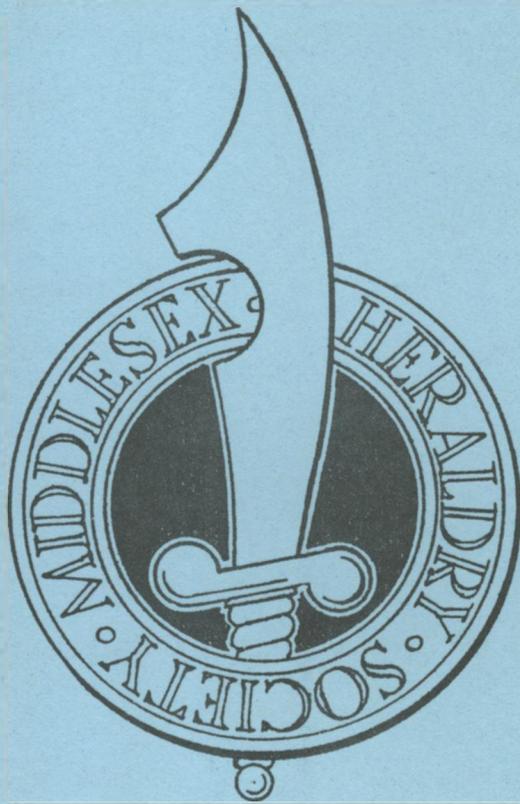


# THE SEAXE



Number 10

May 1989

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### OFFICERS OF THE MIDDLESEX HERALDRY SOCIETY

From September 1988

Chairman	Mrs. Nan Taylor
Vice-chairman	Roger Matthews
Secretary	Mrs. Peggy Foster
Treasurer	Peter Esslemont
Committee	Kay Holmes
	Don Kirby

Sales Table - Roger Matthews  
Seaxe Team - Kay Holmes(Editor) & Don Kirby.  
Printing - St. Martin's Printers, Ruislip.

**EDITORIAL**

Earlier issues of *The Seaxe* have included contributions from a high proportion of our members. The 'bumper' issue for our tenth anniversary had articles by more than one in three of the membership and, over the years, more than half of the membership have contributed at least once in the writing, illustrating or production of *The Seaxe*. The aim is to produce annually, if we can, though naturally we depend on members for material. So please start thinking now about something for inclusion in next year's issue.

It has been suggested that some time at a monthly meeting should be given to discussion of the matter in *The Seaxe*, and it is planned to do this during the early summer. This will not be a 'Test Paper' to see how much we have taken in, but simply an opportunity for contributors to get some 'feed-back' - from the readers to their contributions.

Turning to other matters, we have continued our regular activities; meetings, visits and workshops (or talkshops?). Although membership has fallen slightly from its peak of a year or two ago, we are as busy as ever. We have put on displays at the Harrow Festival and at the Middlesex Local History Conference, attracting some interest but not, at least so far, any new members.

In September a dozen of us revisited Little Dean for a week-end. We explored the Gloucestershire and Welsh Border area again for heraldry and returned weary but well satisfied.

We hope to complete the recording and checking of the heraldry in the churches of the Hillingdon Borough and Deanery in the near future. If you are involved in the checking of any of the churches, please try to get it finished so that we can publish the results of so much time and effort. There is all the rest of Middlesex still to do!

*The Seaxe* and the Church Recording are in your hands.

Sincerely,  
Kay Holmes

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**FROM OUR MINUTE BOOK - 19th January, 1989**

Our speaker was Vice-Chairman Roger Matthews. Subsequent to an article he had written for *The Seaxe* about police heraldry, Roger told us he had been inveigled by various members into giving us a talk. From then on he realised just how much time, effort and expense goes into talks!

After twenty-eight years in the force, Roger had no difficulty whatsoever with communication skills and although his talk, delivered very clearly, was liberally laced with humour, it did not blind us to the erudition of its content. Many fascinating facts emerged as well as those of the heraldry, which began with a slide of the arms of the Metropolitan Police, granted in 1967. The crest was chosen from elements of that of Sir Robert Peel and devised by the then Windsor Herald, Colin Cole.

Of course the badges on helmets, jackets, motor cycle gear and vehicles were included. We were then shown slides of coats of arms, often amalgams of city or county arms, badges and logos. One particularly elegant Grant of Arms was that to the West Yorkshire Police which included a badge made up of four Tudor Portcullis badges forming a cross surmounted by the White Rose of York.

Our geographical tour of most of the Police forces in England and Wales included Nottingham where the Alsatian police dog had been used as supporters. Along the way Roger told us of the many humorous conversations and happenings he had experienced in acquiring all this information.

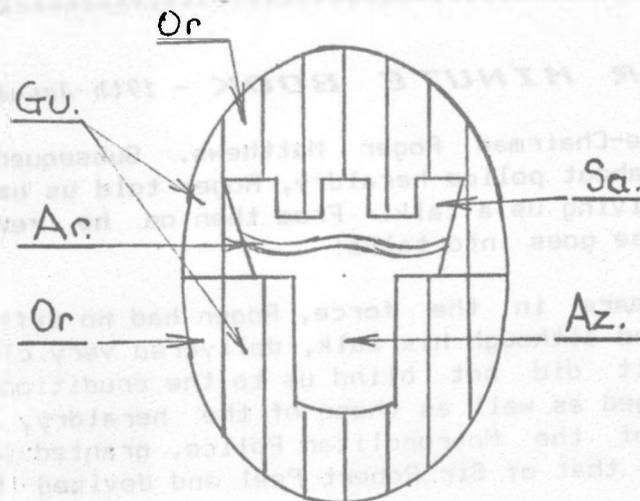
Scotland and Ulster, where more badges than coats of arms were found, were included and which many would find easier to blazon than the arms used for the West Midlands and the Cumbria police. The talk ended with an illustration of the recent grant to the Police Federation, signed by John Brooke-Little, Norroy and Ulster King of Arms. There followed much lively discussion and many questions and so another fresh and interesting talk and speaker will, hopefully, do the rounds of the Heraldry societies and other organizations.

Peggy Foster

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### COMPETITION

Those of our readers who attended the talk on the Arms and Badges of the Police may remember the oddly charged oval of the Northumbria Police, tricked out below. Now is your chance to win a prize that will astound you and our Treasurer! Simply blazon it and hand your solution to the Editor. Prizes for the heraldically accurate and the humorous, but remember, the badge must be capable of reproduction from your blazon. Entries close the meeting after publication.



Roger Matthews

## VISITS - 1987/88

Although officially I took over the job of organizing outings twelve months ago, the first few had already been arranged.

In September last year a return trip to Canterbury was arranged by Kay and twelve members went there by minibus. The weather was warm and sunny and we wandered round the Cathedral and other places of interest with plenty of time to go where we wanted.

The great storm immediately preceded our October visit arranged by Nan to St. Benet's in Queen Victoria Street. Part of the roof had been blown off and the Bath Heraldry Society who were to join us were very late having been delayed by blockages on the road. However we found much to interest us as all the City Churches were holding exhibitions and this, being the Herald's Church, there was a good display connected with the College of Arms. The Revd. Fryse-Hawkins was very helpful with information and provided us with tea and biscuits which were very welcome. We then went on with the Bath Society to Southwark Cathedral where there is a great deal of fine heraldry.

