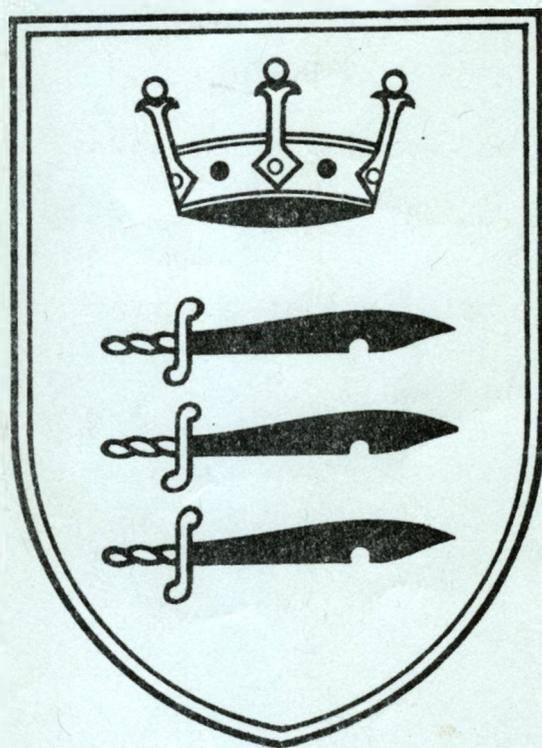


THE SEAXE



MIDDLESEX
HERALDRY SOCIETY

(4)

1960/1

J.E.U.

And, lest we dream too much
Of great days past,
Tell us great days may always be,
Even to the last;
That, holding fast the truth,
Hearts high and free,
Men still may ride abroad
Armed cap-a-pie.

From Grant Uden's A Dictionary of Chivalry

CONTENTS:

Page	
1	Chairman's message.
1/2	Editor's note. Committee 1980/1. Meetings 1980/1.
3	Visits 1981. Account of St. Albans Visit (cont. on 4).
4	Heraldomania! Society of Genealogists' Visit.
5/6	Taking up arms... Bath Exhibition Report
6	Heraldic Quiz
7/8	A Bouquet of Heraldry. Press Snippets. Harefield Visit
9/10	Harefield (cont.) and so to ye shire of Buckingham
10/11	Buckingham (cont.) Richard III Society
11	Richard III (continued, and on page 12).
12	A Paper on the de Mandevilles' arms.
13	de Mandevilles (cont.) In Search of Heraldry, 5.
14	Heraldry 5 (cont.) and Heraldry, 6.
15.	Heraldry 6 (continued).

A Message to all our Members and Friends

It is gratifying to note the enthusiasm with which our members have joined in the many activities in which our Society has been engaged in past months. We have brought ourselves to the public notice with several exhibitions in local libraries, and had the pleasure of joining other heraldry societies in several ways. Many of us were able to visit Bath's excellent exhibition, and some have attended meetings of the Chiltern Society and visited Oxburgh Hall with them. We have also made contact with the Suffolk Society through Mrs Greenoak and look forward to further interchanges with all these groups. With the permission of the Bedford Estates we are being allowed to research the heraldry at the Bedford Chapel at Chenies, and thanks must be expressed in particular to Peggy Foster and Kay Holmes, who have done considerable background work to make this possible.

With greetings from

MARGARET YOUNG

Chairman

From our Editor

Another year had gone by in which our Society has been intensely involved in the field of the expanse of heraldry, and through our activities it has become necessary to print yet another edition of the Seaxe for our Society. Unfortunately, through difficulties of the printing process we were unable to issue it earlier in the year, but as these have been overcome we can get on with the job. As you know, from our visits carefully arranged by Mrs Peggy Foster, we have covered some important ground in which we can carry out our studies. or better, our science, in various directions. Our main achievement, in the face of many hazards, was the Bedford Chapel project. I think that as a Society we should go forward in this direction and gain for ourselves recognition for the work we put in.

/of

Of our other visits, to Hatfield, Lambeth Palace, the Genealogical Society, have all been notable places of interest and of course not forgetting the City of London Rally which had us all running around the capital looking for the odd dragon or the City arms. In June Bill Burgess supplied us with a heraldry quiz which divided the Society up into the houses of York and Lancaster, needless to say that York won again. Before I close I must not forget all the hard work out in by Mrs Angela Dickson in getting our various activities under way, such as the Library exhibitions at Uxbridge and Hayes which without her help would not have been possible.

ROBIN CLAYTON

Committee 1980 - 1981:

Due to the fact that no other nominations were received, the Committee for next year is the same as for last year, ie:

Chairman	Mrs M. Young
Vice-Chairman	Mr. K. Holmes
Treasurer	Mr. F. Bell
Secretary	Mrs A. Dickson
Committee)	Mrs P. Foster
Members)	Mr B. Burgess

MIDDLESEX HERALDRY SOCIETY

Meetings:- 1980/81 Every third Thursday,
RUISLIP MANOR LIBRARY 8pm - 10pm.

