

# The Seaxe



Robin

## Newsletter of the Middlesex Heraldry Society

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No.27

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April 1999

### Apologia

Apparently the only person to have noticed that **Ron Brown**, of all people, was missing from your Committee was **Ron Brown** himself. Your Editors apologise abjectly and unreservedly for this unforgivable omission but draw some consolation from the fact that he knows we can't do without him!!

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### Swan Lore

**Peggy Foster** has asked for the origin of the swan collar and chain (see *Seaxe* No. 21.) We can only assume that when **Lohengrin**, the **Swan Knight**, arrived in Antwerp in his skiff drawn by a swan this was how the swan was attached to it. Any other ideas? The arms illustrated are those of **High Wycombe** in Buckinghamshire and are blazoned:-



*Sable on a mount Vert a swan Argent with a ducal coronet about its neck and attached thereto a chain both Or.*

**Peggy** goes on to say that the swan is her favourite bird and when out and about she always takes the opportunity to photograph them either alive or heraldic and she mentions a slide she has of a beautifully painted pub sign (but no pub) in the village of Wissett, near Halesworth, in Suffolk. **Peggy** thinks that we will probably enjoy reading the following extracts copied "as is" from one of her own books which the British Library tell her is **The Art of Heraldry** published in 1730 and written by **Richard Brome** an 18th century London cartographer. **Peggy** says it is illustrated in engravers' hatching, and couched in the terms below it seems a far cry from modern heraldic dictionaries and textbooks. It has a certain charming naivety or maybe what our American cousins would call "quaint".

*"Birds are of a more noble bearing than Fish, for that they participate more of the Fire and Air, the noblest of Elements.*



1. *Gules a Swan close Argent by the name of Leigham.* [The illustration is taken from **Brome** but as another example of a swan close we couldn't resist the temptation to scan a horse brass in your Editors' study.]

*All River Fowls have their Tails shorter than other Birds, for the length of the Tail doth hinder their Swimming, Diving, or Running.*



*The Swan is a Bird of great Beauty and Strength, and it is said he useth not his Strength to Prey or Tyrannise over any other fowl, but only to be revenged on such as first offer him Wrong, in which case he often subdueth the Eagle; and it is observed that he never encounters with any other of his own kind but in two Cases, the one if any be a Rival in*

*his Love, or offer to Court his Mate, he will be revenged to Death; the next is, if another do incroach upon his Possession or Place of Haunt, he is never quiet until he has expelled him.*

2. *Azure a Bend engrailed between two cignets Argent gorged with Ducal Coronets with Chains affixed circumflexing over their Bodies and between their Legs Or born (sic) by Sir Charles Pitfield of Hoxton in the Parish of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch in Middlesex, Knight, deceas'd.* [The illustration and that of **Leigham** has been

photocopied by **Peggy** from **Brome's The Art of Heraldry**. Unfortunately the original drawings are not such good reproductions as those in more modern publications but the details can be better seen in the arms of **High Wycombe** at the beginning of this article.]

**Peggy** has continued her research and quotes from Papworth:-

1. **Leigham** listed among other names, omits the *close*, but the entry for 1730 is for **Leigham** alone. Is this another form of differencing or merely a deviation?

2. **Pitfield** - has the *bend engrailed* for **Pitfield** of Seymondsbury, Co. Dorset and there is another entry showing a *bend engrailed between two swans proper* for **Pitfield** 1716.

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### Well-Well!

A former British Attorney General, **Sir Frederick Pollock**, was obliged to apply to the College of Arms for a grant of arms but refused to do so on account of the fees. His reply to the request was:- *You tell the Garter King at Arms with my compliments, that he may go to the Devil Sable in flames Gules with a pitch-fork Ardent [sic] in his backside proper.* Of Scottish descent, **Sir Frederick** obtained a grant from the Lord Lyon at a much lower cost.