We visited Westminster Abbey in November where Nan was able to show us parts not normally open to visitors. We were taken into the Jerusalem and Jericho Chambers and, after an extensive tour of this magnificent Abbey, to the Chapter House with its beautiful heraldic windows.

St. John's Gate was visited in January under the guidance of Mr. McLaren Anderson. Besides all the heraldry to be seen a number of manuscripts had been put on display for our benefit. After visiting the Church we returned to look round the Museum.

In February we went to Chalfont St. Giles, Chalfont St. Peter and Fulmer, all of which contained plenty to interest us. At Chalfont St. Peter we were met by the Vicar, the Verger and Mr. Clive Rouse, all of whom were very helpful in telling us about the history and restoration of the Church particularly the hatchments and other heraldry.

In March members were asked to check the details concerning heraldry in Middlesex Churches. We hope they did!

Chesham Bois was the first of three churches visited in April. It is a very interesting little church with monuments to the Cheyne family. We went on to Chesham where there is a fine church with many hatchments and monuments. We then proceeded to Northchurch which is a very lovely church with some good heraldic windows.

The Chiltern Society had a coach outing to Leeds Castle in May and some of our members joined them. It was a most enjoyable day. The castle houses paintings by Don Escott of the heraldry of all the owners.

Another visit was made in June to the battlefield at Bosworth jointly with members of the East Midland Heraldic Society. We were taken on a tour of the battlefield and then went into the Museum. Some people watched the film of the battle but for some, including me, it was too gory. We went on to Twycross Church where the vicar met us and gave us much interesting information. There was some fine heraldry.

In July we visited Yarnton, Minster Lovell and Swinbrook Churches all of which contained much of interest. At Yarnton there is alot of heraldry of the Spencer family. At Minster Lovell the beautiful Lovell tomb and, at Swinbrook, the unusual monuments of the Fettiplace family.

We visited some churches in North Buckinghamshire at the beginning of September. Firstly All Saints at Hillesden, a truly magnificent church which richly deserves being known as "the cathedral in the fields". From there we went to Middle Claydon, Soulbury and Fenny Stratford all of which were enjoyable, the last having a fine heraldic ceiling and window.

It would seem that Nan has successfully passed on her weather charm to me as we have had mostly sunny days for our outings and, when there was rain, it obligingly waited until we were on our homeward journey.

Margaret Young

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### SPOOF HERALDRY

Some twenty years ago the advertising staff of Schweppes Limited created a

spoof coat of arms for the imaginary County of Schweppshire having carefully obtained the views of the College of Arms. Created by Stephen Potter the coat of arms was illustrated by George Him.



Arms-Quarterly: 1. or three bowlers sable, for City; 2. sable the battlements of a tower gules, thereon a ghoul ancestral also gules holding in the dexter hand a sword point downwards and supporting with the sinister arm a head truncated argent, for Schwepston; 3. azure a cirro-cumulus therefrom issuing rain proper, for Fogschwepster; 4. or a bend gobony azure and argent between two helmets Metropolitan azure, for Schweppesminster. Inescutcheon-vert Ye Olde Cottage proper, smoke passant sable, for Isle of Schweppey. Crest-Lion sejant guardant proper, armed umbrella sable, crowned bowler proper. Supporters-dexter: a batsman habited argent, capped vert, bearded gules, holding cricket bat proper; sinister: a Sherlock proper holding in mouth a meerschaum or.

SCHWEPESHIRE, COUNTY OF

Alan Teasdale

## A CHARMING SUBJECT

It all started with two bracelets given to me by my elder sister when she decided she no longer wanted them. They were pretty and I liked them, - so I wore them. That they were heraldic did not mean anything to me at the time.

It was not until I went abroad with my parents in 1961 that my interest was rekindled. We travelled by car through several European countries and, as a souvenir, I bought charms from some of the places we visited. I repeated the exercise when I went to stay with my sister in Italy a few years later and when we went to Oberammergau in 1970.

My various trips around Scotland and visits to Wales have also been fruitful. Occasional days out and Heraldry visits have also had their moments! My family and friends have made contributions, mostly from places I am unlikely to see, such as Hong Kong, Bermuda and Australia. Most of the British but only a few of the European charms are heraldic.

Several things have happened to a number of my charms. One, from Igls in Austria, was on varnished paper which has since become damaged; when Augsburg's enamel was smashed I stuck it together with clear nail varnish! The Paris charm was lost on our trip to Italy, reappearing under the mat when the car was cleaned on our return.! The Brighton charm was also mislaid so when next on the South Coast I bought a replacement. Then, - you've guessed it, - the original turned up and there was a difference; the bordure of one contained six martlets the other - eight! In similar vein my charm from Scotland shews a lion argent, on a field gules instead of the usual gules on or!

I cannot always find charms in the places they represent; Augsburg was not bought in Augsburg and Venice was bought in Milan. I have been given charms from Jerusalem and Bethlehem. From Malta I acquired a Maltese cross with a Templar cross on it. I am now filling up my fourth bracelet but I no longer wear them as I am afraid of losing some of the charms and I wonder if there is some other way of displaying them? An heraldic waistcoat or perhaps a wall mounted display? Any suggestions?

To date I have 82 charms, 61 of which are heraldic. I do not have a favourite but I like the simplicity of the cross of Glastonbury and a ship coming from the castle of Bristol. I find this a fascinating hobby, a small memento of a place visited, and quite inexpensive although prices have risen since I started my collection. It gives me a lot of pleasure to be reminded of past holidays and to plan those for the future.

Angela Dickson

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CARTOON



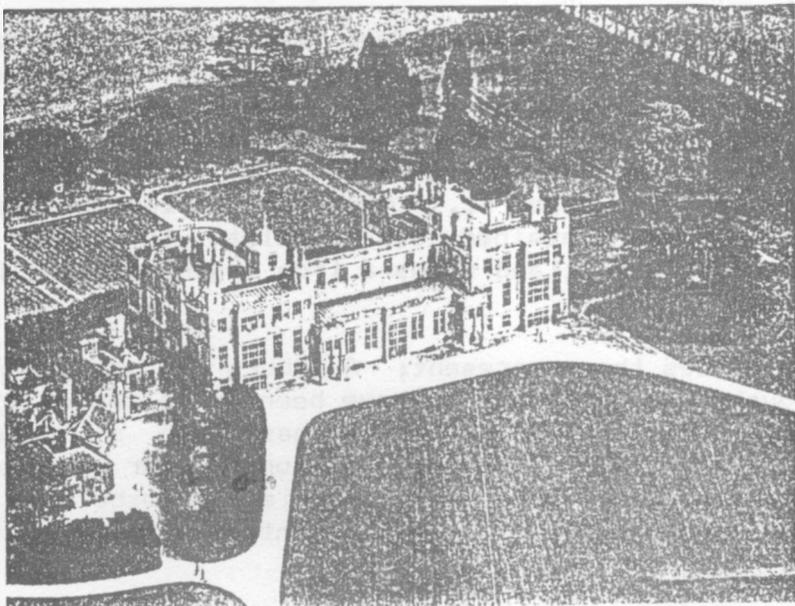
TIME

# AUDLEY END

Sunday, 9th October 1988

In April last year when Don and I were returning from Suffolk we visited Audley End making use of our English Heritage passes. We found a house teeming with heraldry much of which we, as comparative novices, had difficulty in identifying. However on a chair in the great hall we noticed a typewritten booklet - *The Heraldry of Audley End* by David Broomfield. On enquiring about obtaining a copy the duty custodian suggested that Don should write to English Heritage. Some two months after writing they replied giving us David Broomfield's address. From this stemmed a very enjoyable visit to the house by members of the Society on this very, very wet Sunday.