January	15	Bedford Chapel at Chenies evening
February	19	Railway Heraldry, Mr. G. Blachford
March	19	Heraldic Art, Mr. N. Mainwaring
April	9	St. George's Chapel, Windsor and the Order of the
(2nd Thur.)		Garter, Mr. P. Begent
May	21	The Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Mr. J. Webb
June	18	"Let's All Go Down the Strand", Mrs. H. Owen
July	16	Heraldic Encaustic Tiles, Mr. M. Nesser
August	20	An Heraldic Debate
September	17	Annual General Meeting
October	15	To be announced.
November	19	London Heraldry, Mr. J. Wellsman
December	17	Christmas Festivities

/Visits

VISITS 1980/81

April 25 Middlesex Churches
May 30 Ashridge House with Little Gaddesden & Aldbury Churches
July 25 Croydon Old Palace
September 26 Gloucester (coach trip)
November 25 Heraldic Glass at the Law Society and some Inns
(Wed.) of Court

A Visit to St. Albans

Following a most interesting and instructive slide lecture given by Fay Robson on the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Albans, the Middlesex Heraldry Society met on a sunny afternoon at the West Door of the Abbey Church.

We met our guide Mr. Brooks, who gave us a brief history of the Cathedral and then took us along the longest nave in the world, looking at a feast of architecture at every step.

We were treated to a wildlife safari, and became involved in a gymnastic display. We were told how to appreciate the many and varied arches and pillars, the changes of design with the march of history, to examine closely the beautifully sculptured flora and fauna, the cuddly rams on the Abbot John Ramrydge's tomb, a delicate frieze hiding some snails, a delightful cat carrying her kitten and nearby lions, unicorns, a cow being milked by an old fashioned milkmaid, and many other species.

Mr. Brooks shared with us many secrets of the Abbey, but all too soon time had caught up with us and we all accepted very gratefully an invitation from Fay to visit her house nearby for tea.

You may have noticed that I have not yet mentioned Heraldry. At 5.00pm we returned to the Abbey Church for a guided tour of the Heraldry by Fay. Heraldry abounds everywhere and with such a knowledgeable guide we were able to appreciate it to the full. A detailed inspection of the roof was made easier by permitting us to lie down in the choir stalls, binoculars at the ready, thus lessening the likelihood of having to visit an osteopath early the following week.

We were privileged to enter the tomb of Abbot Ramrydge and inspect more closely the very fine carving inside.

The wandering brass rubbing enthusiasts were hastily gathered up and shepherded by Mr. Brooks to the church to admire the stained glass heraldry in the windows. We finally arrived at the West Door to study the Grimthorpe window, looking at the wealth of Heraldry there.

At 7.00 pm we had to leave this fascinating building, say "Goodbye" to each other and go on our separate ways.

/The

The thing which remained in my mind most forcibly was that throughout the afternoon and evening we had been looked after by two people who really love that venerable old building. Thank you both very much. MARGARET ZIGADAS

Heraldomania!

Up the airy motorways, Down across the farms, We all go a-hunting in search of coats of arms. Sable arms and azure arms, Gules and or together, Simple arms and grand arms, with crest of peacock's feather. In forgotten church, Or cathedral in the town We swarm about like locusts, and gulp the knowledge down.	We climb on awkward ledges, We crawl on hands and knees, Someone shouts in triumph when a hidden shield he sees. We peer above with glasses, To get a better view, Then write it all in notebooks, In trick and colour too. So up the airy motorways, and down across the farms, We'll always go a-hunting in search of coats of arms.
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MARGARET YOUNG (with apologies to William Allingham's Little Men).

Society of Genealogist's Visit

We were greatly privileged on Saturday February 23rd, 1980, to visit the Society of Genealogists' headquarters at Harrington Gardens, Kensington. This quite remarkable building, extravagantly Victorian, is filled from basement to attic with what must be the world's largest collection of genealogical documentation, the envy of most other countries not so well endowed.

It is a strange fact that anybody buying a dog, or farmer his stock, would go to great trouble to establish the breed stock from which his purchase evolved, but we, in contrast, take very little interest in these matters, there being no Cruft's to monitor our breeding, but mate and procreate with a basic emotional motivation. I am not suggesting certificates of fitness such as are issued in some parts of the world, but would advocate a wider interest in our origins, and where better to start than at the Society of Genealogists.

To return to our visit. We assembled in the Mountbatten Room which is a members' recreation area, where coffee is available, periodicals are displayed and which houses part of the microfiche equipment. Here we were met by Mr. Lawson-Edwards, who took infinite trouble in conducting us over most of the building, explaining the grouping, cataloguing and use of the mass information stored here. There is far too much to detail here, but it is possible for non-members to visit the library to search for a very modest fee, and which I did a few days later. We are most indebted to Mrs Foster for arranging this fascinating visit and I urge all fellow members who were not able to be with us, to get their names down on the next list as soon as possible. ARTHUR EDWARDS

Taking up arms..... Arms and Armour Collections:
Artillery Museum, Woolwich Common, S.E.18: Well worth a visit to see the excellent and little known collection of guns and muskets, housed in a building designed by Nash. The Rotunda was an architectural "tent", once erected in St. James' Park (1814). Free trip on ferry across Thames. Open Sat. 10 - 12 & 2 - 5. Free. /5

Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, S.E.1., Museum illustrates the two World Wars and other British military operations since 1914. Very good collections of Garter and other insignia of various orders here. More heraldry on uniforms, helmets, etc., Open Sat. 10 - 5pm; Sun. 2 - 5.30pm. Free.