From *Hogtown Heraldry* Newsletter of the Toronto Branch of the Heraldry Society of Canada - and copied from the *Heraldry Gazette*.

[Does anyone know what were the arms granted? - Eds]

## My Home Town - No.7

written and illustrated by **Arthur Aird**

LELANT, Co. Cornwall, is not armigerous but the Duchy of Cornwall has very impressive arms\*:- *Sable fifteen bezants, the shield ensigned with the Heir Apparent's coronet.* The Supporters are:- *on either side a Cornish chough proper supporting an ostrich feather Argent penned Or.*



The motto is HOUMOUT used by the Black Prince and translated as "high minded" or "high spirited".

LELANT was very important in the 13th century and the Parish church of ST. UNY built in the 11th century was the mother church to chapelries in ST. IVES and TOWEDNACK. The inhabitants of ST. IVES petitioned His Holiness the Pope to grant a licence for chapels in these villages which were built in 1408 and 1409.

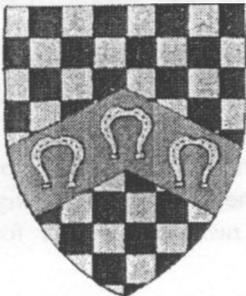
With all the tin and copper mines, shipping and fishing it was a prosperous parish and had, within its borders, no fewer than twelve Manors :-

1. The Manor of Ludgvan Lere - held by Sir Robert Willoughby, 1st Lord Broke. His two daughters married Lord Mountjoy and the Marquess of Winchester, (Paulet) respectively - they were known as the Lords of St. Ives.

2. The Manor of Dinas Ta Porthia - held by the Earl of Radnor (Robartes) and later by Stephens or Stevens of Tregenna. (It is now the Tregenna Castle Hotel.)

3. The Manor of St. Ives and Treloyhon - held by Praed of Trevetho. (Praed St. Paddington was named after him when he was the MP for St. Ives in 1708 and 1710.)

4. The Manor of Porth Ta Prior - held by the Benedictine Priory of Tywardreath but now held by the Duchy of Cornwall.



5. The Manor of Barton of Trenwith - held by King Edward the Confessor but later granted to John de Beaufort, son of John of Gaunt.

6. The Manor of Lelant and Trevetho - held by the family of Bottreaux - passed on to Godolphin and then to Praed, now Mackworth-Praed.



7. The Manor of Trembethow - held by John Hals who built Halsetown, near Zennor for his mine workers.

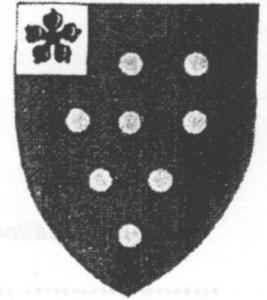
8. The Manor of Amatibria - held by the Noy family and later to Davis Giddy MP.

