



# The Seaxe

Kay.

## Newsletter of the Middlesex Heraldry Society

Joint Editors - Don & Marjorie Kirby, 2 Jamnagar Close, Staines, Middlesex TW18 2JT

(Fax and ☎ 01784 456049 - e-mail [seaxe@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:seaxe@tinyworld.co.uk))

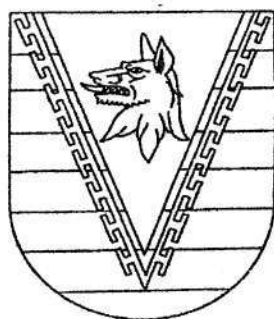
No.35

(Founded 1976)

February 2001

### New Year Celebrations

Once again **Nan** and **Pete Taylor** invited all our members to their home for a NEW YEAR PARTY



which was held on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2001. In addition to sending them our very best wishes for a healthier, accident free year, the very least we can do to acknowledge their generosity, is to commemorate the event with a representation of the **Taylor** arms which we believe have never before appeared

in **Seaxe**. It is blazoned:- *Barry of eight Argent and Or on a pile within a cotise potency on the outer edge Azure a wolf's head erased close Argent langued Gules*

In his last issue as Hon. Editor of the *Heraldry Gazette*

**Pete** writes - *Not being an advocate of the 'arms must tell a story' school of thought, there are, however, one or two allusive features. My sons wanted something to represent their mother, so being a Scot and a Robertson, I 'borrowed' a wolf's head from the clan arms. When in the mood and people ask me what it means I tell them that the little 'T's stand for my initial, or that I used a 'tee-square' to earn my living - all rubbish, of course, I just like potency!*

Regrettably your editors were forced by ill health to miss the party for the first time since they joined the Society more years ago than they care to remember! Nevertheless we understand it was, as usual, a great success. Thank you **Nan** and **Pete** from all of us.

### Editorial

After several years in the wilderness, struggling on a now outdated *Acorn* computer, your editors have allowed themselves to be dragged screaming into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and have acquired a *Jiny* PC - "all singing, all dancing" which has even permitted us to register the e-mail address - shown above. The various *Microsoft* programmes are very comprehensive but also very complicated and a far cry from the rather more homespun methods to which we have become accustomed. It is, therefore, with apologies that we present a very late **Seaxe** No.35, further delayed by a bout of ill health, with the promise that we shall bring it back to its customary standard as quickly as possible.

### Christmas Greetings

We have received another delightful hand-made Christmas greetings card from **Sedge** and **Hazel Smith** - this time it features the story of **Good King Wenceslas** - and, once again, we would like to share our pleasure with the readers of **Seaxe**.

**Sedge** writes:- *Wenceslas I, Christian Duke of Bohemia, was murdered by his pagan brother, Boleslav, at the church door as he went to Mass. His tomb was almost immediately reported to be the source of miracles, and very soon he was adopted as Bohemia's patron saint. As ruler of the country the arms attributed to him would have been the double-tailed, crowned silver lion on a red field of Bohemia, but as Saint he was represented by the black spreadeagle, symbolic in Christian allegory of salvation and redemption, spotted with the blood of martyrdom. Unfortunately, the story of Good King Wenceslas was merely a figment of the imagination of John M. Neale, Victorian writer of the carol, but does exemplify the attitudes of benevolence and charity that Wenceslas espoused.*

#### GOOD KING WENCESLAS

J. M. Neale

Piae Cantiones  
Arr. Martin Shaw

SOPRANO  
ALTO



Bright-ly shone the moon that  
'Sire, he lives a good lea-

When a poor man came in sight,  
Right a-gainst the for-est fence.

I. Good King Wen-ces-las looked out, On the Feast of Ste-phen,  
me, If thou know'st it, tell-ing,  
Deep, and crisp, and ev-en:  
Where and what his dwell-ing?