We arrived at the entrance gates at noon to find that there was a power cut - a common occurrence in this area we were told. We soon realised the implications -

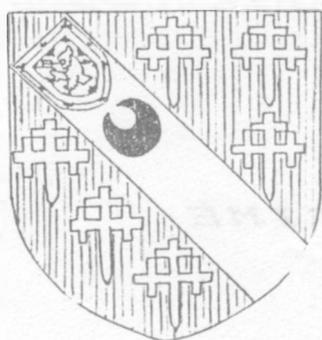


firstly the gateman was unable to take entrance fees because his electronic till did not work - then, after parking, we came face to face with a notice - "House & Restaurant closed due to power cut". Our hearts sank at the thought of no heraldry and no lunch! By this time about ten other members had arrived but they were obviously more equipped to deal with this type of situation and had brought sandwiches.

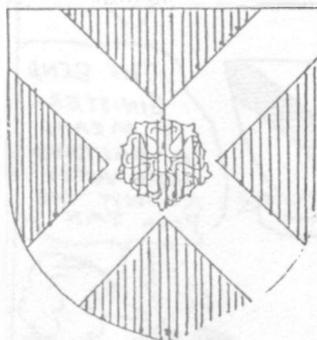
David Broomfield joined us and, as an ex-custodian, tried to overcome the red tape and gain entry for us all. Unfortunately it would have meant contravening the health and safety at

work regulations and was, therefore, impossible. When, after some time, the Electricity Board was contacted the spokesman seemed quite hopeful that power would be restored by 2.00pm. Nine of us then adjourned to Saffron Walden to the *Six Bells* (or was it the *Nine Bells*?) - anyway it was quite a lot of bells and we were provided with a very good lunch. We returned to Audley End at 2.00pm and were both delighted and relieved to find that power had been restored and all the lights were on.

The ensuing tour, interrupted twice by short power cuts, was riveting. David Broomfield was second only to Robin in his knowledge of genealogy. He could tell us the heraldry and history of the Audley, Howard, Neville and Griffin families with hardly a pause for breath.



Howard



Neville



Audley

For a start the great hall has sixteen shields on the walls and seven double sided banners hanging from the ceiling! Many of the banners were disintegrating and difficult to see but we were fortunate in having David's guidance. The fireplace showed the arms of Howard, Brotherton, Mowbray and Audley. The ceiling was divided into squares, each one containing brightly painted heraldic crest - some repeated. There were the crests of the Warren, Howard, Mowbray, De la Pole, Brotherton and Bigod families. to mention but a few.

We went up the Vanbrugh staircase passing heraldic beasts, installed in 1823, each supporting a shield - the lion of England and the unicorn of Scotland, collared and chained but minus horn, the dragon of Wales and the white horse of Hanover. Through the house we went - not pausing in the rooms devoid of heraldry because there was so much to be seen elsewhere. The chapel was a positive feast - coats of arms on the walls, ceiling and chairs of the family pew with armorial stained glass from Chicksands Priory in the west window. The fireplaces in the dining room carried the arms of the four monarchs who had owned Audley End - Charles II, James II and William & Mary along with those of the Audley, Howard, Griffin and Neville families.

It was in the library that we had a special treat. We were able to examine closely, under the eagle eye of the curator, - THE BOOK - which is not normally opened for viewing by the general public. It is a large volume bound in green leather and was hand painted by Louisa, Marchioness Cornwallis, in 1828 to commemorate the marriage of her daughter, Jane, to the third Lord Braybrooke of Audley End. Each page is illustrated with the relevant coats of arms of the Cornwallis genealogy. We were really lucky to see it because it was due to be sent away for restoration and may never be on public view again. This more than made up for the traumatic start to the visit. Of the many owners of Audley End I was intrigued by Sir John Griffin Whitwell who inherited the house, in 1762, from his



aunt, the Countess of Portsmouth, on condition that he assumed the family name of Griffin. In the course of time the now Sir John Griffin Griffin claimed and was granted the barony of Howard de Walden and eventually became the first Lord Braybrooke. It was he who was the creator of Audley End as it is today, turning a gentleman's country house into a nobleman's mansion. In 1762 he commissioned Robert Adam to design new reception rooms and Capability Brown the gardens.

In 1760 he was created a Knight of the Order of the Bath. He was obviously very proud of this because the insignia of the order appears almost everywhere, - in the saloon, above the fireplace, there is the star and the collar (within it a Talbot's head erased Sable - the Griffin crest). Another collar of the order is a good example of the earlier fashion of suspending the badge from one of the knots and not from a crown as the large portrait opposite of Sir John shows. The insignia appears in the North window of the chapel, on the family pew, round the letter 'H' (for Howard), on the tester of the State bed and even on the Palladian bridge designed by Robert Adam in 1763.

David Broomfield gave us a most erudite commentary, - blazoning the shields and explaining the genealogy in detail. As a result of this meeting he joined some of us at the Tower of London for a one day course on *Chivalry in the Renaissance* and we are hoping he may come to talk to the Society on Audley End sometime in the not too distant future. He is, however, short of slides of the house and its heraldry - any offers?

We had just enough time and the electricity lasted just long enough for us to have a cup of tea and a home-made cake in the very pleasant restaurant. Sunday, 9th October was, for me, a very memorable heraldic day.

Marjorie Kirby

# BEWARE THE BUCKET SHOP BLAZONERS

or

## A Cautionary Tale for the Armorial Unwary

(Not to be read by those of a tender disposition).

A neighbour, on behalf of his friend, asked me to see if there were any arms for the surname M<sup>c</sup>QUAID. I found none save an entry in *Fairbairn's Crests* giving a *lion's head erased*. There was nothing in *Burke* whilst *MacLysaght's Irish Families*, although listing the name together with a history, showed no reference to any arms. This information I passed to my friend.

A little later she produced for my inspection a pseudo-bronze plaque bearing an escutcheon of arms in the centre which was entirely surrounded by black Old English script printed on a brown field. Around the immediate area of the escutcheon however was written, by hand, the name M<sup>c</sup>QUAID together with a brief reference to its Irish county of origin. The arms depicted were:- *paly of eight or and gules*. I was told that the purchaser had been charged forty pounds for this rather unpleasant plaque. I checked them again with the same negative result.