9. The Manor of Boswednack - held by the Arundell Harris family

10. The Manor of Trereen - also held by the Arundell Harris family.

11. The Manor of Trewey - held by the families of Grove and Cornish.

12. The Manor of Barton of Kerrow and Carnello held by Williams of Treneere.

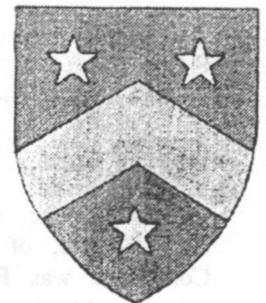


The arms illustrated are:-

**Bottreaux** - *Chevy Or and Gules on a chevron Azure three horseshoes Argent.*

**Hals or Halse** - *Argent a fess between three griffins' heads erased Sable.*

**Praed** - *Azure six molets, 3.2.1, Argent.*



A number of other Lords held lands :-

**Botterell** - *Gules nine bezants, 3.3.2&1, on a canton Argent a cinquefoil Sable.*

**Ceely** - *Azure a chevron between three molets Argent.*

**Glynne** - *Argent three salmon spears Sable.*

**Hext or Hickes** - *Or a tower triple towered between three battleaxes Sable.*

**Knill** - *Gules semeé of cross crosslets Or a lion rampant Or.*

**Matthews** - *Sable a heron Argent holding an eel Vert.*

**Nance** - *Argent a cross couped Sable.*

**Paulet** - *Sable three swords in pile points in base Argent pommels and hilts Or.*

**Pawley** - *Argent a lion rampant Sable on a chief dancetté Sable three molets Argent.*

**Purefoy** - *Sable six armed hands in pairs embracing, 2 & 1, Argent.*

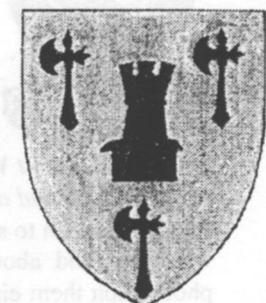
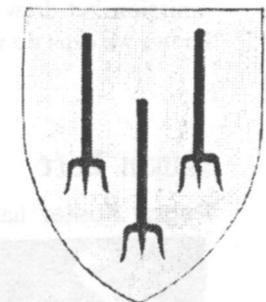
**Stevens (of Tregenna)** - *Per Pale gules and Vert a fess indented Argent gutté de sang between three eagles displayed Or.*

**Thomas or Thoms** - *Paly nebuleé Argent and Azure.*

**Tregenna** - *Or a chevron Azure between three negro's heads proper couped.*

**Tregosse** - *Per pale Azure and Or on a chief Azure a lion passant Or.*

**Trewynnard** - *Argent a fess Azure between three Cornish choughs two in chief pecking and one in base rising.*



**Trenwith** - *Argent on a bend Sable fimbriated Sable three roses Gules.*

**Tyringham** - *Azure a saltire engrailed Argent.*

\* [The arms and blazon were taken from Boutell by your editors.]

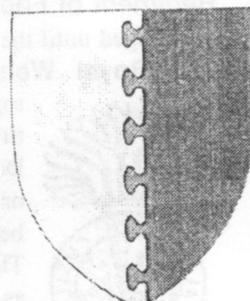
So you see that for such a small village (the population now is only 757) and much smaller in the Middle Ages there were a lot of Lordships around. The family of Bolitho still live in the village but Bolitho's Bank became part of Barclay's Bank many years ago. The Tempest family still live at Trevetho House.

LELANT is now part of St. Ives which achieved Borough status in 1558 and returned two Members of Parliament - T. Randolph and W. Champer and continued to do so until the Reform Bill of 1832 when James Halse was elected. The Parliamentary history of the Borough makes very interesting reading but has little to do with democracy!

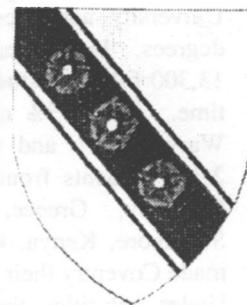
The area was infamous for its smugglers and wreckers - it is said that as St. Uny Church was used for worship only on Sundays it became a smuggler's storehouse and distribution centre for the rest of the week. It is recorded that the Vicar was involved and that the Lord of the Manor received his cut of the profits from the smuggling and wrecking activities. There are three slate ledger stones in the the church dedicated to families Pawley, Praed and Cundy and showing their large families.

It must have been an awful place in which to live because of the number of Saints who came to Cornwall to help the local people change their ways. Far too many to mention them all, just a few - Saints Agnes, Anta, Austell, Blazy, Columb, Erth, Ia, Just, Uny & Winwalloe. Needless to say we are still regarded with suspicion!

We have a thriving Historical Society in the village which has records containing interesting facts about relatives of people living here now.