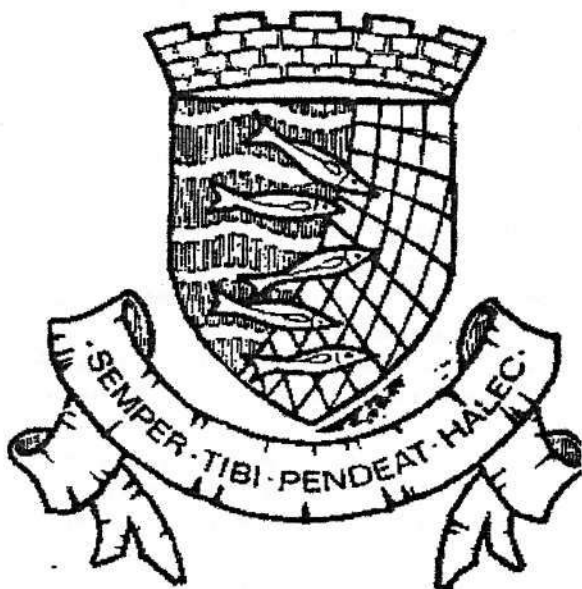


## The Royal Burgh of Inverary

from Steve Kibbey

Steve attended a short course run by The Heraldry Society of Scotland and one outing took in *Inverary*. The following extract and illustration are taken from a booklet published by the Society.

*Inverary*, erected into a Burgh or Barony in 1474 in favour of Colin, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Argyll and Lord High Chancellor of Scotland, was made a Royal Borough in 1648 by King Charles I. The arms are most unusual in that the blazon is



"all Proper". They follow the device on the Burgh seal of which a 1684 impression is on record. The herring swimming into the net recall the famous herring fishing industry of Loch Fyne on which the town stands. The Latin motto is something of a mystery; one suggestion is that it means "May the fish sauce always be ready for you".

The arms are blazoned:- In the waves of the sea, five herring entering a herring net pendant from the sinister chief, all Proper. Above the Shield is placed a Burghal coronet and in an Escrol below the Shield the Motto *Semper Tibi Pendeat Halec*. It was recorded in the Lyon Register, xxvii, 33: 27 April 1927.

.....

## Did You Know?

So called "brasses", found in many old churches, are not made of brass at all. We learned this from a talk by Professor Nigel Saul of Royal Holloway College, University of London, who told us that they are thin sheets of 'latten' - roughly two-thirds copper and one-third zinc, with a little lead and tin added. This plate was manufactured mainly in Cologne and the fact that the greatest number of brasses is found in the eastern counties could be attributed to the volume of trade between the east coast ports and the Continent. The sculptors interestingly enough were known as "marblers".

## Health and Industry (Part 1)

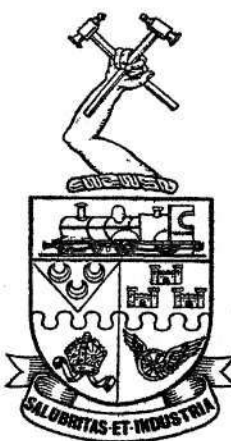
by John Uncles

Prior to the building of the Great Western Railway from London to Bristol between 1835 and 1840, Swindon was a small market town serving the needs of a part of Wiltshire that was almost exclusively agricultural. The railway passed about half a mile to the north of the little town and the GWR decided that the location was admirably suitable for the establishment of its main locomotive and other workshops.

The building of the locomotive works was commenced in 1842 and within 60 years or so the area had developed into a vast complex, employing some 12,000 people. The Railway also provided houses for its workforce with churches, schools, parks and so on, as well as establishing a social welfare system which is widely regarded as Aneurin Bevan's inspiration for the post-war National Health Service. In fact the Great Western Railway was Swindon and the Company controlled a very wide range of activities in the town. For many years the prominent positions in local government were held by senior company officers and for a while the GWR Chairman, Sir Daniel Gooch, was MP for Cricklade. As the 19<sup>th</sup> Century wore on and as the town continued to expand, there was mounting pressure for Swindon to enhance its national standing and finally it succeeded in obtaining Borough status in 1900.

With praiseworthy speed the new Borough of Swindon

sought the grant of arms and these were granted in 1901. The Arms may be blazoned as :- *Quarterly, the fesswise line nebuly; the first quarter Azure a pile Argent, thereon three crescents (2 & 1) Gules; the second quarter Gules three twin-towered castles (1 & 2) Argent; the third quarter Gules a mitre Or; and the fourth quarter Azure a winged wheel Or; on a chief Argent a locomotive engine Proper. Crest:- On a wreath Argent and Azure a right arm Proper, the hand grasping two*



*hammers crossed Or. Motto:- Salubritas et Industria*

Apart from the chief, not a bad effort by the College of Arms for the turn of the last century. (I am still finding this expression a difficult concept to grasp!). The red crescents on silver allude to the arms of the Goddard family who held the Manor of Swindon from 1560 (the tinctures are however reversed); the three castles are featured in the arms of the Vilett family, prominent local landowners - much of the railway development in the area was on their estate - whilst the golden mitre recalls that the Manor of Swindon was granted after the Conquest by William I to his half-brother, Bishop Odo of Bayeux. The winged wheel is a neat allusion to the swiftness of railway travel.