Apparently a letter of complaint had produced an apology for a "mistake" and another plaque. The arms displayed this time were:- *Azure, on a saltire engrailed between four escallops or, a lion's head erased, gules*. The crest was as given in *Fairbairn*. As before *Burke* was quoted as the authority. Several photostat copies accompanied this plaque and had been taken from *Fairbairn* and *Irish Families*. The latter clearly indicated the arms for the preceding and following families but not for M<sup>c</sup>QUAID. I must confess to a measure of exasperation at being asked to check these arms for a third time so I passed the buck to Kay Holmes who, together with *Papworth*, came up with WADE. Going straight to *Burke* one finds that one of the entries for WADE is shewn as follows:- *Azure, on a saltire between four escallops or, a dragon's head erased gules, gorged with a bar gemel argent*.

So what conclusion can we draw from this sorry tale?

1. No commercial firm is going to lose a prospective customer due to the irrelevant fact that no family of his/her name is armigerous!
2. If there are no arms recorded for a given name use another name with a similar spelling, i.e. M<sup>c</sup>QUAID, M<sup>c</sup>QUADE, M<sup>c</sup>QUAYDE.
3. If there is no similarly spelled name use a name which rhymes, i.e. M<sup>c</sup>QUAID - WADE.

In this case rule three applies. It was differenced by engrailing the saltire and substituting the dragon's head for the lion's head in *Fairbairn*.

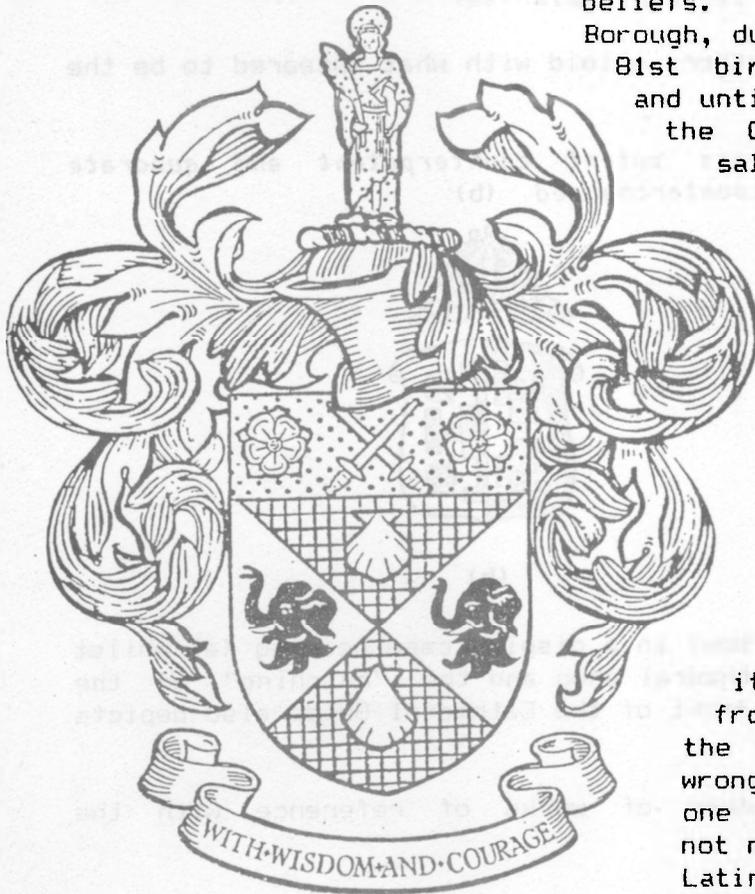
My report to the now very unsatisfied and suspicious customer concluded with the sentence - "If any person can produce any reference shewing these arms as those of M<sup>c</sup>QUAID, I will withdraw the comments above".

The reply? - A full refund!

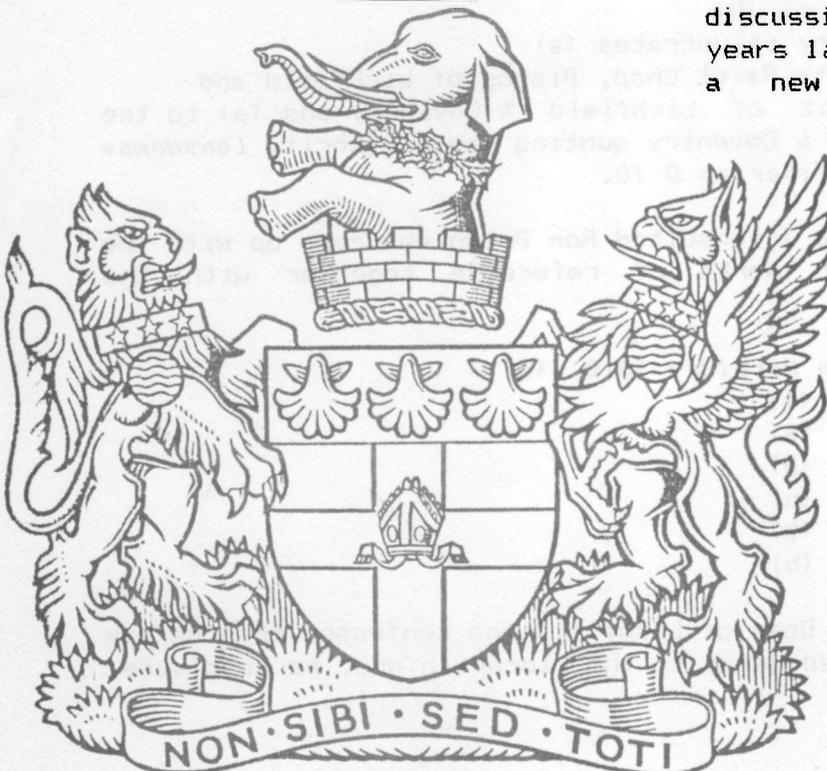
Roger Matthews

## WHITHER MIDDLESEX? - Gone But Not Forgotten.

St.Pancras, as an area, was once part of the Middlesex Forest. It was named after a young Phrygian nobleman, Pancratius, who was beheaded in Rome for his Christian beliefs. In 1900 it was made a Metropolitan Borough, during a year of celebrations for the 81st birthday of Queen Victoria. At this time and until 1903 George Bernard Shaw served on the Council. A coat of arms was adopted: Per saltire sable and argent, in dexter and sinister an elephant's head erased, trunk elevated sable, and in chief and base an escallop argent. On a chief or between two roses two swords in saltire, the dexter over the sinister, hilts downwards, all argent.



The Souvenir booklet, produced in 1965 when St.Pancras became part of the London Borough of Camden, reminisces that "St.Pancras, of course, got a coat of arms, but there was an unfortunate error. Evidently it was intended to select some apt motto from a poem to put beneath the crest, but the person delegated to do this chose the wrong phrase and, into the bargain, picked one that was ungrammatical anyway. It was not noticed at the time, even with so many Latin scholars around, and they were still discussing how to change it over twenty years later". In 1936: "The Borough adopted a new coat-of-arms - this time with the English". Briggs records these as granted 7th December 1936 and now, of course, obsolete.



The arms of Camden were granted on 10th September 1965, with the motto in Latin translated as *not for oneself but for all*.

Peggy Foster

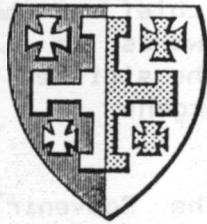
ARMS OF THE SEE OF LICHFIELD.