[We are grateful to Arthur for the tremendous amount of research which has gone into the production of this article - and we are delighted that, even though there is no local heraldry society, Arthur and Gerry have settled in an area of immense historical and heraldic content- Eds]

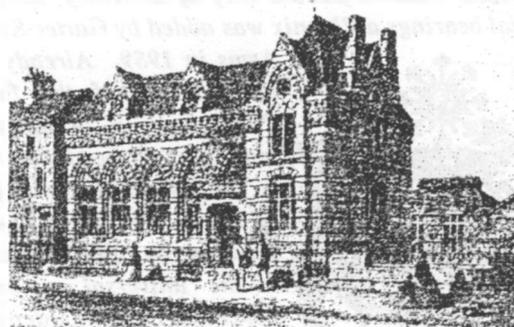


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## Coventry University - a short History

(from information and illustrations in a brochure sent to us by Margaret Backhouse Hon.MSc. of the University)

In the early part of the 19th century Coventry's role as a



Coventry University in the early 19th century

centre for weaving and ribbon manufacturing went into decline. In 1824 import tariffs on silk were reduced which granted a short lived period of buoyancy to those involved in silk manufacturing. However just two years later import tariffs on foreign ribbons were reduced and cheaper imports flooded the market putting the jobs of skilled Coventry workpeople at risk.

It was then that the need to develop design education was identified as a priority for the City. With the foundation of Schools of Design countrywide the importance of such schools was recognised and in 1843 Coventry founded its own School of Design. Thanks to its foundation Coventry University is able to trace its history back for more than a century and a half.

The year 1970 was a major landmark - the amalgamation of the Lanchester College of Technology, Coventry College of Art and Rugby College of Engineering Technology gave birth to a new breed of higher education - the Lanchester Polytechnic. The use of the name Lanchester was in recognition of the renowned engineer-scientist, Frederick Lanchester, the founder of the car company which proudly carried his name, even after take-over by the giant conglomerate BSA (Birmingham Small Arms).

By 1980 all the institution's work was carried out on the current site in the City-centre and its name was therefore changed to Coventry (Lanchester) Polytechnic. In 1987 "Lanchester" was dropped from the title and Coventry Polytechnic was born. The same year the institution adopted a new corporate identity, taking as its symbol, the Phoenix - a symbol of special significance to the City of Coventry.

In June 1992 the Further and Higher Education Act enabled the institution to adopt the title Coventry

University and received the powers to award its own degrees. In the academic year 1997/98 there were over 13,300 full-time students and another 4,700 studying part-time. Over 55% of the students came from Coventry, Warwickshire and the Midlands generally whilst over 2,300 students from such far flung countries as France, Germany, Greece, Spain, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Kenya, Israel, Brunei, Nigeria and Botswana made Coventry their home.

Under sub-titles the booklet issued by the University authorities reads:-

**The Armorial Bearings of Coventry University**  
*For centuries a recognised heraldic device, the Phœnix denotes a continual renewal of life. It is always shown as a demi-eagle arising from flames - a particularly appropriate emblem for the City of Coventry, to whose armorial bearings a Phœnix was added by Garter King of*

*Arms in 1959. Already used as a badge of the former Polytechnic, it occupies the main part of the shield which is the essential centre-piece of any coat of arms. The sun shedding its light from above is the universal symbol of education and enlightenment, and completes the basic imagery of the University. To ensure clear outlines, in heraldry the metals, gold (or) and silver (argent), are always contrasted with a colour, in this case blue (azure).*

*The supporters of the shield also indicate local associations: the white horse of Lady Godiva and the bear which traditionally holds the ragged staff in the arms of Warwickshire - though here freed of its muzzle and chain. Each holds a tilting spear alluding to that in the arms of William Shakespeare, and the pennons flying from these spears indicate by the book and cog wheel the twin spheres of academic and technological learning. Principally used to flank the arms of peers of the realm, supporters are also granted to eminent corporate bodies such as the University, when the closed steel helm is used to surmount the shield, distinguishing the arms from those of a peer, whose helm would be barred with gold. Fixed to the helm is the crest, sitting within the twisted wreath of the principal metal and colour of the arms, from which flows out the decorative mantling of the same tincture.*