But just look at that chief! Amongst railway historians the following unsubstantiated story is told. The Borough, not surprisingly, had requested the College of Arms to include a railway engine in the design of the arms. Some correspondence ensued, the upshot of which was that the Chief Mechanical Engineer of the

GWR (Mr William Dean) sent to the College a technical drawing of an express engine, the design of which, at the time, was regarded as being amongst the most advanced on the line. Dean allegedly suggested that it would be a nice touch if the arms were to show No.3029 of this class, as this engine bore the name WHITE HORSE and would therefore allude to the town's position in the Vale of the White Horse. Lovers of the Great Western generally agree that the 80 members of this particular class of engine were amongst the most beautiful to appear from Swindon Works and represent a high point in engineering design in the closing years of the Victorian era. All this effort was wasted on the artist at Queen Victoria Street who obviously was not going to have any truck with interpreting a complicated engineering drawing to produce something worthy of the suggestion made by the GWR – perhaps he just didn't like railway engines! The depiction of a *locomotive engine Proper* on the arms looked like a child's crude tinplate toy and for the next 73 years Swindon was lumbered with it. It is true that the name *White Horse* appeared on the engine and that over the years subtle efforts were made to revise the design but the matter was never really rectified. Why, one wonders, did no-one complain at the time? William Dean's health had meanwhile declined dramatically and his faculties were so seriously impaired that he was persuaded to retire in 1902 after a long period of absence and he was to live for only a few more years. His successor probably had too much else to



worry about in picking up the reins and little time for matters armorial. Perhaps also there was the feeling that one did not argue with the Kings of Arms!

The Local Government Act of 1972 resulted in the abolition of the Borough of Swindon and its replacement by the larger Borough of Thamesdown (which also included the area of the former Highworth Rural District Council) as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1974. The new local authority, to its credit, immediately sought a grant of arms and commissioned Mr Ellis Tomlinson, who had been responsible for the design of arms for Highworth RDC in

1968), to submit a design. The new arms were granted on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1975 and are blazoned:- *Vert, a castle of three towers between three crescents Argent, a chief Barry wavy of four Azure and Argent. Crest:- On a wreath of the colours, upon a mount Vert enfiling a crown vallery Or, a swan rousant Proper gorged with a collar per fess embattled Sable and Argent. Supporters:- On either side, a horse Vert crined and unguled Or breathing flames Proper, gorged with a collar gemel Argent and resting the exterior forehoof on a hammer head downwards Or.*

(Our thanks are due to John Uncles the writer of the article and also the Editor of *Tabard 2000*, the occasional Journal of the *City of Bath Heraldic Society*, for his kind permission to copy the article published in April 2000 - Part 2 will appear in the next issue of *Seaxe* - Eds)

## Saint Ambrose

A 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman churchman born in Trier, the son of a prefect of Gaul – St Ambrose practised law and was



appointed consular prefect of Upper Italy of which the capital city was Milan. St Ambrose was consecrated Bishop of Milan in 374 and was a great fighter for the integrity of the Roman Catholic church even forcing the emperor himself, Theodosius I,

(the Great) to do public penance over the massacre of Thessalonika in 390. He introduced hymns and many improvements in the service and was the originator of the Ambrosian chant. St Ambrose assisted in the conversion of St Augustine and baptised him.

The scourges represent the strict discipline of the Bishop of Milan whilst the beehive refers to his eloquence as he laboured to maintain and clarify the need for proper respect of the Church. Another version suggests that he adopted the beehive as his badge recalling the time when a swarm of bees settled in his infant mouth. He is not only the patron saint of beekeepers, but also of orators and teachers.. The badge is described as *a golden beehive with silver scourges on a blue field.*

## The Missing Groat

In a letter to the Daily Telegraph a Mr Button writes that the shilling, florin and halfcrown were coins that have disappeared over the years and reminds us that the groat lasted from the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup>. The groat was worth four old pence and was used in the game of shove-groat. In the reign of Henry VIII there were complaints that archery was being neglected for such games as "slidethrift", otherwise shove-groat. The game was later known as shove-ha'penny. The old halfpenny was about the size of the modern 2p coin. It would be difficult to play the game even with a modern penny coin, but the 2p coin might serve. [The groat illustrated was minted during the reign of Henry VII – Eds]





## Royal Standards

Shortly after **Seaxe No.33**, went to the printers we received, from our Patron - *Hubert Chesshyre*, a very interesting note - the contents of which we are delighted to print. He writes - *I shall be particularly sorry if the offices of Hereditary Royal Standard Bearer for Scotland (Earl of Dundee) and Hereditary Bearer of the National Flag of Scotland (Earl of Lauderdale) are abolished as I am proud, as an English herald, to be related to them both.*

Henry Scrymgeour - Wedderburn  
of Birkhill, *de jure* 7th Earl of Dundee  
Viscount Dudhope.