On a recent visit to the very beautiful Lichfield Cathedral the arms on the tomb of Bishop Hackett attracted my attention as they appeared to be incorrect heraldically:-

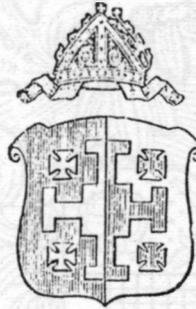
*per pale Gules & Argent a Cross potent per pale between four Crosses patty the dexter Silver the sinister Gold (a)*

However in the Chapter was another shield with what appeared to be the correct arms:-

*per pale Gules & Argent a Cross potent counterpotent and quadrate between four Crosses patty counterchanged (b)*



(a)



(b)

I then came across a hand painted bowl in a display case bearing (a) whilst all the souvenirs on sale in the Cathedral shop and the "hatching" on the line drawing of the arms in the front of the Cathedral Guide also depicts them as (a).

On my return home I consulted a number of works of reference with the following results:

1. *Debrett's Peerage* favours (b)
2. *Storry - Church Heraldry* illustrates (a)
3. *Papworth* ascribes (b) to Saint Chad, Bishop of Lichfield and also to the Bishopric of Lichfield & Coventry and (a) to the Bishopric of Lichfield & Coventry quoting as authority *Lansdowne MS.255* and *Cotton MS. Tiberius D 10.*

Thoroughly confused by this time I consulted Ron Brown who came up with the following information of further works of reference together with the opinions expressed therein:

1. *Berry - Introduction to Heraldry* 1810 (a)
2. *Briggs* 1971 (a)
3. *Crockford* 1976 (a)
4. *Peerage* 1754 (b)
5. *Edmundson* 1780 (b)
6. *Woodward* 1892 (b)
7. *Lodge's Peerage* 1912 (b)

In desperation I appealed to the Dean of Lichfield who confessed that he was as confused as I was but handed me on to the Librarian who, he felt sure, could help.

The Honorary Librarian, Prebendary E.C.C.Hill D.D., wrote back very quickly and, very kindly agreed to my quoting from his letter:

"ancient manuscripts and stained glass showed the 'irregular' colouring of the sinister side. There have been letters about it going back over a hundred years or so. The similarity with the Jerusalem arms was noted and how the rule forbidding metal on metal was broken in the exceptional case of Jerusalem. One of the bishops of Lichfield, Roger de Clinton, 1129-1148 was a Crusader and died on the Crusade. It was supposed that this was the origin of the Lichfield arms, a tribute, in a sense, to de Clinton. It was I think in the 1940's that the "metal on metal" of the sinister side was adopted for general use at Lichfield. Perhaps it followed the idea in textual criticism, that when there are variant manuscript readings the more unusual is to be preferred on the grounds that a scribe would be more likely to correct to the normal form than *vice versa* when copying".

Ron Brown returned to the fray with the following extract from *Woodward*:-

'Per pale Gules and Argent a Cross potent and quadrated between four Crosses Patees all counter-changed'.

'The origin of the arms is unknown, but they have a certain resemblance to the arms of Jerusalem. This resemblance was stronger when, as formerly, the *crosses patees* on the argent half of the shield were painted *or*. As a mere conjecture I suggest that there may be a connection between the cross which was worn by the Knights of the *Holy Sepulchre*, and the supposed derivation of LICHFIELD from an ancient field of the dead, or cemetery. The earliest seal on which the bearing appears (at least in the British Museum collection) is that of Bishop WILLIAM BOOTH (1447-1452) in which it is described as a "cross potent", only. Mr MACKENZIE WALCOT thinks the coat may have been given by Bishop CLINTON, the Crusader, in memory of his visit to the Holy Land. In FROISSART'S *Chronicles*, tome iv., cap. lxiii., a banner borne by RICHARD II. on his expedition to Ireland, is said to have been "Une croix potencee d'or et de gueles a quatre colombes blanc au champ de l'escu".'

A late postscript is that recently when checking the blazoning of the heraldry in Holy Trinity Church, Northwood, on behalf of the Society, I came across another example in a window of the North aisle. It was depicted in its "correct" form (b). This then is the story so far! One consolation is that the problem is not new and has existed for over a hundred years. However, in company with the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield Cathedral, I would be very grateful if any of our members and/or readers could throw any further light on the subject.

Don Kirby

## ON BECOMING A STUDENT AGAIN

Last September, Doreen and I enrolled for Keith Lovell's *Introduction to Heraldry* course at North Hillingdon and I found myself in a position not experienced for over thirty years. Since 1970 I had been enrolling and advising students, organising accommodation and supplies, listening to complaints and endeavouring to rectify mistakes together with lecturing, but since 1955 I had not been a regular student on an organised course apart from Summer Schools and one day occasions. Doreen had an advantage over me as she had been attending courses for some years, but I was now to find out what it was like to be on the other side of the fence - or table.

Firstly came the traumatic period of wondering whether the course would run at all as only four turned up on the first enrolment day. However, some personal advertising by the hopefuls and the understanding attitude of the Adult Education Service enabled the course to proceed with nine fully-paid students. I then became more conscious of how important decent, warm accommodation was for the student as were good back up facilities in the forms of projector and coffee service for both tutor and students. We were a rather mixed bunch with a wide range of knowledge of heraldry extending from nil to some years with the Middlesex and other heraldry societies and a variety of Summer Schools. Keith very rapidly put everybody at ease and soon created a cohesive group in spite of the disparity in knowledge.

What have we been learning? Maybe at times Keith has felt that he was addressing a brick wall as some of his pearls of wisdom did not seem to have been taken on board as he would have expected, but he persevered and made us all work very hard, even to the extent of working through coffee breaks. I have come to the conclusion that my past students had a very easy time compared with the work I am expected to do. I suppose it compares with being taught to read for the first time and, indeed, this is a fair comparison, as we had found the content and detail of much of the substance of talks given at the Society to be above our heads - this in spite of the generous consideration extended to us, in our ignorance, by members of the Society. We have much needed a basic structured course and it was a joy to be able to follow Roger's first-rate talk on police heraldry to a degree not possible before.

We now know our tinctures, metals and furs; the Honourable Ordinaries are engraved on our hearts. It is delightful to be able to read a blazon and have a reasonable mental picture arise, even if it is far more difficult to blazon a shield correctly. We also hope that we are reasonably assured that a Pale does not contain water even though a field may be goutty! It is disconcerting to find that one does not always put on a Garb or that a Mullet may assume a different form from that served on a Plate in a restaurant - Gules or otherwise. It is fascinating to find that birds without their full walking facilities have a purpose in the heraldic world. It is also reassuring to know that being charged is not always a prelude to civil or military punishment. Walking in the garden will be different in future. A leaf will no longer be a simple guide as to the type of a plant or an indication of its state of health - it will have to be categorised into trefoil, quatrefoil or cinquefoil. However, one will know why it falls off its parent plant - it will have been pierced or even voided, terms not normally associated with a horticultural vocabulary.

