are:- (a) Percy (Ancient) - Azure five fusils conjoined in fess Or. (b) Dacre - Gules three escallops Or.



Who or What?

A year or two ago your editors were priileged to attend a course on heraldry run by Pete Taylor and ably assisted by Nan. He gave us a blazon and in his inimitable and charming manner said *Draw that!* Recently we asked if we might publish the blazon and he said that he had no objection but that it wasn't his anyway and that he thought it had appeared in an earlier Seaxe magazine. We can't find it but if the real author will stand up we will be pleased to acknowledge his or her initiative. In the meantime, for a bit of Christmas fun, try drawing it yourself - there are no prizes but if one of our heraldic artists would have a go we would be delighted to reproduce the result in the February Seaxe.

The blazon is:- Or, in chief two plates voided Azure each surmounted by a crescent inverted Sable, between, in centre point a torteau and in base a lozenge Gules voided of the fourth, two crescents conjoined fesswise Sable; all within a bordure engrailed Argent.

Don't bother about the tinctures - a black and white line drawing is all our equipment can cope with!



Rorke's Brist Again

The Datly Telegraph in November said that one of the most extraordinary pensioners in the collection of files [recently released for public viewing] is Private John Williams of the South Wales Borderers. He was born in 1857 and received one of the eleven VCs awarded for the defence of Rorke's Drift in 1879. At the age of 57 he volunteered for service in December 1914 but saw no active service in the Grear War and was discharged finally in 1920. He died in 1932 at the age of 75. The picture accompanying this account shows clearly the "sphinx collar



dog" on his walking out uniform yet the caption states that it is of **Private John Williams** in 1879 after receiving the VC. If the information in an earlier letter to the **Dally Telegraph** is correct (Seaxe No.14) - and this is

supported by David Ascoli - the South Wales Borderers did not come into existence until 1881. Somewhere along the

line somebody has got it wrong - but who?



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!



Pext Seaxe

In the next (February) issue of Seaxe we have an account of the Hengrave Hall weekend from Rita Titterton,, more thoughts on vair from John Allen and a potted history of the Gordon Highlanders from Rita & Bill Burgess. Longstanding members will remember that Rita was Personal Assistant to the Military Secretary at the Ministry of Defence - Bill writes one of her bosses was Colonel of The Gordons, now sadly the victims of amalgamation; we were up in Scotland and were guests of the Governor of Edinburgh Castle. We saw the tattoo from his box when they held the farewell to The Gordons - a very moving occasion. Rita did quite a lot of regimental work and got to know them as very much a family.



Next Meetings

Medical Corporate Heraldry by Dr. Malcolm Golin

by Dr. Malcolm Golin on Thursday, 16th January, 1997

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The Regicides Roll

by **Keith Lovell**on **Thursday, 20th February, 1997**

All meetings are held in The Library, Eastcote at 8.00pm

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The Chiltern Heraldry Group

resumes its Winter programme after a break for Christmas and the New Year with a talk on:-

Armorial Glass at Ockwells Manor in the Parish of Bray

by Ann Darracott on Saturday, 15th February, 1997 at the Parish Hall, White Waltham.

The meeting begins at 2.30pm and is followed by a buffet tea.

Visitors welcome.