*The crest (not to be confused with the 'arms' on the shield) is an important survival of the mediæval tournament: an additional mark of recognition raised above the clash of battle. The Coventry University crest has, at its centre, the terrestrial globe indicative of the University's international standing. Finally, the motto 'Arte et Industria' sums up these activities.*

[The motto translates as 'By art and industry' - Eds]

### **The Phœnix Logo**

*The Phœnix was a mythical bird with splendid plumage, reputed to live in the Arabian desert. Fabled to be the only one of its kind, it lived for five or six centuries, after which it burned itself to death on a funeral pyre of*



*aromatic twigs ignited by the sun and fanned by its own wings. It rose from the ashes with renewed youth to live through another cycle.*

*Such a symbol is a fitting reminder of the way in which the City of Coventry rebuilt itself after*

*suffering devastation during the Second World War. It is a symbol with which Coventry University is proud to be associated and to have adopted as its own.*

The descriptions and blazoning of the arms and logo are copied verbatim from the booklet and are not the result of the limited heraldic knowledge of your Editors!]

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Militaria No. 24 -

## **The Royal Welch Fusiliers**

Raised in 1689 as **Lord Herbert of Cherbury's Regiment of Foot** thereafter changing its name with its colonels until 1702 when it became the **Welsh Regiment of Fuzileers** In 1713 its title changed to **The Royal Welsh Regiment of Fuzileers** and in 1714 to **The Prince of Wales's Own Royal Welsh Regiment of Fuzileers**. Further changes took place in 1727 when the Regiment became the **Royal Welch Fusiliers** and in 1751 when it became the **23rd (Royal Welch Fusiliers) Regiment of Foot**. For the next 130 years the title was unchanged until the army reforms of 1881 when it became **The Royal Welch Fusiliers** until 1920 when the



regiment acquired the revised and current title of **The Royal Welch Fusiliers**. Despite so many changes in its title it is one of the few regiments that has never been amalgamated.

The badge of the regiment is described as - *A grenade. On the base, within a circle, the Plume and motto of the Prince of Wales.*

The motto is - *Nec aspera terrent* (Nor do difficulties deter).

The Regiment fought at Blenheim, Malplaquet, Oudenarde & Ramillies in the War of the Spanish Succession - after the end of the Seven Years War in 1763 it became one of the six Minden Regiments whose exploits were fully described in Seaxe No.15 of December 1996 but they are the only one of the six not to wear roses in their caps on Minden Day. The Peninsular War added Badajos, Corunna, Nivelle, Orthes, Salamanca, Toulouse & Vittoria to the Regiment's Battle Honours and, of course, they fought at Waterloo. The Crimean War gave them Alma, Inkerman & Sevastapol whilst they were the only regiment used to put down the Boxer Rebellion in 1900. The Regiment also took part in the Boer War (Relief of Ladysmith). Among its many other battle honours are Mons, Ypres, Somme, Arras, Delville Wood, Menin Road, Passchendale, Cambrai, Bapaume, Gallipoli (Landing at Suvla), Gaza (Palestine) and Kut al Amara (Mesopotamia) in the Great War. In WWII the regiment earned the battle

honours St. Omer-La Bassée, Caen, Falaise and Kohima (Burma).

The Victoria Cross has been won by fourteen members of the regiment - four in the Crimean War, two in the Indian Mutiny and eight in the Great War. The first award was to **Sergeant L. O'Connor** at Alma on 20th September 1854 and at Sevastopol on 8th September 1855; he is generally accepted as being the first soldier to perform an act rewarded with the award of the VC - but also at Alma on 20th September 1854 **Captain E. W. D. Bell** also won a VC. What is probably more remarkable, particularly in that day and age, was that **Sergeant O'Connor** ended his army career as **Major-General Sir Luke O'Connor KCB** who lived to see the outbreak of the Great War whilst **Captain Bell** retired as a Major-General but did not live to see the millenium.