National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, S.W.3. Exhibits from the formation of the standing army in 1484 to the present day. New weapons gallery - laid out in chronological order from the days of bow and arrow to present times. Open Sat. 10 - 5.30; Sun. 2 - 5.30pm. Free.

Tower of London, Tower Hill, E.C.3. The British National Collection of historic arms and armour based on the arsenal of Henry VIII, four of whose personal armours stand in the White Tower. Collection illustrates evolution of weapons and defensive armour from the Middle Ages to 1914. Open Sat. 9.30 - 5pm., Sun. 2 - 5pm. Charge.

The Herald's Museum is in the Old Waterloo Barracks.

Extracted from the Shell Weekend Guide to London and the South East published by Robert Nicholson. This information is gleaned from an article in the Evening Standard, with a little addition to the Imperial War Museum information, and the Tower of London. Drawing copied from Standard cartoonist.



A report on the visit to the Bath Exhibition on May 31st, 1980:

Having allowed myself, at 7pm this evening, to be inveigled into giving an account of the visit to Bath, I must apologise for the brevity of my account.

Saturday dawned, wet, and before 9 am we found ourselves in the car on the M4 bound for Bath, or, as we jokingly said, going to Bath for a bath! Despite the weather, we arrived before the exhibition opened at 11 am., to find other Middlesex Heraldry Society members waiting outside. We were met by Mr Michael Messer, Vice-Chairman of the Bath Heraldry Society, who gave us a guided tour (during which we collected several other fellow visitors) before letting us wander around in our own time.

The exhibition began in a large square room with a showing of rubbings of some of the earliest brasses, ranging through to grants of arms, (including an example of Arms granted to two sisters, which was rescued from a cellar), two family trees and several examples of local civic heraldry. Trumpet banners hung on the walls, along with other heraldic banners. An unusual funeral hatchment had been used by an undertaker to advertise his profession. An assortment of heraldic books was also on display in this room.

We then proceeded downstairs, past the bookstall, to a magnificent display of Royal Heraldry. We were intrigued by an art collection, the work of Sir Hector Livingstone Duff, who used a unique style combining hatching and stippling. Some of his works had been bound into books and some were in boxes resembling books.

/Ecclesiastical

Ecclesiastical heraldry was represented by casts of shields from the West Front of the Abbey, and a variety of heraldic kneelers, Papal heraldry was shown on various notepapers.

A selection of armorial glass and china was displayed, kindly lent by a local antique dealer. A few pieces of engraved silverware were also shown.

A very interesting and unusual exhibit was the collection of Finnish Heraldry, showing different designs and partitioning than those to which our English eyes are accustomed (sprucing caught my eye). These had been lent by the artist, Olaf Eriksson.

A painting of the "Great Shield of France" with its fifty five quarterings had been made by Miss Connel, one of our, and the Bath Heraldry Society's, members.

Maps, paintings and helms were on show, as well as various paraphernalia appertaining to heralds, but, the showpiece of the exhibition must have been "The Heraldist's Study". This was the study of the late Terry O'Neill, who was unfortunately killed in a road accident when the exhibition was being prepared two years ago. The study included a carpet and chairs with heraldic motifs, and a desk full of books, pamphlets, paints and brushes and drawings, a fitting climax to this exhibition and to his memory. ANGELA DICKSON

A Historic Heraldic Quiz

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Some might say his death was a waste of good wine. | 1. Clarence. |
| 2. C.R. and L. ruled - what? | 2. England: "The cat, the Rat and Lovell our Dog, Ruled all England under an Hog". |
| 3. Good charges for a pub sign. | 3. Bars |
| 4. Who were often caught red-handed? | 4. Baronets |
| 5. Champion of the donkey derby? | 5. Dymoke (Queen's Champion) |
| 6. Nothing up their sleeves. | 6. Hastings Family |
| 7. Top charge in heraldry. | 7. Chief |
| 8. What heralds should never do. | 8. Put metal on metal, colour on colour. |
| 9. A motorist should never park on this. | 9. Bend |
| 10. A sleepy lion. | 10. Dormant |
| 11. Heraldic name for a cricketer. | 11. Dexter |
| 12. This bird may have trouble perching. | 12. Martlets |
| 13. Dogged fellow from Shrewsbury. | 13. Talbot |
| 14. Suitable motto for Wimbledon. | 14. Ich Dien (I serve) |
| 15. Heraldic cough sweets? | 15. Lozenges. |
| 16. What had Scrope and Grosvenor in common? | 16. Azure a bend or. |

(Answers to the sinister)

BILL BURGESS

A Bouquet of Heraldry

I suppose that if there were any larks daft enough to rise at 6.30 on a cold, damp, dark, late November morning, you'd say that I "rose with the lark". I had need to get up at that ungodly hour in order to catch the 8.15 am train to Cardiff from Paddington. I'd got a day return and intended to "do" Castell Coch and Cardiff Castle, recommended to me as being gold mines of heraldry by Keith Lovell, my erudite and enthusiastic "heraldry Sir".