Robert Matthew Isacke of North  
Foreland Lodge, Isle of Thanet  
D.L., Commander H.E.I.C.M.S.

Col. Henry Wedderburn Isacke, R.A. of  
North Foreland Lodge, Isle of Thanet.

Maj. Gen. Hubert Isacke, CB., CSI., CMG.,  
late Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt.,  
of Polhampton, Overton, Hants.

Col. Hubert Layard Chesshyre  
formerly Isacke, MA., late R.E.  
of Don Jon House Canterbury, Kent.

David Hubert Boothby Chesshyre

Mary Turner daughter of Captain  
the Hon. Frederick Lewis Maitland,  
R.N., [son of 6th Earl of Lauderdale]  
- married 1793

Matilda  
- married 1829

Louisa daughter and coheir of Rev.  
Canon William John Chesshyre of  
Barton Court Canterbury.  
- married 1865

Ada Mildred daughter of Sir  
Charles Peter Layard, Chief  
Justice of Ceylon, - married 1904

Katharine Anne daughter of Basil  
Tanfield Berridge Boothby,  
MICE., FRGS., late Major R.E.,  
of Shanghai - married 1939



Chesshyre



Arms of Viscount Dudhope (Scrymgeour-Wedderburn):- *Quarterly 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Argent a chevron between three roses Gules for Wedderburn; 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> a lion rampant or armed and langued Azure holding in the dexter paw a broadsword Proper for Scrymgeour.*

Arms of Chesshyre:- *Gules two lions' gambes erased in chevron between three lures Or.*

Arms of Earl of Lauderdale (Maitland):- *Or a lion rampant Gules couped at all the joints of the field within a double tressure flory, counter-flory Azure behind the shield on staffs in saltire Proper two National Flags of Scotland (Cross of St Andrew)*

## Next Meetings

\*\*\*\*\*  
*A Themed Evening on*  
**DRAGONS**

led by  
**Margaret Young**  
on **Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> March**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Scots Heraldry**  
by **Nan & Pete Taylor**  
on **Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> April**

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Chiltern Heraldry Group

\*\*\*\*\*

**Furs** by **Kevin Yeldon**  
on **Saturday, 17th February, 2001**  
in the *Parish Hall, White Waltham.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**A Personal Selection from the Arms of the  
Garter Knights in the roof of St. George's  
Chapel, Windsor**  
by **Leslie Pierson Hon.FHS**  
on **Saturday, 17th March, 2001**  
in the *Church Hall, Iffley.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Members Afternoon**  
Please let **Rita Titterton** have  
your title as soon as possible  
Meeting will be held on **28<sup>th</sup> April** in the  
*St. John Ambulance Brigade Hall, Amersham*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Meetings begin at 2.30 pm and are followed  
by a light tea provided by members*

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

We are still staggering on and are in danger  
of achieving our first official anniversary.

There are few left of the founders and  
early members but enough to have happy  
memories of times past.

Please let everyone share those memories  
and let us have your reminiscences as soon  
as possible so that we can get together a  
**Seaxe** worthy of the efforts made by our  
Society and which will be worth keeping as a  
remembrance of the learning, fun and the  
friendships made during these happy years.

You don't need to be a member to  
contribute! If non-members would like to  
put on record their memories of with our  
Society we would love to record them for  
posterity.

So come on – out with your pens and paper  
– we have even acquire an e-mail address to  
make sending your contribution almost  
effortless

**DON'T PUT IT OFF – DO IT NOW!**

\*\*\*\*\*

## AGM

At the AGM on 16th September the officers and  
Committee were re-elected *en bloc* as follows:

<i>Chairman</i>	<b>Kay Holmes</b>
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	<b>Marjorie Kirby</b>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Stuart Whitefoot</b>
<i>Minutes Secretary</i>	<b>Margaret Young</b>

### Committee

<b>Ron Brown</b>	<b>Don Kirby</b>
<b>Roger Matthews</b>	<b>Nan Taylor</b>