The nicknames - The Red Dragons - so called because the red dragon national emblem of Wales forms part of the regimental badge. The red dragon was the emblem under which **Cadwallader**, Prince of All Wales, led the Welsh to victory. The Nanny Goats and The Royal Goats - on every ceremonial occasion a goat, the regimental mascot, is led at the head of the drums by the Goat Major. In 1844 **Queen Victoria** presented a goat to the 23rd and its successors have always come from the Royal herd at Windsor. **HM The Queen** is Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment.

Officers and men wear the 'flash' - a bunch of black silk ribbons with long ends attached to the back of the tunic collar. In 1808 the wearing of the "queue" or short pigtail was discontinued in the British army but the **Royal Welch Fusiliers** were in Nova Scotia at the time and retained the ribbons in imitation of the queue bag. In 1834 the CO, **Colonel Harrison**, applied for and received personal permission from **William IV** for the regiment to wear the 'flash' permanently and they have done so ever since. A leek is worn in the headdress on 1st March, St. David's Day, every year.

The Regimental Headquarters is Hightown Barracks, Wrexham, Clwyd, Wales but the Regimental Museum is housed in the Round Tower, Caernarfon Castle, Gwynedd, Wales.

The recruitment area covers the whole of North Wales.

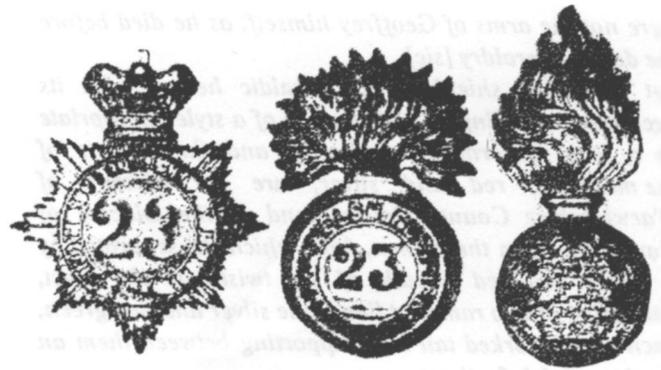
The badges are described as follows:-

**The Albert Shako - 1844-55** - A gilt or brass fused grenade with the Prince of Wales's plumes, coronet and motto in silver or white metal on the ball.

**The Quilted Shako - 1861-69** - On the star a voided Garter with wire mesh behind the centre and Garter. In the centre the numerals 23.

**The Glengarry Badge of the Pre Territorial Era - 1874-81** - A low domed fused grenade. On the ball a strap inscribed *Royal Welch Fusiliers*. In the centre the numerals 23 in cut out form. All in brass.

**The Grenade Badge- on racoon-skin cap - from 1865** - The Prince of Wales's plumes, coronet and motto. The coronet in gilt, remainder in silver.



### Caernarvonshire Volunteer Regiment - 1914-19 -

(later 3rd Volunteer Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers). - A pear shaped scroll inscribed *Caernarvonshire Volunteer Regiment VTC* and surmounted by an Imperial crown. Within this the arms of *Caernarvon Borough Council* - a shield bearing the arms of England with a label of five points and above the shield an eagle - a combination of the insignia of the English Princes of Wales and Owain Gwynedd, native Prince of North Wales.



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### The Arms of Kenilworth

Through the good offices of our great friend **Dr Tom Backhouse**, we have received an article from the **Kenilworth Society** detailing the design work leading to the granting of arms to the **Kenilworth UDC**. We quote verbatim and apologise for the non-heraldic terms used - *Kenilworth Castle and its history are symbolised in the Armorial bearings which were granted to Kenilworth Urban District Council. The patent granting the bearings was presented to the Chairman of the Council, Councillor E T Evans, By Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Warwickshire, at a ceremony in the Castle Gatehouse on 6th May 1966. The design was made available through the Kenilworth Society by one of its members, Mr J C Large, whose friend Mr C J Smith,\* a member of the Heraldry Society, made contact with the well known Heraldic Designer, Mr H Ellis Tomlinson, M.A., F.H.S., whose design we now know as the KENILWORTH COAT OF ARMS.*