A bus was waiting outside Cardiff station to take me to Castell Coch. A ride of about twenty minutes took me to a Welsh village sporting a forgettable name, where, on alighting, I beheld the turrets of the Red Castle overlooking the village. After a short walk in nice Welsh drizzle I came to the gates of the castle and proceeded to puff my way through superb beeches to the drawbridge of the castle. It looked just like something out of "Snow White", with its turreted tower and roofs at odd levels and angles. Inside the door I looked around - a castle in miniature, a circular courtyard with a stairway leading up to a covered walkway all round, covered with wood painted a dull dark red, as was the timber Bretache over the portcullis. There has been no guide book for the past two years. It has had to be re-written owing to certain discrepancies, but I was directed to a most informative exhibition, lots of photo's texts and drawings, illustrating the history of the castle, and most of all, the reconstruction of it by the third Marquis of Bute and his friend and architect, William Burgess. The aforesaid Marquis was not only a convert to Roman Catholicism, a scholar and a mystic, but was also rather keen on heraldry. Mind you, with his pedigree and his wife Gwendoline Fitz-Alan Howard's, there's a splendid name for you, he had quite a lot to be keen about. Burges incorporated shields wherever there was a space, that is, when he wasn't filling it with flowers, birds, butterflies and the like. The shields were carved on furniture, in stainedglass windows, on the ceilings, on exquisite jewellery, glass and chinaware. The Banqueting Hall has lovely lovely windows with a shield in each, uncluttered ancient shields with, at the most, four quarters. One I particularly liked was gules three clarions or. The drawing room is a riot of "things". There's not a bare space. The murals, in superb soft colours depict Aesop's Fables and I just adored a very sly looking stork standing by his pitcher and leering at a most discomfited looking fox. Round the two doorways were carved trees with birds and butterflies leaping about and small creatures nestling in the roots. There are well over a hundred panels of the most beautifully painted flowers. The tiles backing the fireplace depict the Zodiac signs. In this room are family portraits, each with the sitter's coat of arms in the top right hand corner. Alas, they were too dim and far away for me to see clearly.

It was in a state of total euphoria that I left that utterly delightful place. It is under the care of the Ministry of Works and costs a miserable 20p to see all that riotous beauty. The lady in charge, who obviously adores the castle, says that the present Marquis, grandson of the third, and living up in Scotland, often visits them and is a "lovely man".

Back to Cardiff and its Castle. The 2pm tour was fully booked so I utilised my hour's wait by visiting the nearby church of St. John, hoping to find more heraldry. My hopes were realised when I saw the Marquis of Bute's Chapel. Unfortunately it was locked so I couldn't make a study of the fine looking tomb. Also, no lights on and it was somewhat gloomy, but, I got my joy from the stained glass window which proclaimed the paternal arms. It read like a roll call: Argent a maunch sable, Sable, two barrulets gules, in chief three torteaux; Per pale Or and Sable, a saltire engrailed counter-changed, and many more.

One, which I couldn't remember the name of, was Argent + blue. The transept displayed a memorial tablet to the Duke of Kent, with the cross of the Knights Templars everywhere. I would have stayed longer but time was pressing, and a little old lady had attached herself to me imploring me to pray for her and Mr. John. So, back to the castle where I paid my 90p and waited with the others for the guide. I really ought to have been prepared for the castle because I knew that it too had been restored by our friends the 3rd Marquis and Just William, but I wasn't prepared enough! The first small room, small area-wise as the yanks would say, was entered over tiles depicting dogs. Being quite soppy over our canine brothers I notice that sort of thing. Then the room, ah, the room! Stained glass windows of the Northern Gods, Wotan, Thor, Freia, etc., a magnificent fireplace carved with figures in medieval dress doing what Burges thought medieval toffs did during the winter, the Bute coat of arms everywhere, even marching up the ribs of the groined ceiling, alternating chequy a fess argent and azure with the Scottish Royal Arms, the ceiling itself painted with eight Zodiac signs - mine wasn't there! There followed room after room which left me gasping. At first I was feverishly trying to jot down all the shields, but gradually a sort of paralysis, heraldic indigestion, overtook me - there was so much! It made me feel slightly hysterical. There was another lady armed with notebook and pencil wearing the same glazed expression as I felt I too must be wearing. It was an ego boost to see shields that I could put a name to: Clare, Mortimer, Herbert, and it afforded excellent blazon practice. In the library I was interested to see half a dozen or so attributed arms: St. Lucius, Arthur, Ambrosius Aurelius, and others. The tour took an hour, nowhere near enough to appreciate just the heraldry, let alone all the other wonders and glories to be seen.

I staggered out to wend my way stationwards. Leaving Cardiff station at 4.45 pm I was indoors at 7.25 pm. That involved changing at Paddington and Queens Park, and a slow train from thence to Watford. The day return, Watford to Cardiff was £13, I didn't pay the "exorbitant" 20p for Castell Coch as I have a season ticket, 90p for Cardiff Castle, the best £13.90p that I have spent for many a long day.

