



The Seaxe



Robin

Newsletter of the Middlesex Heraldry Society

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Derby Celebrates Four Jubilees

by Ray Smith

The arms of **Derby** were granted on 12 May 1939.



Arms:- *Argent, on a mount vert within park paiings, a stag lodged between two oak-trees, all proper.*

(Locally known as 'the buck in the Park' it has been a badge of the corporation from time immemorial.)

Crest:- *on a wreath argent and vert a ram passant proper with a gold collar, between two sprigs of broom proper*

(The ram comes from an early 19th century anonymous poem of a beast of prodigious proportions. It is the nickname of **Derby County Football Club** and the **Sherwood Foresters**, now the **Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment**, have a ram as their mascot. The broom (*planta genista*) represents the **Plantagenet King Henry II**. from whom **Derby** received one of its earliest charters.)

Supporters:- *two stags, each charged on the shoulder with a sprig of broom proper.*

Motto:- *Industria, virtus et fortitudo* (Industry, valour and fortitude).

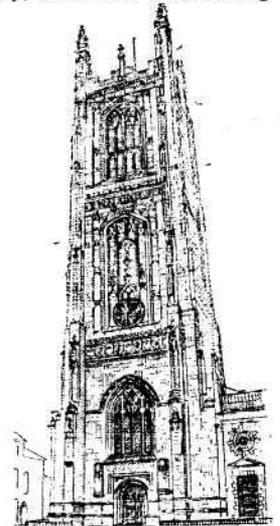
This year **Derby** is celebrating **Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee**. **The Derbyshire Life and Countryside** for June has a list of over a hundred Jubilee Events. On August 1st **the Queen** visits **Pride Park** where she can expect a rapturous welcome. **Pride Park** which replaced the better known **Baseball Ground** is the home of **Derby County Football Club** (sadly now relegated from the Premier Division).

At the **Queen's Silver Jubilee**, 25 years ago, **Derby**

was raised to the dignity of a **City**, so is now celebrating 25 years as the **Jubilee City** - the coat of arms remains the same. (**Derby** has, however, missed out on being given a **Lord Mayor** this year).

Derby is also celebrating the **75th Anniversary of All Saints' Church** having been consecrated as **Derby Cathedral**.

In addition **Derby** is celebrating the **25th Anniversary** of the **Dean of Derby's** ordination as a priest (as a new' cathedral, **Derby** previously had **Provosts**).



(**Ray Smith** is a retired GP who considers that, as it so long since he practised, he would rather not use the "handle" to which he is entitled. He is a member of the East Midlands Heraldry Society and a Country member of our own Society. Ray has been a great source of encouragement to your editors and has now burst into print for a second time.)



Did You Know

On 6th August 1762 the first formally acknowledged "sandwich" composed of slices of beef and cheese and served with sliced and toasted bread on top and bottom, was apparently devised by - or for - **John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich**, (1718-92) at that time **1st Lord of the Admiralty**. It seems that the earl was a compulsive gambler who could spend up to 24hours at the gaming tables without interruption and therefore needed a

convenient form of sustenance that left one hand free for dice and cards!

The arms are:- *Quarterly 1st and 4th Argent three fusils conjoined in fesse Gules within a*

bordure Sable (Montagu) 2nd and 3rd Or an eagle displayed Vert beaked and membered Gules (Monthermer).



My Home Town – Huddersfield - Pt 1

by **Stuart Whitefoot**

The aspects of Heraldry from **Huddersfield** are seen mostly in a historical context - but if one uses' as well, some specific places, rich in heraldry, one can see them as threads and patches where history and families are the threads and places are the patches.. The threads then are the succession of overlords or administrators in the **Huddersfield** area and other families which have been influential. The main patches are an estate building, estate in the grandest sense, a manor house and two churches – **Kirkheaton** and **Almondbury**.