*The main feature of the design is a red castle with three towers and a gateway set on a green mount. This is a conventional heraldic castle which symbolises Kenilworth Castle, but is not intended to represent it in a pictorial sense, though its colour indicates the local red sandstone of which the castle is built. The castle and mount are on a silver shield with a blue chief or upper portion, on which are two gold mullets, or spur rowels, pierced with red. These arms were borne by the Clinton family, collateral descendants of Geoffrey de Clinton, the founder of Kenilworth Castle and Priory. They*



were not the arms of Geoffrey himself, as he died before the days of heraldry [sic].

Set upon the shield is the heraldic helmet with its decorative mantling. The helmet is of a style appropriate to a local government authority, and the colours of the mantling, red and silver, are the colours of Warwickshire County Council and of the Diocese of Coventry. upon the helmet, from which it is separated by a silver and red wreath of six twists, is the crest, consisting of two rampant lions, one silver and one green, each with a forked tail and supporting between them an ermine ostrich feather.

The crest represents the three most famous holders of Kenilworth Castle. The silver lion is from the arms of Simon de Montfort, and the green lion is from the arms Queen Elizabeth's favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, while the ostrich feather was a badge of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. Each lion wears round the neck a gold coronet,



from which hangs a gold escallop shell, symbols which represent the families of Hyde and Villiers, successively Earls of Clarendon who held the castle from 1665 until 1937.



The cross, the sign of faith.

The castle was purchased from the Earl of Clarendon by Sir John Siddeley, Lord of the manor of Kenilworth, later created Baron Kenilworth. A castle and blue chief both appear on the arms of Lord Kenilworth, who is thus suitably commemorated in the arms of the Urban District Council. The motto "Cives Oppidi Fundamenta" was suggested by a local schoolgirl, Jennifer Beavon, and was chosen from among 149 mottoes submitted to the Council after suggestions had been asked for. Translated it means "Citizens are the foundation of a town".



To have striven.

[We rather favour Pine's translation which is "The citizens are the foundations of the town". Eds]

Arms illustrated are:-

**De Montfort** - Gules a lion rampant queue fourchée Argent

**Clarendon (Villiers)** - Argent a cross Gules charged with five escallops Or.

**Kenilworth (Siddeley)** - Per chevron Or and Azure in chief two goats' heads erased and in base a triangular castle with three towers on a chief of the second two wings conjoined in fesse all counterchanged.

\*We haven't asked him yet - but we believe him to be friend and member "Sedge" Smith - Eds.

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## Corrigendum

Roger Matthews is quite right and the reference to Rorke's Drift in *SEAXE* No.26 should, of course, have been to the film *Zulu*. But the arms of Thomas Cranmer were copied from **Coats of Arms of the Conqueror's Companions** and the blazon is exactly as described in that booklet published by Achievements Ltd. of Northgate, Canterbury and as drawn by E. Arthur Cunningham.

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## Things to Come

The next "Home Town" leaves these shores and is Braunschweig (Brunswick) and comes, written in excellent English, from our good friend Dr. Arnold Rabbow. He says he is very proud of the fact that he is probably the only German with a full set of Seaxes! He has sent us a copy of his own book **Braunschweigesches Wappenbuch** which contains much information about Brunswick and the surrounding territories with an ample provision of splendid shields in full colour. His command of our language makes us feel very ashamed, not only of ourselves, but of the vast majority of the British people most of whom neither speak nor write any other language than their own.

The article **Ron Edwards** has promised us on the **Worshipful Company of Mercers** has been delayed until June and, if we can sort out the arms of **Henry VIII**, **Leslie Pierson** has sent us a very interesting article on the **King's Arms at Amersham**.