BRENDA BAMFORD

Snippets from the Press, contributed by Margaret Zigadas:

Lawrence Link: The town Council of Eastwood, Notts., where D.H. Lawrence was born, has won approval from the Heraldic College of Arms for the addition of a phoenix to its coat of arms, depicting its association with the author.

Family Reunion: The hamlet of Loxton, near Weston-super-Mare, is expecting an invasion next month of people all with the name Loxton. They will come from all over the world and attend a special church service and lunch. A commemorative mug bearing the family coat of arms will be provided.

A visit to Harefield Church

At 10 o'clock on 27th October, 1979, a bright sunny Saturday morning, a party of us met at Harefield Church. We were to be conducted on another of our tours by Kay, who always seems to have done an incredible amount of homework on the churches he takes us to. This was to prove no exception. A number of us had been before but as there is such a wealth of heraldry there I am sure you can find something new to interest you no matter how often you go. At first we looked around the churchyard, primarily to give the cleaners time to finish, but as the church is in such a lovely setting it was well worth the walk.

/Inside

Inside the church had been beautifully decorated with flowers for the wedding to be held in the afternoon, and having duly admired these, we then turned to the heraldry on the memorials, brasses, hatchments and windows. One query was found on Bishop Pritchets memorial. What was thought to be a fret turned out to be a fer-de-moline. Having spent a fruitful two hours we concluded yet another pleasant visit.

RON BROWN

The Lambeth Palace Report of the afternoon of the 29th November, 1979.

On a very mild November afternoon we made our way across London to visit the ancient Archbishop's Palace of Lambeth. Upon entering the Lollards' Towers we made our way into the courtyard where stood a fig tree, said to be grown by Archbishop Reginald Pole 1554-8. We were shown around the various rooms, the library, etc., and shown portraits of many previous Archbishops, some famous, some infamous. In the library we were shown a pair of gloves given by King Charles I to Bishop Juxson on the scaffold in Whitehall. For his compassion, Juxson was later rewarded by King Charles II with the Archbishopric.

William Laud in the seventeenth century was mostly responsible for the beautiful stained glass in the chapel and the carved oak screen nearby. There were two copes on display, the Fisher and Davidson, both named after the prelates who were presented with them. The other striking building that came to mind was the hammer beamed roof of the great hall with its most magnificent carvings. Out of the whole visit I only regret that we were not permitted to visit the Lollards' Towers, with their grim prisons as a stern reminder of the days of John Wycliff of the late 14th and early 15th century era.

From Lambeth Palace we went along to the nearby church of St Mary at Lambeth where we had tea and biscuits. On wandering round the place we were astonished to find the tomb of Elias Ashmole, the antiquarian and historian, and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of William Dugdale, Garter King at Arms. Then, having thus concluded the visit we all made our separate departures. Me personally to the onslaught of the homeward bound traffic jams.

ROBIN CLAYTON

.....and so to ye shire of Buckingham

'twas at eleven of ye clock on Saturday May ye four and twentyeth, that eight and ten members of ye honoured Society didst come together at ye ancient church of St. Mary, Langley by Slough. Despite ye glum faces of Master Ron Brown and Mistress Brown, who didst bemoan the passing of ye clutch on their horseless carriage, we were soon ta'en in hand by ye matronly curator of ye John Keder-mister Library, Mistress Muriel Kemp, who didst treat us to ye delight of ye aforesaid library. This dates from sixteen hundre three and twenty and containeth many books of ancient lineage, verily indeed some doth date prior to ye introduction of ye printing press by Master William Caxton. Ye church of St. Mary is ye veritable treasure trove for heraldists, containing many hatchments and other memorials adorned with armorial bearings. Whilst ye ornate pew of ye Keder-mister family is a veritable blaze of coafs of arms and proved of great interest.

Ye members didst overstay their allotted time at St. Mary's thus whilst some did mount their horseless carriages and head for ye next church at Stoke Poges, others didst think 'twas time to partake of refreshment and didst repair to ye handsome public house opposite for glasses of ye landlord's foaming beverage to wash down ye pasties and ye ploughman's lunches.

/And so

And so to Stoke Poges; verily this is a fine building dedicated to St. Giles and standing in a well manicured churchyard. A churchyard of famous connections, for didst not Master Thomas Gray ye poet of famous memory write his elegie under a yew tree there? Inside ye church one is immediately transfixed at ye wealth of hatchments adorning ye walls, one and twenty all told. Ye writer, a man of little knowledge didst obtain ye kindly services of our youngest member Master Tim Noad, who from his notes and magical drawings didst give chapter and verse on ye identity of ye various hatchments. Members were especially interested in the Hastings Chapel and, obviously not satisfied by ye beautiful brasses of the De Molyms family near ye altar rails, didst manage to uplift ye carpet in a diligent search for further brasses, much to ye chagrin of ye ancient book-stall seller.

Now didst nightmare journey begin as ye next place to be visited, ye church of St. Mary Ye Virgin at Hedgerley wouldst appear to have been razed to ye ground. However, after much travel via Egypt (so sayeth ye signpost) and frequent advice from ye local peasantry, it was located off ye beaten track. Not a lot to interest ye members albeit wi' ye strong arm of Master Ron Brown (doubtlessly much recovered from ye loss of ye clutch) who didst remove church pew and uncover ye Fulmer family brasses, it proved not to be ye complete wasted journey.

