



### Editorial

This is the last **SEAXE** before the **Annual General Meeting** in **September**. At the monthly meeting on **Thursday, 13th April** it was decided that, in future years there would be no meeting in **January, June, July** or **August** thereby reducing the annual number of meetings to eight.

Once again your Editors apologise for the preponderance of militaria but in the absence of other material from our members we must collect material from wherever we can - it's up to you!



### Royal Air Force Heraldry in Middlesex

by Roland Symons

[When **Roland** came to speak to the **Middlesex Heraldry Society** on **Royal Air Force Badges** your Editors asked him if he would write an article for **SEAXE**. He agreed but suggested a series based on the badges - a subject on which he is an expert as those of us who heard his talk can appreciate. So here is the first of which we hope there will be many.]

Official RAF badges originated in 1936 when the then **Chester Herald, John Heaton-Armstrong**, was appointed to be **Inspector of RAF Badges** and **Heraldic Adviser to the Air Council**. Since that time more than 1100 badges have been approved. 353 Flying Squadrons have badges, which have also been given to RAF Stations, Commands, Groups and a host of other Units. Today, if a Unit has been in existence for five years, has a life expectancy of at least a further five years and has 150 personnel, it can apply to its Command for a badge. Some four new badges are approved every year but Units can also take over a badge used by an

older Unit by just bringing the nameplate up-to-date, or can use a Command badge with the Unit's own nameplate.

This article is about the badges of **RAF Stations** in **Middlesex**. Aircraft were based at **Feltham, Hendon, Heston, Hounslow, Northolt** and **Uxbridge**. Of these only **Hendon, Northolt** and **Uxbridge** have badges.

**RAF Uxbridge** was the first of



these stations to acquire its badge. RAF badges are given a blazon, but without colours:- *In front of a bugle a pace-stick proper*. The badge was approved in April 1953 and reflects the fact that **Uxbridge** was the home of **No.1 RAF Depot**,

The pace stick is the drill sergeants' symbol and is indicative of the basic training given to many hundreds of recruits there. The bugle is a reminder that the **Central Band of the RAF** was stationed at the base. [The motto *Juventum Formanus* is translated as *We form youth* and is a claim that here is the birthplace and cradle of the RAF.]



**RAF Northolt** was the next to have its badge approved in April 1962. *A sword Argent pommelled Or point upwards the blade surmounted of a wheel Azure rimmed and nailed Or*. The sword is taken from the badge of **Fighter Command** (**Northolt** was part of **11 Group** during World War II), whilst the wheel represents the air transport role carried out at the Station. [The motto *Aut Portare Aut pugnare Prompti* means *Ready to carry or fight*.]

**RAF Hendon** was, ironically, the last Station to have its badge approved and then not until 1986, less than a year before the Station was closed. *A star of eight points Azure the lower ray of which is enfiled with an astral crown Or*. **Hendon** was in at the birth of the **RAF** on 1st April 1918, hence the 'natal' star. The astral crown was specially invented in 1939 for use by the **RAF** and those associated with it. [*Endeavour* was the motto of the old borough of **Hendon** whose arms were granted in



1932 and blazoned *Azure a holy Lamb standing on a mount proper upon a Gold chief two windmill sails Sable* and the crest was a *Gold two-bladed airscrew erect with Gold wings outspread*.]



## The Arms of St. Mary's

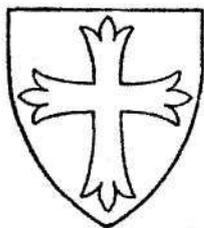
We are grateful to **Karen Smith** who, in spite of her more pressing problems, has found the time to unearth a letter from **R.J.B. Noel** the then *Bluemantle Pursivant* and currently *Lancaster Herald* who acted as Agent for the Granting of Arms to St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill. She has sent us passages from this letter which, as she says, should be of help.