As I mentioned earlier, our newly expanded acquired language form is expanding but it is still disconcerting to find that Sable is not the fur of a small animal; that supporters are not confined to following football clubs; that helms are not limited to steering ships; that mantles are not only for use with gas lighting; that a Billet is not only for housing troops; that a person who blazons is not a blazer; that nature is obviously completely out of touch with the real world when the countryside is so limited in field colourings; that surmounted is not nearly so rude as it might sound; that impaling is not so painful as one might have expected (neither, incidentally, are Piles); that a Bend is not a bent line and that a partition does not necessarily separate two countries or communities.

Seriously, though, a fascinating new aspect of life is emerging. One can now visit churches, houses, castles, abbeys, cathedrals, - look at furniture, plastering and hangings, seats and even gardens and discover other means of identification, dating, ownership and art forms which one might have overlooked on previous occasions. We are but beginners at this new and strangely fascinating pastime and, even though I know I am preaching to the converted, it is nice to know that there is always something new to learn in this world. It is strongly rumoured that there may be a continuation course at the same centre from Autumn 1989. It will cater for all types of abilities and knowledge. Do you know anyone - perhaps yourself - who might welcome the opportunity of either learning more or having the possibility of demonstrating their personal knowledge and prowess by joining this small, but very appreciative band?

Ron Edwards

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### *LET US NOW PRAISE (OTHER) FAMOUS MEN*

I have no wish to detract from the fulsome praise given to Keith Lovell by Ron Edwards - particularly after hearing his erudite and fluent dissertation on the life and work of Sir Ninian Comper.

However, taking a leaf from the Book of Ecclesiasticus I feel that I should put in a word or two for another tutor who has caused the heraldic light to shine in my darkness after attending his two evening courses at Windsor.

I refer, of course, to Pete Taylor who was ably assisted by Chairman Nan. Not only have I profited from my attendance but Marjorie, if she is not exactly "hooked" on heraldry in general, now shows much more than a passing interest in genealogy. As a direct result of the courses we have made a very good (and heraldically useful) friend in John Hucker, the newest member of the Middlesex Heraldry Society.

Our thanks go to all who take the time and trouble to pass on their heraldic knowledge and expertise to us - the beginners.

Don Kirby

## CATS

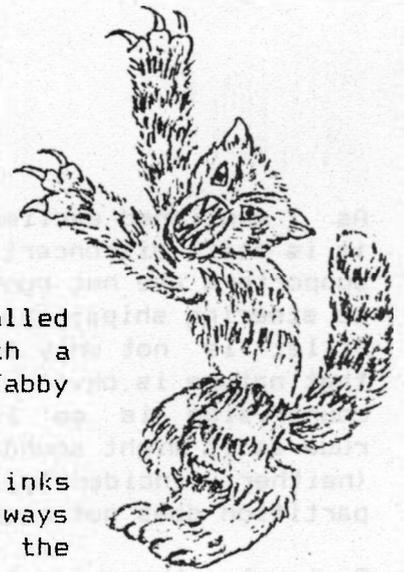
*I am the cat who walks by himself and all places are alike to me.* Thus in the fable of the domestication of animals the cat retains his independence.

The Egyptians worshipped the cat in the goddess, Bubastis, and it was a criminal offence to kill one. They led a life of luxury in the temples where they were cared for by priestesses. These were Tabby cats which are thought to be one of the oldest breeds in the world. The name, Tabby, is derived from a district in old Baghdad called Attabiah where a special kind of silk was manufactured with a distinctive watered effect similar to the markings on a Tabby cat.

In Rome, the cat was the symbol of liberty and again had links with religion as the goddess of the moon, Diana, was always portrayed with a cat on her shoulder. It was believed that the waxing and waning of the moon was reflected in the cat's eyes.

The mediaeval superstition of the cat as the witch's familiar, or even the Devil himself, was the attempt of Christianity to discredit the earlier beliefs. However the cat was not to be so easily discarded and re-established himself among the beasts of Heraldry as the symbol of freedom and invulnerability, characteristics which are paramount in the wild cat-a-mountain of the Scottish Highlands. This ferocious little creature is found quite often in Scottish Heraldry. The Clan Chattin of Caithness - (Cattiness) - adopted him for their crest and he is still used by their descendants, the Earls and Dukes of Sutherland. The Macphersons and Mackintoshes also have a cat-a-mountain crest and the Farquharsons have cat-a-mountain supporters.

Margaret Young



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## DO YOU KNOW?



What are they? Where are they? Whose ciphers do they bear?

Answers at the June meeting!

## THE HULL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

As a boy I attended the Hull Grammar School and whilst there I was privileged to take part in the 450th Anniversary celebrations in 1935. One does not need to be a mathematician to establish that the school was founded in 1485 (nor that the ceremony took place over fifty years ago!). However, to my astonishment, the distinguished historian, John Lawson, has proved that the school was endowed in 1479 and our celebrations were therefore six years late. This has not affected my most vivid memory of the pageant celebrating the event when a number of thirteen year olds from my year were selected to play the roles of seventeenth century choirboys carrying cannon balls to the guns on the ramparts. These were for the defence of the town against the expected attack by Charles I who had been refused admission by the Governor, Sir John Hotham. Probably due to first night nerves one of my schoolfellows dropped his cannon ball - and to the consternation of the production team and the cast it bounced! The audience enjoyed it but a suggestion that



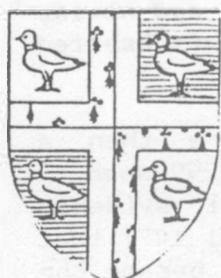
the "accident" should be written in was never accepted. The Hotham arms are:- *Barry of ten Argent and Azure on a Canton Or a Cornish chough proper. Crest:- out of waves of the sea a demi-man naked holding a sword erect proper and having on the left arm a shield of the arms of Hotham. Supporters:-two sailors habited proper and resting their exterior hands on a cutlass point downwards.*

Hull, under its earlier title - Wyke, had been a thriving port for more than a century before it received its Royal Charter from Edward I in 1299 when it became Kingstown-upon-Hull. Although there is ample circumstantial evidence pointing to the existence of a school at this time it was not until 1477 that the name of a headmaster was recorded - that of Nicholas Gysburgh who became the Town Clerk in 1484. The master was dependent on fees which did not provide a secure living nor did it guarantee the continuing existence of the school. It must, therefore, have been a tremendous relief to all concerned when, in 1479, the school acquired an endowment, sufficient, it was thought at the time, to ensure its permanence, from a member of a wealthy Hull family, - John Alcock,



then Bishop of Worcester. John the second son of William Alcock, a Hull merchant, was trained abroad in civil law and at Cambridge in canon law. Having practised law in the admiral's court he entered the service of Edward IV as a chancery lawyer. He held several other posts and was made Bishop of Rochester in 1472. After a period as tutor to the Prince of Wales, one of the "Princes in the Tower", and as Lord Chancellor he became Bishop of Worcester in 1476. The Alcock arms are:- *Argent on a Fess between three Cocks heads erased Sable combed and wattled Gules a Mitre Or.*

Despite his devotion to Edward IV he enjoyed the complete trust of the Duke of Gloucester, who usurped the throne as Richard III, and of his successor Henry VII, the first Tudor monarch, who conferred upon him the title of Bishop of Ely which he held from 1486 until his death in 1500. As Bishop of Ely he was interested in university education and became a benefactor of Peterhouse and founder, in 1496, of Jesus College. He appears not to have had any intention of linking the grammar school in Hull with his college at Cambridge yet, despite the fact that both use the Alcock arms, the two foundations have never been formally associated. The arms of Jesus College are:- *Argent a Fess between three Cocks heads erased Sable combed and wattled Gules within a Bordure Gules charged with eight Ducal coronets Or.* The family arms were personalized by Bishop Alcock with the mitre but, in 1575, Robert Cooke, Clarenceux King of Arms, re-defined the arms, omitting the mitre from the fess. The original shield with the mitre, as used by the Hull Grammar School for both the school badge and for the badge of Alcock House, is still commonly seen around Cambridge.