Having seen ye Fulmer brasses we didst repair to ye village of Fulmer and ye parish church of St. James. A pretty village wi' ye church lying next to ye public house called Ye Black Horse, in whose grounds Master Robin Clayton didst park his carriage causing much concern to ye landlord, who asked if Robin be going to ye wedding. Methinks this being an odd request as obviously Robin not so dressed. Perhaps ye landlord blind or living in hope of ye convivial wedding company that evening. Ye church didst contain a large interesting monument to Sir Marquise Dayrell and his wife circa sixteen hundred one and thirty. However, ye photographic enthusiasts disappointed as Vicar obviously of Scottish descent and would appear to have ta'en ye switches for ye church lites home with him. So, ye members unable to turn on ye said lites. Ye windows contained several coats of arms of local families. I noticed a rare example of Jacobean font circa sixteen hundred and ten, only one other similar example be known is in St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

Finally to ye church of St. Mary at Denham, ye group still together and obviously thirsting for more knowledge. Consternation! ye door locked! Mistress Peggy Foster didst tripst to ye village and find custodian wi' ye key and so we didst enter a pretty church, quite large wi' many monuments to ye minor nobility. Observed several fine brasses in particular to ye Peckham family.

So at last to ye simple abode after day of immense interest. Congratulations to Mistress Peggy Foster for arranging ye marvellous outing and surprisingly all places within half of ye hour from home. So endeth ye account..... T. DOUGLAS DICKSON

RICHARD III SOCIETY

Sooner or later, study of heraldry and interest in the Middle Ages brings us face to face with the question of King Richard III. Brought up as we have been on Shakespeare's conception of a villian, and on "received" tradition of a deformed, brutal and tyrannical usurper, it is not easy to accept that all these ideas are subject to question.

/The

The Richard III Society aims to re-open the question, and to discover the truth, confident that the truth will vindicate the reputation of the king.

In fact, most authorities nowadays state that it is impossible to prove that Richard killed his nephews, the Princes in the Tower; or the Lancastrian King Henry VI and his son, Edward Prince of Wales; or George Duke of Clarence, Richard's brother.

For generations the fact that Shakespeare wrote a good tale, has obscured the fact that the tale was based on the Tudor version for a Tudor court. Churchill's romantic view was that it was too good a story to discount. Yet doubts have been voiced - and published - in every century since the death of the last Tudor, by Sir George Buck in the 1600's, Horace Walpole in the 1700's, Sir Clement Markham in the 1800's, Professor Paul Murray Kendall and others in the 1900's.

Let us briefly look at the case again. First the character of the accused king. His motto "Loyaultie me lie" means "Loyalty binds me". During the lifetime of his brother, Edward IV, Richard's absolute dependability was unquestioned. He forgave his brother, faithless George of Clarence, his treachery both to himself and to his wife, Anne. In the area where he was best known, the North, he was respected and honoured in life, and significantly, after death, when such an opinion was unlikely to earn the good will of Henry Tudor, now Henry VII.

Crime usually has a motive. It is usually said that Richard murdered his nephews for fear they or others in their name should try to overthrow him. But once the boys had been declared illegitimate, and therefore unable to succeed to the throne, they were no longer a threat to Richard, though they could have been to other claimants to the throne whose pretensions were even weaker than theirs.

There must be opportunity for the commission of a crime. No doubt Richard had opportunities to have the Princes murdered, but so had others. One possible alternative is Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, Richard's mercurial cousin, at one moment his chief supporter, the next an unsuccessful rebel. One thing is certain; if the Princes were alive when Henry Tudor seized power, their lives were forfeit. Henry married their sister, Elizabeth of York. If she was now illegitimate, so would her brothers have been. Henry Tudor's own claim to the crown was not only very remote, but also specifically excluded - because of illegitimacy.

Now what real evidence is there? True there were rumours before Richard's death of the disappearance of the Princes. Yet when Henry made himself King, heaping every vileness and insult on the body and the memory of the late crowned and anointed monarch, there was no mention of the fate of the boys. Henry, who missed no opportunity to weaken and humiliate his former opponents, dated his reign from the day before the Battle of Bosworth so that all who fought against him could be technically termed traitors. Equally cynically, he and his son Henry VIII, systematically put to death almost all who had the blood of the Plantagenet line.

Accusations against Richard did not begin until twenty years later, when Sir James Tyrell is said to have confessed to the murders when he himself was imprisoned for treason. The source of this story is Sir Thomas More, Martyr and Saint, but once a page in the house of Cardinal Morton, Richard's bitterest and cleverest enemy. The boy would have been unlikely to question his master, Cardinal, Archbishop and Chancellor.

/What

What then are we left with? There is probably insufficient evidence even to bring a case against Richard. An impartial jury would find him "Not guilty", or at the very least bring in an open verdict because of insufficient evidence. It would not be the task of such a jury to name alternative suspects, but the suspicious behaviour of Henry of Buckingham and Henry Tudor puts each of them high on the list for further enquiries.