The blazon contained in the letter is *Azure a cross flory between four martlets respectant Or on a chief engrailed Vert three white septafoils*

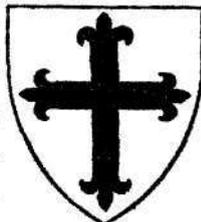
or *septafoils Argent surmounted of helmet entorsed Or Azure Or &c. a unicorn sejant Argent winged Or armed and unguled\* Azure supporting a cresset Vert enflamed Or mantled Gules doubled Argent.*

He goes on to say that the *White Septafoil* had already been selected *because it symbolises both the process of flowering through education and learning and the Blessed Virgin Mary - the form presented being a highly stylised flower of a water lily of seven petals because of the significance of seven to the Virgin (depicted in art at each of the scenes of Her seven joys or with seven swords because of Her seven sorrows) and white because this is both the colour representing the primeval innocence and tabula rasa\*\* on which educators work and of Our Lady of Mercy.*



Colville

Considering that he had never seen a representation of the arms in colour **Pete Taylor** came remarkably close to what *Bluemantle* envisaged except that he fell into the same trap as your less enlightened editors and described the cross as *patonce* (Colville) when it should have been *flory* (Swinnerton).



Swinnerton

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\*For the benefit those readers who, like your editors, are not too well versed in unusual terms - *unguled* means describing the hooves of animals when of a different tincture from their bodies.

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\*\*The Latin phrase *tabula rasa* means literally 'a scraped writing tablet' and is used most often to denote a mind devoid of preconceptions. A newborn child is presumed to be a *tabula rasa*. [Eugene Ehrlich]

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## Militaria No. 28 -

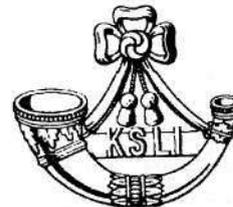
### The King's Shropshire Light Infantry

The King's Shropshire Light Infantry has undergone more titular changes than most regiments. The Regiment



was raised in 1755 as the **55th Foot** but its title was changed to **53rd Foot** in 1757 and to **53rd (Shropshire) Foot** in 1782.. In 1794 the **85th, or Bucks Volunteers, Regiment** was raised and, after a number of title changes became the **85th (Bucks Volunteers) (The King's Light Infantry) Regiment** in 1821. The **Shropshire Regiment (King's Light Infantry)** was formed by the

amalgamation of the **53rd (Shropshire) Foot** and the **85th (Bucks Volunteers) (The King's Light Infantry) Regiment** in May 1881 and the two regiments became the 1st and 2nd Battalions respectively. This title was short lived and was changed to **The King's Shropshire Light Infantry** in July of the same year.



It remained as such through two world wars until 1968 when it became the 3rd Battalion **The Light Infantry**.

[See Seaxe No.17 of April, 1997]

Probably the Regiment's best known officer is **Field Marshal**

**Lord Raglan** (1788-1855) who was the Commander-in-Chief of the army during the Crimean campaign and so is eternally involved in the orders leading up to the disastrous Charge of the Light Brigade. But perhaps the most interesting is **Field Marshal Sir John Fitzgerald** (1784-1877) who was 93 years old when he died and had held commissioned rank for 84 years!

Among its nicknames are **Brickdusts** - a name derived from the brick red facings of the **53rd Foot** - also known as the **Five and Threepennies** - a play on their old number and the daily rate of pay of an ensign (subaltern). Another nickname was **The Young Bucks** referring to the county in which the 2nd Battalion was raised.

**The King's Shropshire Light Infantry** fought in the Peninsular War and at Salamanca the Regiment was involved in the first large scale battle in that campaign and suffered the loss of 142 officers and men. The Regiment was involved in the two Sikh Wars, the Indian Mutiny and in the Boer War being awarded the battle honour - Paardeburg. During the Great War at Bligny, near Reims, the conduct of the Regiment was such that **Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig** issued a *Special Order of the Day* which read *the 114th Battalion of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, which had been held in reserve, was called upon to counter-attack an important position from*