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## Nelson and the Womenfolk

**Leslie Pierson** has very kindly sent us the address of the Hon. Secretary of the Nelson Society with whom we have been in touch. We hope that, in the June issue of *SEAXE* we shall have an answer to the question posed by **Cynthia Lydiard Cannings**.

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## Did You Know?

A *croze* or *royne* which appears in the arms of the **Worshipful Company of Coopers** is the implement used to make grooves in the ends of the staves to receive the heads or covers for the casks. The term *royne* derives from the French *rogner* = to cut.



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## Meetings

As a result of a questionnaire circulated to members your Committee has decided that meetings will continue to be held on the **third Thursday** of each month with the exceptions of **August** and **January** when no meetings will take place.

## The Most Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick

Chris Ryder and Sarah Toyne in an article in the **Sunday Times** suggest that the British and Irish



governments are considering creating a joint knighthood for heroes from any part of Ireland. It will be based on the 18th century *Order of Saint Patrick* and is expected to be announced during the Queen's first state visit to Dublin early next year.

Candidates could be listed by a cross-border council and the honour would be bestowed on behalf of the British monarch and the president of the Irish republic. The revived order will be in two ranks - members and knights - but it is uncertain whether knights will be addressed as "sir".

Possible knights could include include political leaders such as **David Trimble** and **John Hume** and the Nobel prize-winning poet, **Seamus Heaney**. Another contender is the Ferrari racing driver, **Eddie Irvine**. Plans to re-create the order are at the "discreet consultation" stage say insiders and believe that both **Buckingham Palace** and **Aras an Uachtarain**, the presidential palace, would like to see this go through, provided it is run on an all Ireland basis and the awards are made through an independent body.

The order was created in 1783 by George III and its sky blue robes and insignia were an exaggerated version of the robes of the *Friends of Saint Patrick*, a religious order set up after the saint was said to have driven the snakes out of Ireland in the 5th century. Although the order was conceived as a national honour for the leaders of Ireland, to match the **Garter of England** and the **Thistle of Scotland**, its reputation declined as it was routinely used as a royal bribe to win influence in Dublin.

It was abandoned in the South in 1922, when Ireland was partitioned, but Britain made awards for a few more years. The last surviving member was the **Duke of Gloucester**, who was appointed a knight as a sop to **Belfast Unionists** in 1930. He died in 1974. Creating the Republic's first honours system as well as Britain's first new order since the *Most Excellent Order of the British Empire* and the order of the *Companions of Honour* were created in 1917 will not please everybody and will obviously produce both advocates and opponents.



## Change of Address

**Rita Burgess** has found the Assistant Wardenship of **New Alresford Place** a little more exacting than expected and has reluctantly resigned from the post - she and **Bill** move back to **Wivenhoe** in April. Their address reverts to:-

**Bill & Rita Burgess, 32, Lammas Way, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex. CO7 9HD Tel. 01206 823790**  
The course they were arranging will still take place and we print below the main features shown on the handbill -

'A Place to Be'

**OLD ALRESFORD PLACE**  
Winchester Diocese Retreat and Conference Centre

**LITURGICAL HERALDRY**  
Saints and Beasts as heraldic symbols

*Leaders:*

**Keith Lovell and Stephen Slater**  
*The Heraldry Society*

**Monday 4 - Wednesday 6 October 1999**  
Details from The Warden,  
Old Alresford Place,  
Alresford, SO24 9DH Tel:01962 732518



**Next Meetings**

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***The Marshalling of Arms  
of Medieval England***  
by Adrian Ailes, FSA, FHS.  
on Thursday, 20th May 1999

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***The Heraldry of Downside Abbey***  
by Michael Messer  
on Thursday, 17th June 1999  
*This is a talk which should not be missed but  
if you are visiting Downside on 21st August  
it is essential you should be here!*

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*All meetings are held in the Library,  
Ruislip Manor at 8.00pm*