KAY HOLMES

A contribution for Mr John Dent, of Norwich:

de Mandeville and Middlesex

Middlesex was one of the very few English counties that by Stephen's reign was not an earldom. If William the Conqueror or his sons had not already created them for the protection of the kingdom from the neighbouring Celts, earldoms were created by either Stephen or the Empress (and sometimes by both) to help administer the country during the troubled times of the anarchy. Middlesex, it is thought, was not made into an earldom because it was in fact controlled from the Tower of London and an earl was not therefore necessary.

William de Mandeville, one of Williams' supporters, was made Constable of the Tower and also both Justiciar and Sheriff of London and Middlesex. His son Geoffrey later claimed and received these offices from Stephen and it is with Geoffrey that we are now mainly concerned.

Geoffrey de Mandeville was a rather unpleasant character who did quite well out of the civil war and anarchy, playing one side against the other, and for a while became one of the most powerful men in the country. He was created Earl of Essex in 1139 or 1140 and also became Sheriff and Justiciar of Essex and Sheriff of Hertford. After Stephen's defeat at the battle of Lincoln in 1141 he changed sides and was confirmed as Earl of Essex by Matilda. Thereafter he seems to have changed sides again (possibly more than once) and in 1144 he was ravaging the fen country in partnership with Hugh Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, when he was eventually killed in revolt and unshriven.

Unpleasant though he may have been, he was heraldically most important for he adopted what must have been one of the earliest English coats of arms; although there is no absolute proof it is virtually certain that he bore: Quarterly Or and gules. Furthermore, this coat gave rise to many related coats forming one of the three major groups of cognate arms, the other two being Warrene and Clare.

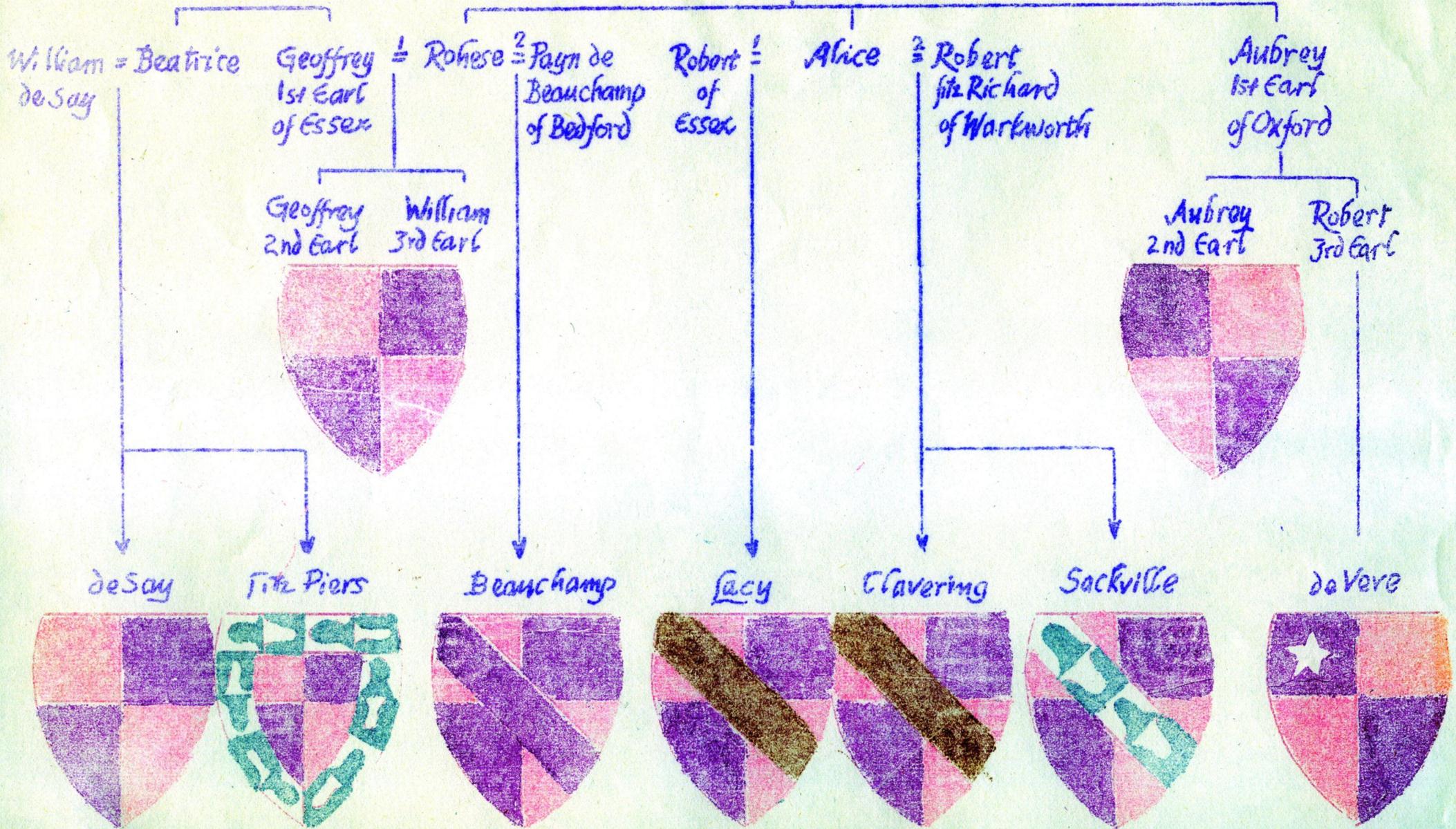
The genealogy is quite complicated and too complex to deal with in detail in a short paper such as this. Basically, however, Geoffrey de Mandeville married Rohese, daughter of Aubrey de Vere, the Great Chamberlain. Geoffrey adopted a coat: Quarterly, Or and gules and, as a result of the marriage, Rohese's brother Aubrey de Vere, who became the first Earl of Oxford, probably adopted: Quarterly, gules and or (the Mandeville tinctures reversed) and his eldest son, the second Earl, used the same. He, however, had no issue and his brother Robert became the 3rd earl. Robert had differenced his father's arms by adding a mullet argent to the first quarter and these became the arms of De Vere for hundreds of years.