which their comrades had just been ejected. With magnificent dash this battalion rushed the hill on which the enemy had established themselves, inflicting heavy losses on them and, in the course of hand-to-hand fighting, captured one officer and 28 other ranks. Thanks to this gallant and spirited recapture of the key to the whole defensive position, the line was completely restored. The dash, energy and intrepidity with which, on this memorable occasion, the 1/4th Battalion of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry carried all before it was largely responsible for the retrieval of a situation which had temporarily become critical. Displayed on the Regimental Colour is the **Croix de Guerre avec Palme** awarded for this action. Among its many other battle honours in the Great War are Armentieres, Aisne, Ypres, Hill 70, Somme, Delville Wood, Arras, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Cambrai and Bapaume. In WWII the regiment earned the battle honours Dunkirk, Normandy Landing, Anzio, Caen and Falaise. The Regiment also fought in the Korean War.

The Victoria Cross has been won by ten members of the regiment and cover a wide range of operational areas - five in the Indian Mutiny, one each in the Zulu and Basuto War and the Great War, one on the North West Frontier of India, and two in WW II. In 1934 **Captain (later Major) R. Deedes** was awarded the Empire Gallantry Medal (later exchanged for the George Cross).

The Regimental Headquarters was The Castle, Shrewsbury which now houses the Regimental Museum. The recruitment area covered the counties of Shropshire and Herefordshire.

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The badges illustrated are described as follows:-

**Glengarry - the Pre-Territorial Era - 1874-81**

*A strap inscribed Shropshire Regiment surmounted by a crown - in the centre the numerals 53. All in brass.*

**Other-Ranks' Helmet-Plate Centre - 1881-1914**

*On circlet Shropshire - in centre a bugle with strings All in gilding metal.*

**Regular Infantry - 1898** until amalgamation in 1968 - *Between the strings of a Bugle-horn the initials KSLI.*

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In the Daily Telegraph on Saturday 18th December 1999, under the sub head **Shropshire Lads**, Colonel John F. Kenyon wrote- *The D.T. gave me great support in 1979, when I achieved the restoration of our County's name of Shropshire and the death of the Norman-imposed word Salop. I regret to report that our efforts have proved in vain. The latest edition of Burke's Peerage and Baronetage has changed all our addresses to Salop. Worse still it has created a new regiment: The King's Salop Light Infantry. I urge all those who served in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry to fix bayonets and charge the publishers.*

## What is a Wolf Hook?

Member Steve Kibbey asked one of your editors if he knew what was represented by the heraldic charge *wolf-hook*? Of course, he did not and called on the "9th Cavalry" in the form of **Ron Brown** to give us the answer. Ron produced a description from **An Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Heraldry** by Franklyn and Tanner in which the reader is directed to *cramp* which they say is *an object of uncertain utility: it is represented as a bar of iron having a short length at each end bent over to within 45° of the bar and brought to a point; in chief it is bent to the sinister; in base, to the dexter. Two are sometimes set in saltire and may be so blazoned. It has been defined as 'a carpenter's tool for holding two pieces of wood'. There is such a tool that has such a name, but it is emphatically not represented by this object. Another definition makes it a wall-anchor which is possible, but not very likely. When 'a kettle-hook' is blazoned precisely the same thing is depicted but they are accepted as two totally different objects. It is variously named 'cramp-iron', 'crampon' and 'crampon', and its use is not confined to British heraldry, but on the Continent its purpose is clear and is revealed in its description, i.e. 'wolf-hook'. The shape is of respectable antiquity, it being the runic cypher for the yew tree and for death.*

A line drawing from Elvin's **A Dictionary of Heraldry**



is reproduced here and the description states that a 'cramps' or 'crampons' are irons bent at each extremity used for the purpose of strengthening buildings, and are generally borne in pairs.

[Characteristically, **Ron Brown**, has come up with *Handbuch der Heraldik* by Dr. Bernhard Koerner which includes the coats of arms of a number of German families with 'wolf-hooks' as charges - but printed in Gothic script! As Ron and your editors have only a smattering of German they are hoping that a neighbour, an Austrian emigré, will translate the relevant passages for inclusion in the next *Seaxe*. Would that **Arnold Rabbow** were somewhat nearer!]