So let us start with the overlords.. *In Odersfelt, Godwin had six caracutes of land to be taxed affording occupation for six ploughs, now the same has it of Ilbert.* Thus runs a **Doomsday Book** entry. **Ilbert** was from **Lassi** in **Normandy** and was one of **William's** warriors at the time of the conquest. We know him as **Ilbert de Laci** and about 1070 he was rewarded for his deeds with the **Honour of Pontefract**

(broken bridge) which included **Leeds, Bradford** and about twenty five manors in and around modern **Huddersfield** some 201 manors altogether in **Yorkshire**.. **Ilbert** was the first of a long line of **Lacis** to to be overlords of **Huddersfield**.

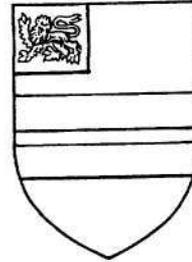


William intermingled lands held by his magnates and **Ilbert's** rival, a **de Warrenne**, held the **Honour of Wakefield** which included **Halifax** and **Holmfirth**. **De Warrenne** was also a neighbour in **Normandy**. The **de Lacis** held the **Honour of Wakefield** and thus **Huddersfield** until 1311 – nearly 250 years with only minor breaks when one or other of them fell foul of the monarch. **Henry de Laci**, grandson of **Ilbert**, being, so he thought about to die vowed he would found a **Cistercian** monastery. He held lands in **Barnoldswick** and granted some to the **Abbot** of **Fountains Abbey** to set up a new abbey. Finding the site too bleak the monks moved to **Kirkstall** in 1152. The ruins still stand and are easily reached from **Huddersfield**.

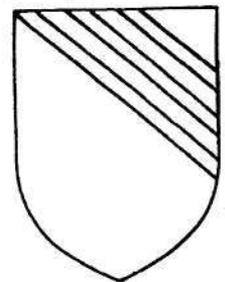
Henry's son died in 1193 without any sons and the first line of **Lacis** came to an end. However the grandson of **Henry's** sister, **John FitzEustace, 6th Constable of Chester**, assumed the name and lands of **Laci** and by this time possibly the arms as well. This founded a second line of **Laci** lordships.. The next of his line was at the siege of **Acre** and for his ferocity against the **Welsh** he became known as **Roger of Hell!** His son, **John**, was created **1st Earl of Lincoln** in his own right and he was one of the twenty five barons charged with seeing that **King John** observed the **Magna Carta**. Perhaps the most illustrious of the **Lacis** was **Henry, 3rd Earl of Lincoln** and **10th Constable of Chester** who came into

his lands in 1257. **Governor of England** when **Edward II** was campaigning in **Scotland**, he had fought with **Edward I** at the siege of **Caerlaverock**. Locally, **Henry** was granted by the crown the right to hold a market in **Almondbury** now a part of **Huddersfield** – an important revenue raising activity.

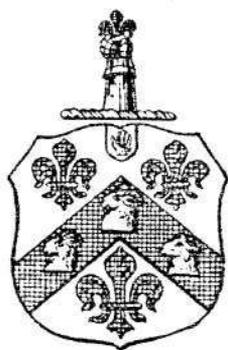
Henry married twice. His first wife was **Margaret Longespee**, eldest daughter and co-heiress of **William Longespee, 2nd Earl of Salisbury**, whose father was the illegitimate son of **Henry II** by **Rosamund Clifford**. The marriage produced a son, **Edmund**, who was drowned at **Denbigh Castle** and a daughter who became **Henry's** heiress when he died in 1310. Thus ended the second **Laci** line but as **Alice** married **Thomas, Earl of Lancaster** and grandson of **Henry III**, **Huddersfield** acquired an even more important **Lord**. **Thomas** was **Earl of Lancaster, Lincoln, Salisbury, Derby and Leicester**. He was executed near **Pontefract** after the **Battle of Boroughbridge** (1322) when he led the fight against the favourites of **Edward II**. He had an earlier misfortune - his wife eloped with the **Earl of Warrenne**, also **Lord of Wakefield**. Though the **Lancaster** lands were confiscated they, and the earldom, were restored to **Thomas's** brother, **Henry**, who was guardian of the young **Edward III**. His son, also **Henry**, succeeded him in 1345 and was to become **Duke of Lancaster**. His daughter, **Blanche**, married **John of Gaunt, Earl of Richmond**, fourth son of **Edward III**. Through this alliance **John** became **Duke of Lancaster** as did his son **Henry Bolingbroke** who deposed **Richard II** to become **Henry IV**. Thus **Huddersfield** passed to the crown. It remained with the crown right through to **Queen Elizabeth** whilst **Almondbury** remained crown land until the reign of **Charles I**. However, although the crown held the **Lordship**, from time to time **Ground Lords** purchased the use of the land and one supposes local influence. The **Manor of Huddersfield** came to the family of **de Byron** in 1318. Thus the **de Byron** arms appear in **Huddersfield**. **Sir John Byron** had bought **Newstead Abbey** after the dissolution. In 1573 **Sir John's** son over-reached himself and mortgaged the **Manor of Huddersfield** for £700 to **Queen Elizabeth's Attorney General** and the lands seem to have passed back to the crown. **Queen Elizabeth** made a profit as she sold the manor of **Huddersfield** to a **William Ramsden** in 1599 for £975 and ninepence. By this time the **Ramsden** family had arms granted to **William's** father, **John**, in 1575 by **Flower, Norroy King of Arms**. The **William** of 1558-1623 became the first of a long line of **Ramsdens** who were **Lords** of the **Manor of Huddersfield**. His uncle, another **William**, had been agent when the lands of **Kirklees Priory** were sold in 1545. It was this uncle who laid the foundations of much