Rohese's sister Alice married twice and gave rise to the families of Lacy, earls of Lincoln, and Clavering, both of whom adopted: Quarterly, or and gules, a bend sable.

/Later

William
de Mandeville

Aubrey de Vere
Great Chamberlain



de Mandeville and Middlesex.

Broxbourne** (church near the station) has a remarkable brass with colour on an altar tomb, of Say, old glass of the same family, and several other heraldic tombs and windows. The guide book mentions hatchments but these were not in evidence (Open).

Hunsdon*** (church well out of the village) has two very old heraldic tombs in the chancel, to Pointz and Forster. There is a private chapel of the Careys, Lords Hunsdon, which though locked, is largely visible from the nave, and has numerous spectacular monuments - the screen has the Carey arms and four splendid crests. (Open).

Sawbridgeworth*** has very interesting monuments in the chancel, nave, Lady chapel and west end choir. There are several brasses in excellent condition, and hatchments. The main families are Levernthorp and Joscelyn (Church may be locked).

Furneau Pelham** has much to offer, an altar tomb, a brass shield in remarkable condition, and several resplendent wooden angels in the roof holding the arms of local families. There is a useful chart identifying most of the arms (Open).

Bennington** has two effigies on altar tombs with shields, some old glass, a number of unusually fine and interesting ledger stones with arms, and one has a pedigree of the Caesar family. In the ceiling are wooden arms of local families. (Key available if church is locked).

Three other churches which look promising from a heraldic point of view are Essendon, Aspenden and Watton at Stone, but all were locked and keys did not appear to be easily accessible.

It is perhaps only fair to warn readers that churches kept open at the time of the visit - 18 months ago - may now be locked. Nevertheless there are still more churches kept open than kept locked, and keys are available with a little persistence at most of those that are locked.

IN SEARCH OF HERALDRY 6. EAST ANGLIA

Members may be aware that the Suffolk Heraldry Society is producing a comprehensive guide to the Heraldry of Sussex churches. These are available in many of the churches so far covered. The following brief notes may, however, whet readers' appetites to visit the churches and find both the heraldry and the guide books.

Wingfield** has monuments of the Wingfield and de la Pole families. Although there is little colour, the arms and badges carved in stone are superb. (Church open).

Framlingham*** has a peaceful church in a small town. There are several splendid tombs of the Howards, as the town belonged to the earlier Earls and Dukes of Norfolk. As well as carved stone there is much colour, the tomb of the poet Earl of Surrey having been recently restored in full colour. (church open).

Butley Priory** although not open to the public, can be seen through binoculars. Only the gateway survives of the Priory, but it is a mass of about thirty coats-of-arms in stone, including many of the best known medieval shields.

Layer Marney** has tombs well worth seeing and the heraldry and history are helpfully described in charts. (Church open).

Stoke by Nayland** has two fine heraldic tombs, one well restored, and the other retaining enough colour to make identification fairly easy. There is also a good brass. (Church open).

/Long Melford

Long Melford**** was the subject of the first of the Suffolk Society's booklets. There is a magnificent display of heraldry, mainly of the Clopton family and their connections. The Royal Arms are particularly fine ; there are monuments, tablets, superb brasses, nine hatchments (stored at the time of the visit but available to view on request) and fifteen heraldic windows which alone are worth a visit (Church open and comprehensive guides to heraldry and history available).

Castle Hedingham** has one very unusual tomb of De Vere (Open).

Finchingfield** one of the prettiest villages in England, several tablets, hatchments, a brass and a tomb. (open).

Thaxted* like most old churches has some heraldry, but at the time of the visit was not seen to best advantage as major restoration was in progress (Open).

Theydon Garnon** has several examples of most forms of heraldic display, 8 or more monuments, 5 hatchments, ledger stones and brasses, some modern glass and a Royal arms. At least 11 families can be identified in situ (Key available at house nearby).

Latton** (very difficult to find as it is virtually within Harlow New Town) has a series of monuments of the Altham family (Ralph Hawtrey of Ruislip married Mary Altham). Although the church was rebuilt recently after a fire, the monuments have been faithfully restored (Key at Vicarage next to the church). KAY HOLMES

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