In 1570 Edmund Grindal, Archbishop of York before his translation to Canterbury in 1576, reported that "the schoolhouse was convenient and serviceable" but, nevertheless, it must have been too small and in poor repair since the Hull Corporation decided to provide alternative accommodation in 1582. The Grindal arms are:- *Quarterly Argent and Azure a Cross quarterly Ermines and Or between four Doves collared counterchanged.*



Smithson

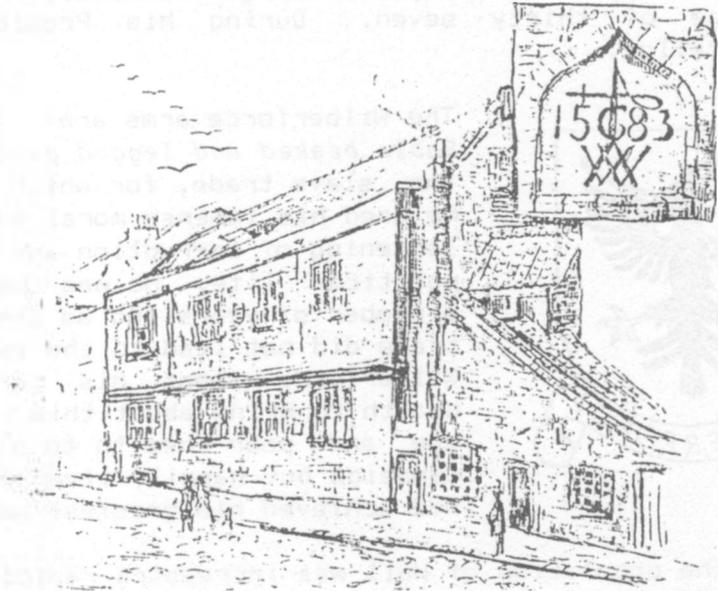
As Mayor of Hull for the third time, Alderman William Gee saw £32.9.7d of public money spent on building the new schoolhouse to which he added another £80 from his own pocket. At the end of his term in office the schoolhouse was still not complete because of lack of funds and it was then (in 1583) that Alderman Gee offered to provide "another £50, all the lime, 20,000 bricks or as many as would be necessary to make up the walls and to finish the stone doorways". The only condition he made was that the corporation should then complete and furnish the school from public funds. On his death, in 1602, and among many bequests for the townspeople of Hull, he left two houses in perpetuity to the Grammar School the income from which was to pay the salary of the Schoolmaster.

For many years, including the period I spent at the school, a painting in the school hall was believed to be of William Gee but cleaning revealed the arms of one John Smithson which had been "borrowed" by Alderman John Smith who succeeded Gee as Mayor of Hull! The Gee arms are:- *Gules a Sword in bend Argent hilt and pommel Or.*



The school moved into the new schoolhouse in 1583 and remained there until 1878. During this time two of its most illustrious pupils were Andrew Marvell and William Wilberforce.

The old Grammar School in the Market Place.



Andrew Marvell was born in 1621 at Winestead, a village near Hull, where his father was Rector. In 1624 Marvell's father became Lecturer at Holy Trinity, the parish church of Hull, and Master of the Charterhouse formerly known as God's House and founded by Sir Michael de la Pole, later Earl of Suffolk, in 1384 "to house 13 poor men and 13 poor women, feeble and old, in God's own House in Hull".



Andrew Marvell was, at various times, the tutor of Mary, daughter of Lord Fairfax the Parliamentary military leader and of William Dutton, Oliver Cromwell's ward, - assistant secretary to John Milton in his capacity as Latin (now Foreign) Secretary and one of the two elected Members of Parliament for Hull from 1659-1678. The Marvell arms are:- *Or a Chevron engrailed between three Leopards' faces Sable.* The poems of Andrew Marvell did not appear in print until 1681, three years after his death but it is for these he is really remembered. His poetry was "characterized

by grace, elegance and wit" as epitomized by a couplet from *His Coy Mistress* -

*The grave's a fine and private place,  
But none, I think, do there embrace.*

However, what is probably most remarkable is the balance of the relationships he enjoyed with Cromwell and Charles I, - to both of whom he was a sincere friend.

How can we forget those immortal lines he wrote at the execution of King Charles?

*He nothing common did or mean,  
Upon that memorable scene.*

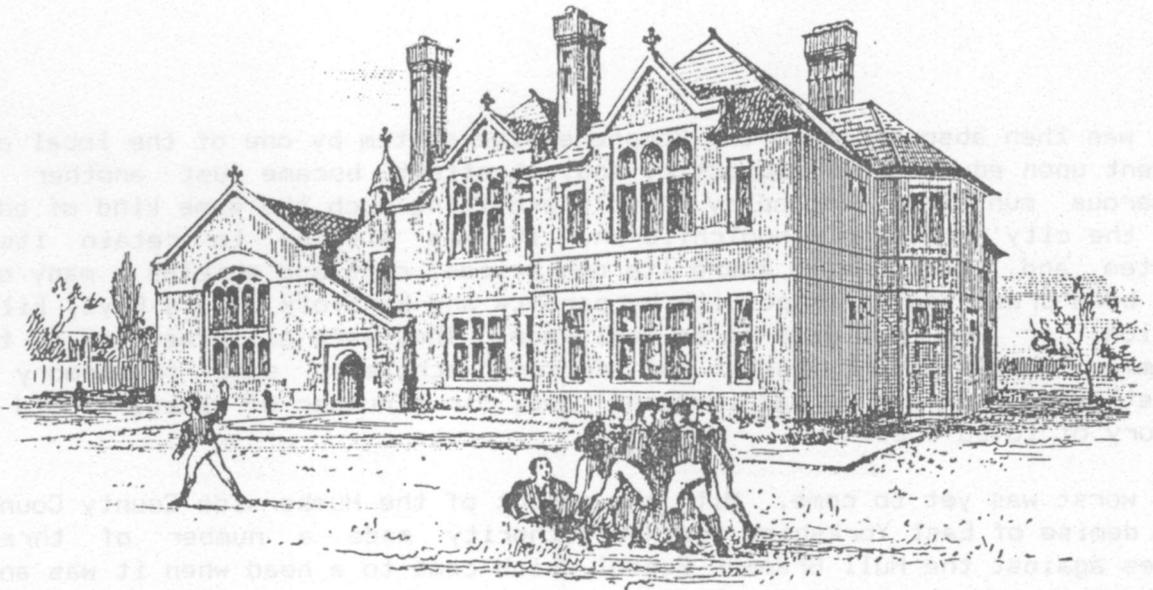
William Wilberforce was born in 1759 at the fine house which still stands in High Street, Hull and which had previously belonged to Sir John Lister, the head of another wealthy merchant family. He entered the school in 1766, as a seven year old, but on the death of his father in 1768 he was sent to Wimbledon to be brought up by an uncle. During the time he was at the school Wilberforce struck up a friendship with Isaac Milner, Usher at the school and brother of Joseph Milner, the Headmaster for thirty years, - a friendship which was to last until the death of Isaac Milner in 1820 whilst on a visit to Wilberforce's house in Kensington. Isaac Milner's distinguished career included thirty two years as President of Queens' College, Cambridge a position he first assumed at the very early age of thirty seven. During his Presidency he twice served as Vice-Chancellor.