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## St. Catherine of Siena

Properly **Caterina Benincasa (1347-80)** - **St. Catherine**



was the daughter of a dyer in Siena. She became a Dominican at the age of sixteen and is their patron saint. She is particularly remembered for effecting a reconciliation between the people of Florence and the Papacy. **St. Catherine** was also invoked for protection from fire.

The emblem testifies to her faith and charity:-*Sable a heart Or thereon a Latin cross Gules.*

## Baroness Arlington

A Notice in The Daily Telegraph states that A writ directed to Mrs Jennifer Jane Forwood, summoning her to the Upper House of Parliament by the name, style and title of Baroness Arlington, the barony having been called out of abeyance, has been passed under the Great Seal pursuant to the Warrant under Her Majesty's Sign Manual.

Robert Hardman writes A housewife has managed to revive an ancient family title just in time to take her seat in the House of Lords before being removed from Parliament for good. Jennifer Forwood of Shaftesbury in Dorset, has become Baroness Arlington after a two-year battle to reclaim a title which fell into abeyance in 1936 when her uncle died in a motor racing accident.

The first Lord Arlington was a member of the Cabal under King Charles II and his only child, Isabella, married the 1st Duke of Grafton, the King's illegitimate son. Lord Arlington, later the Earl of Arlington, asked Charles II to allow his titles to pass through both male and female lines rather than become extinct. The titles were held by successive Dukes of Grafton until 1936 when the unmarried 9th Duke was killed in a Bugatti race in Ireland aged twenty-one. The Dukedom of Grafton passed to a distant cousin while the Arlington titles went into abeyance. Both the 9th Duke's sisters qualified as "co-heiresses" but neither wished to claim the titles.

It was Mrs Forwood, the elder daughter of the elder sister, who decided to reclaim the barony after her mother's death in 1995. Her sister and surviving aunt agreed to drop their claims to the title and, after a two-year search for the relevant documents, she has now received her writ of summons. "I really did this for family reasons" said the new Lady Arlington. "These days, once a title has been in abeyance for 100 years it becomes extinct and I really did not want that to happen. It's an English title and we are losing so much of our heritage.

From A Short History of St. Peter and St. Paul, Harlington, Middlesex by



Christopher Luetchford we learn that a local resident a noted figure of the seventeenth century, who worshipped in this church, was Sir Henry Bennet who was born in the then impressive Dawley House. He served as a member of Charles II's Cabal ministry and, on his

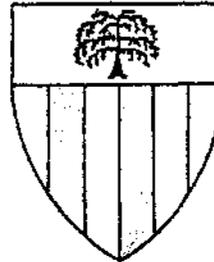
elevation to the peerage chose to take his title from Harlington. However a mistake made by the College of Heralds ensured that he would be known to posterity as the Earl of Arlington!

Sir Henry Bennet also held the title of Viscount Thetford whilst his elder brother held the titles of Baron Ossulston and Earl of Tankerville.

The Bennet arms are:- Gules three demi lions rampant

*couped Argent in the centre point a bezant.*

Curiously, in 1725 the combined manors of Harlington Lovell's and Dawley passed to Henry St. John, Viscount Bolingbroke [remember the "Swindon Hooter" in *Seaxe* No.29 of September 1999?]. He sold them in 1739 to one Edward Stephenson who, in turn, sold them on to the Earl of Uxbridge. In 1773 Harlington came into the hands of the Earl of Berkeley while 1772 saw Dawley



pass to the Swiss family of de Salis one of whom commanded the 8th (King's Royal Irish) Hussars in the ill fated Charge of the Light Brigade. Until the middle of the 20th century de Salis's lived at Dawley but of the once palatial Dawley House, most of which had been demolished in 1772, nothing now remains.

The de Salis arms are:- Paly of six Argent and Gules on a chief Or a salix or willow tree eradicated proper.