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even though his dealing in land led him to prison as a debtor in 1557.



We should perhaps step back a little to the **Ramsdens'** first links with **Huddersfield** and then

review the extent to which the fortunes of the **Ramsdens** are bound up with the history of the town. As with so many old families there were recurring Christian names in the male line and the **Ramsdens** ran true to form with a succession of

Johns and **Williams**. For our purposes we can start with **Robert Ramsden** of **Elland** who made a marriage settlement with **Wode** of **Longley** in respect of **Johanna Wode** and his eldest son **William Ramsden**. They were married in 1531 and lived at the old **Wode** home., **William**, as we have seen, speculated in monastic lands and was often in debt. His unauthorised use of his brother's arms was in keeping with his character and his unstable background would hardly make him an acceptable recipient of a **Grant of Arms**.

William died in 1580 without issue and his brother, **John**, built a new **Longley Hall** which was completed in 1577. Prior to this, **John** had rented accommodation from his brother, **William**, in the old **Longley Hall** the former home of the **Wodes**. **William's** son, **John**, of both **Longley Hall** and **Byram** (near **Ferrybridge**) lived from 1594 to 1646 and was knighted in 1619. He was MP for **Pontefract** in 1627, Sheriff in 1636 and fought for the **King** in the **Civil War** being imprisoned in **Newark Castle** where he died.

The **Manor of Almondbury** had remained with the **Crown** until 1627 when, in consideration of £467.11s.1¾d, it was leased to **John**, who was married to the daughter of **Sir Peter Frecheville**. **John's** son, **William Ramsden**, (1625-79) was succeeded by another **John** (1648-90) who obtained the **Huddersfield Market Charter** in 1671. He was created a baronet in 1689 as part of the policy of **William of Orange** to conciliate those whose families had loyally supported the **Crown**. The second baronet was **Sir William Ramsden** (1672-1736) and it was his son, **Sir John Ramsden** (3rd Baronet) (1698-1769) who built a **Cloth Hall** in 1766. This reminds us of how much **Huddersfield's** economy depended on wool and the textile trade

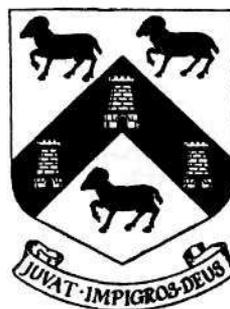
He was succeeded by another **Sir John Ramsden** (4th Baronet) (1755-1839) who enlarged the Cloth Hall in 1780 and generally played a significant part in the 19th century development of the town. He outlived his son **John Charles Ramsden** and the estates passed to his grandson, **Sir John William Ramsden**, (5th Baronet) (1831-1914), who was M.P. for the **West Riding** 1859-65. He was succeeded by **Sir John Frecheville Ramsden** (6th Baronet) (1877-1958) who sold the family estates in **Huddersfield** to the Corporation in 1920 for £1.35m. And so the ownership of the land and the local government of its people became municipal.