The Wilberforce arms are:- *Argent an Eagle displayed Sable beaked and legged proper.* After the abolition of the slave trade, for which Wilberforce worked so hard, he used his immense moral authority to bring about the lessening of corruption and the raising of standards in political life. He was the Tory M.P for Yorkshire for a number of years and as the abolition of the slave trade did not lead to the end of slavery itself William Wilberforce spent his fortune, his energy and his health to bring about this reform. He was forced by age and poor health to give up the leadership of the campaign but happily lived long enough to know that he had achieved his greatest objective.

Although the population of Hull was increasing rapidly and had reached 60,000 by the mid 1830's the school remained small and its academic achievements suffered a severe decline whilst other schools were opening in opposition. Another cause for concern was the Municipal Reform Act of September 1835 which brought to an end the 400 years old Corporation with which the school had been closely associated since its foundation and by which it had been controlled since 1611. From 1st January 1836 the mayor and twelve aldermen were replaced by a mayor and town council consisting of 14 aldermen and 42 councillors elected every three years by the ratepayers. A new body of local trustees was formed to administer the ancient charities of the town. Unfortunately nobody knew whether the municipal trustees or the town council would now take charge of the school. A decision by the Solicitor-General in 1837 ruled in favour of the town council and a committee of two aldermen and three councillors was set up to govern the school. This committee remained virtually unchanged for over 100 years until 1945.

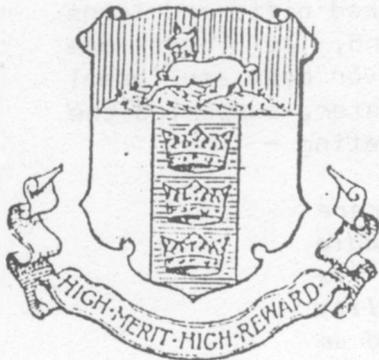
However poverty and poor accommodation continued to dog the school and the 1880's were one of the saddest chapters in the school's history. In 1878 the school had finally left the insanitary conditions of the old Tudor schoolroom in the Market Place but only for a rather dilapidated Congregational Church schoolroom which Government Inspectors had condemned as unfit even for one of the new "board" schools! A site had been purchased in 1862 but negotiations dragged on for so long that it was not until 1892 that new school buildings in Leicester Street were available for occupation. (This was the Hull Grammar School I attended in the mid-30's and, even then, with over 600 pupils, it was bursting at the seams.)



The 'new' School, 1892.

In 1887, five years before the move to Leicester Street, the future of the grammar school seemed to be miraculously assured. A certain Dr. John Hymers, rector of Brandesburton, left the Corporation of Hull a substantial fortune for the benefit of the grammar school. The will did not actually specify which school but it was taken for granted everywhere that it was the Hull Grammar School. The ill luck continued, the will was bad in law and the entire estate reverted to the testator's brother. Probably due to a threat of litigation he was persuaded to give about a third of the bequest to the corporation to

honour his brother's wish "to found or endow a grammar school in their town". After much local 'in-fighting' this was, in fact, used to endow a new school, to be called Hymers College which flourishes today in splendid buildings standing in their own grounds. Hopes of a secure future from the will of Dr. Hymers disappeared as quickly as they had arisen and the Hull Grammar had, once again, to face sordid reality. The Hymers arms are:- *Argent on a Pale Azure three ducal coronets Or and on a Chief Gules a hind of the field collared Or lodged on a mount.*



In the 1930's a site for a new school had been acquired but was never used, - the war intervened and it was not until 1953 that the school moved into purpose built accommodation a short distance away.

As early as 1902 there was criticism of the local council when the chairman of the School Board remarked that "it was one of the gravest charges that could be brought against the corporation.....that it had not done more for the grammar school of which it professed to be so proud". The school however did manage to retain its "independence" as a grammar school although completely controlled by the local Education Authority from 1944 onwards.

It was then absorbed into the Comprehensive system by one of the local councils intent upon educational mediocrity and, in effect, became just another of the numerous municipal secondary schools providing much the same kind of education for the city's teenage schoolchildren. It was allowed to retain its House system and continued to award its own prizes, cups and shields - many of which had been presented in perpetuity by parents and kinsfolk of Old Boys, killed in action, or who had died at an early age. They were all presented to the Hull Grammar School for the benefit of current scholars, some in memory of an outstanding career or achievement and, in a number of cases, by Old Boys in memory of loved ones.

The worst was yet to come. With the advent of the Humberside County Council and the demise of East Yorkshire the new authority made a number of threatening moves against the Hull Grammar School which came to a head when it was announced that the school would be closed at the end of the Summer term in 1988. A new school would operate from the existing buildings and would be called the "William Gee High School". This was surely the *most unkindest cut of all* to close the old school and then to use the buildings to house a new school bearing the name of one of the two main benefactors of the old Hull Grammar School!

Fortunately, a number of far sighted supporters of the old grammar school, headed by the Headmaster, himself an Old Boy, had taken steps to prevent its complete disappearance and had formed the Bishop Alcock Trust which would attempt to keep the school alive. It was doubtful, at one time, if the name, Hull Grammar School, could be used and, I understand, the Trustees were reconciled to calling the new foundation - the Bishop Alcock Grammar School.

The Trust had set up an appeal organization which has acquired gifts and loans of money from Old Boys, Benevolent Trusts, from industry and, at least one contribution from a Livery Company. Even though there had never been any formal association with Jesus College, Sir Alan Cottrell, the Master, supported the appeal and one statement he made, I think, is well worth repeating -

*Bishop Alcock's wisdom was of a quality rare in Britain today. He saw, in the late Middle Ages, that the future of the country, its success and prosperity, lay in the quality and education of its people; and he acted on his belief, positively, beneficially and decisively. To permit that vision to fail today, after more than five hundred years, would be infinitely worse than losing a great mediaeval cathedral, for it would be more profound and irreversible.*

The Marist College in Hull had taken a decision to merge with the Roman Catholic St. Mary's girls' school and the school buildings were therefore available for purchase. The Marist Fathers were very helpful and thus was the Hull Grammar School able to acquire its new home - with a large mortgage, but freehold! Furthermore, I am delighted to say that the premises are infinitely superior to those occupied by the school when I was a pupil!