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## Carpet-Knight

John Barclay's Dictionary of the English Language published in 1848 tells us that *carpet-knight* is a denomination given to men of peaceable professions, who are raised to the dignity of knighthood. They take the appellation *carpet* because they usually receive their honours from the king's hands in the court, kneeling on a

carpet. By this they are distinguished from knights created in the camp or field of battle on account of their military prowess. Many of them are Knights Bachelor and although the title was introduced by Henry III the badge was not authorised until 1929 when George V responded to a request from the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelors who wished

to have a distinctive badge denoting their rank. It is an upright oval medallion enclosed by a scroll, bearing a cross-hilted sword, belted and sheathed, pommel upwards, between two spurs, rowels upwards, the whole set about with the sword belt.

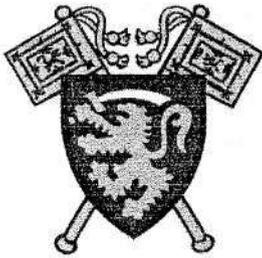
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## Bibliography

In *Seaxe* No.5 of June 1995 we gave a list of books from which we glean most of our information for the *Militaria* series. To this should now be added *British Army 2000* which has already provided us with some useful and, we hope, interesting material.

## Royal Standards

In a recent copy of the *Daily Telegraph* a leading article tells us that for more than 700 years, the Scrymgeours



have held the title of Hereditary Bearer of the Royal Banner of Scotland. They carried the standard, tattered and bloody, at Stirling Bridge and Bannockburn. One of them died in its defence at Flodden Field. Now the current

Bearer, Alexander, 12th Earl of Dundee, may find himself ejected from the Royal Household. His office, like those of Master of the Closet, Silver Stick and Swan Master, is said to give the Monarchy a stuffy image. It is not relevant in New Britain. Relevant to whom? Perhaps not to New Labour, obsessed as it is with scrapping parliamentary traditions, recording promotional videos and extolling London's club scene. But what evidence is there that the population is clamouring for change? Readers may recall our Gallup poll of two weeks ago which revealed overwhelming support for morris dancing, Trooping the Colour and other images of old Britain over such modern symbols as the Spice Girls and the Notting Hill Carnival.

Such discontent as there may be about the Royal Household takes the form of a vague sense that there are "too many hangers-on". Yet most of the office holders receive no pay beyond their uniform and expenses. The two hereditary Scottish Standard-bearers get nothing at all, and are expected to pay for their own flags. In the most optimistic scenario, the potential savings would hardly meet the cost of a single social worker or racism awareness counsellor. Although the offices in question are ceremonial, it does not follow that they have no purpose: by dignifying the Crown, they exalt the British state and constitution. Dropping these officials from the Royal Household will please no one: republicans will pocket the concession without thanks, while the rest of us despair at the dumbing down of the Court.

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A day or two later a letter to the *Daily Telegraph* from Julia Hamers-Connell of Whitchurch, Hants reads - Sir, your admirable leading article prompts me to quote you the story of the origin of the "Scrymgeours". In the spring of 1112, King Alexander I and his army were facing a strong rebel force across the River Spey. As they gazed at the fast flowing river, they could hear the taunts of their adversaries on the opposite bank. A knight of enormous strength and armed with a scimitar, clearly recently returned from the Holy Land, stepped forward. Taking the king's standard from the bearer he strode with it through the turbulent waters towards the enemy. Thus spurred, The king's army followed and the

rebels were put to flight. The grateful king then decreed that this brave knight and his descendants be henceforth known as "Scrymgeour" meaning "hardy fighter" and bear the Royal Standard.

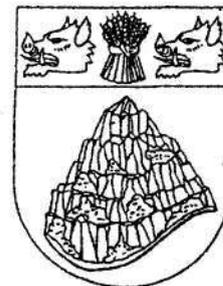
Surely, Gordon Brown, a fellow Fifer, cannot countenance the rubbishing of such a marvellous piece of Scottish history in the interest of "downing" the Monarchy. He ought to be ashamed of himself - the more so as the office of Hereditary Bearer of the Royal Banner of Scotland does not cost his department a penny.

[The arms of Scrymgeour are - Gules a lion rampant Or armed and langued Azure holding in the dexter paw a scymitar Argent - and the story is worthy of a place in the series *In the Time of Queen Dick* by Cynthia Lydiard Cannings.]