Huddersfield and was known as "the town that bought itself"!

Municipal activity had started somewhat earlier - in 1820 an Act of Parliament was concerned with the lighting, watching and cleaning of the town which now housed some 13,000 souls. Commisioners were appointed and it is no surprise to read that of these five **Ramsdens** headed the list - father and sons.

In 1848 the **Huddersfield Improvement Act** was passed which placed local government in the hands of twenty-one Improvement Commissioners. They did not become a corporate body in 1848 and therefore they were, at first, not entitled to a common seal or to a coat of arms of their own. This body wished to identify itself, and for this purpose employed a particular device but like **William Ramsden**, the Commissioners used another person's arms. The device used by the Commissioners was *Argent a fess Sable between three boars passant Sable*. The Commissioners had no right to these arms. The arms belonged to the family of **Hoghfourd** where they occur as a quartering in the arms of **Carew** of **Ottery Mohun** and of **Bickleigh, Devon**. From 1848 to 1868 the Improvement Commissioners used these arms as their own. **Debrett's Titled Men** of 1870 shows the arms as being the coat of arms of **Huddersfield** but **Papworth's Ordinary of Arms** quotes the device as belonging to **Huddesfield, Hadeswell, Huddesfeld, Huddeswell, Burke's General Armory** just has **Huddesfield**.

On the 30th September 1868 The **Right Honourable Edward Fitzalan Howard**, as deputy to the **Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal** responding to a letter from the mayor, aulhorised **Sir Charles Young, Garter, Robert Laurie, Clarenceux**, and **Walter Blount, Norroy**, to grant



and assign Armorial Bearings to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Huddersfield. By the 12th October the Letters Patent were signed and sealed and the arms granted were to be: *Or on a chevron between three rams passant sable as many towers argent*, and for a Crest *a ram's head couped argent armed or gorged with a collar sable in the mouth a sprig of cotton tree slipped and fructed proper*.

These arms bear some resemblance to the **Ramsden** family arms in that the *gold shield* carried a *black chevron with devices* on it and also the *chevron lies between symbols*. This was a development of heraldic design in the sixteenth century when charges came to be set on and about chevrons and other ordinaries. The **Ramsden** arms are *silver and black* and so a *gold field produced a difference*. The *chevron* is common to both but the *fleurs-de-lis* have gone, to be replaced by *three rams* alluding both to the **Ramsdens** and to the important woollen industry. The *towers* are a common feature in civic heraldry but they do not indicate that **Huddersfield** was

walled and the close proximity of the **Castle Hill** site of a **de Laci** castle, is purely fortuitous. The *black collar encircling the ram's neck* is again only a difference and merely helps to distinguish **Huddersfield's ram** from other *ram* crests. It is interesting to note, however, that a *ram's head* crest occurs in the arms of **Barrow-in-Furness** where the first mayor was **Sir James Ramsden** and the arms were granted in 1867. In this case *the ram's neck is encircled by a gold collar* but there is no *sprig of cotton*. In the case of **Huddersfield** there is *in the ram's mouth a sprig of cotton* alluding to the cotton textile industry. Huddersfield was so well known for its woollen textiles that people forget that cotton textiles have also had a place in **Huddersfield's** economy.

The motto, not part of the **Grant of Arms**, is *Juvat Impigros Deus* (God helps the diligent). Sometimes translated as "God helps those who help themselves" one could go even further and interpret it as the **Yorkshireman's** motto Eat all, sup all, pay nowt; and if ever tha does owt for nowt, allus do it for theesen."

The **Latin** motto had been that of the **Improvement Commissioners**, who, whatever else they showed, did not display heraldic diligence.