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## Congratulations

Peter Esslemont, one time Hon. Treasurer of our Society and currently Hon. Treasurer of the Heraldry Society accompanied by his wife, Anne, attended the annual Mansion House banquet of the Actuaries' Company on Tuesday, 11th April. The Company was formed on 6th March 1979 and Peter, who addressed the Society on Thursday, 13th April is a founder member and is the present Senior Warden. Perhaps congratulations are a little premature but we understand he will be installed as Master of the Company next year.....and old men (and old women) do forget!



Peter's very unusual arms are:- Or a rocky mount with verdure, its base in the form of an S, the convex part to the dexter and the concave part to the sinister all proper, on a chief Azure a garb of the first, banded Gules, between two boars' heads couped also of the first, armed proper and langued Gules.

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## The Cerne Giant in Wartime

Iain Swinnerton writes loved the story about the Cerne Giant - was there a few days ago, it's just a few miles down the road from here. What you didn't tell your readers was that during the last war, they covered up the vital bit because they reckoned the Luftwaffe were using it as an aiming line for Bristol! Absolutely true, I assure you, it's on the information board.

He went on to suggest that the arms of Fossard in St. Mary's Church, Lockington should have been blazoned bendlets. [Although Burke states bends - in Foster's Dictionary of Heraldry the illustration is as shown in *Seaxe* and the blazon is Gules six bendlets Or.]

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## Sale of Militaria

Under the heading above in a recent Newsletter produced by the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society\*



(COMBAT STRESS) an item appeared which said that *we are extremely grateful to Mr John Coop, who sent us a collection of medals won by his family, including a rare double Military Medal and to Miss Marjorie Braithwaite for the gift of a 1916 Guards Machine*

*Gun Corps Officer's cap badge. Both [donors] recommended that we should sell them to help the Society's work and we were delighted that they fetched £1,065 and £450 respectively, at a Spink sale - some three times the estimate.*

A special unit was formed in February 1918 from the three regiments of Household Cavalry and the Guards Machine Gun Battalion. The three Household Cavalry regiments retained their own cap badges and returning to England in March 1919 returned to their respective barracks and took up their normal functions. However the Machine Gun Regiment of Foot Guards had its own



Regimental Headquarters and Lieutenant Colonel and took its turn to provide Public Duties with the other regiments of Foot Guards. It took part in the first Trooping the Colour in Hyde Park after the war. The regiment was disbanded in 1920.

The date 1916 on the badge refers to the formation of the **Guards Machine Gun Battalion** and the badge sold is described as *a five pointed star on which a circllet inscribed **Quinque juncta in Uno 1916** with, in the centre, the monogram **MGR** surmounted by an Imperial crown. Radiating from the circllet five machine gun bullets with between them a grenade, rose, thistle, shamrock and leek. The motto translates as **five joined as one** referring, of course, to the five regiments of Foot Guards.*

\*The illustration is of the badge used by the Society which is self explanatory but whether it is official or not.....?

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## The Wars of the Roses?

*This here ought to have been a red rose tree, and we put in a white one by mistake; and if the Queen was to find it out, we should all have our heads cut off, you know - from **Alice in Wonderland** by Lewis Carroll.*

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## Did You Know?

An *alberia* is a shield without arms according to the



**Quickway Crossword Dictionary** compiled by Colonel H. W. Hill CMG, DSO and published by Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd. in 1953. We can find no reference to this phenomenon in the usual heraldry books and should be pleased to learn if any of our readers have come

across the term.

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## Infamous Last Words?

Peterborough writes under "**Off song**" - *Soul singer Macy Gray was asked by an interviewer for **GQ** magazine: "If you had a coat of arms, what would be on it?"*

*She replied: "It would be made of fur to keep me warm. Maybe with leather patches on the outside for protection. Then I'd have pockets inside to keep my guns in. For the war."*

*A pause - then: "What is a coat of arms anyway?"*

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## Next Meetings

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*There will be no Meeting in July or August but here is an early reminder of the*

**Annual General Meeting and Members' Evening**

on Thursday, 21st September

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**We are all looking forward to seeing the slides of photographs you have taken since the AGM last year**

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