The great town of **Huddersfield** has a long and eventful history and its arms neatly sum up part of this history from the **Tudor** farmer, landowner and gentleman called **John Ramsden**, through the transitional stage of local government under the **Improvement Commissioners** to the year 1868 when the **Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses** became *ever hereafter one body politic and corporate in deed, fact and name* the **Borough of Huddersfield**.

Not quite, however, for local government was to be reorganised in 1974 to form the **Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees**. The 1974 reorganisation of local government swept away a complex pattern built up over



centuries. This led to the granting of hundreds of arms although some authorities whose boundaries changed little could apply for permission to keep their old arms.

Leeds, Sheffield, Hull and York kept theirs but **Huddersfield** was merged with **Dewsbury, Batley, Spensborough, Mirfield** and six smaller authorities to form the **Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees**, taking its name from the long dissolved priory sited in the middle ages in the new region. The **Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees** was granted Armorial Ensigns and Standard as:-
Arms: *Vert on a bend Argent a bendlet wavy Azure, on a chief or a pale between two cog wheels also Azure, on the pale a Paschal Lamb Or supporting a staff Or flying therefrom a forked pennon Argent charged with a cross Gules.*

Crest: *On a wreath of the colours a ram's head affronty couped Argent armed Or, gorged with a mural crown Sable masoned Argent.*

Supporters: *On either side a lion rampant guardant Purpure resting the inner hind leg on a cross crosslet Or embellished in each of the four angles with a fleur de lis Azure.* Motto: Together we serve.

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Interpretation: The green shield alludes to the fields and woods in the borough. Passing through the area is a motorway and this, together with its service roads, is represented by a silver bend. Water, used for drinking, power and wool washing has played an important part in the economy of the district and so the blue wavy bendlet indicates this feature. The upper part of the shield is gold referring to the sun above the **Pennines**. The cogwheels allude to the diverse industries. Set in the blue of the sky is the **Paschal Lamb** symbol of **St. John the Baptist**, patron saint of wool workers. The lamb bears a silver flag with a red cross.

The helm is the mediaeval tilting helm appropriate to a Corporate body. Set on the helm is the Crest.

The Crest is a front facing Ram's head chosen because wool is an historic link between the constituent authorities now making up the new borough. The Ram's horns are gold in allusion to the wealth that has accrued over the years. The mural coronet refers to a Civic Authority.

The Supporters are purple lions in allusion to the **de Laci** family who were great mediaeval land lords in this area.

The priory from which the new Authority takes its name did not have arms. It was dedicated to **Our Lord and Our Lady** and so the cross on which each lion rests a paw, is composed of four crosses of Calvary for **Our Lord**, and in each of the four angles is a blue fleur-de-lis, the symbol of **Our Lady, the Virgin Mary**.

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The other arms illustrated are:-

de Laci :- *quarterly Or and Gules a baston Sable.*

de Warrene:- *chequy Or and Azure.*

Earls of Lancaster:- *Argent two bars Gules on a canton of the second a lion passant guardant Or.*

de Byron:- *Argent three bendlets enhanced Gules.*

Ramsden:- *Argent on a chevron between three fleur de lis Sable three rams heads heads couped of the first..*

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(Part 2 will be published in the December edition of **Seaxe**)

In the time of Queen Dick

by Cynthia Lydiard-Cannings

No.14 - HE SHALL FIND THE STUBBORN THISTLE (*Jennyson*)
"Aaargh!" screamed one of the fearsome warriors tiptoeing across the machair at Largs, on the west coast of Scotland.

"Sshhh!" hissed the rest of **Haakon's** army.

But too late. The cry had awoken the defending Scots, the surprise attack was a surprise no longer, and the sneaky Norse were soundly defeated.

More. The Scottish victory at the Battle of Largs led to the Treaty of Perth, whereby Norway relinquished all claim to the Western Isles; so, just as he intended, though not perhaps in the way he intended, **King Haakon's** offensive settled once and for ever the question of who owned the Hebrides.

And that is why all Scandinavian soldiers, upon signing up, are now issued with boots; and why the thistle

is the emblem of Scotland, to this very day.

(First published in the Norfolk Standard of May 2001 and reprinted with the kind permission of the editor and the author.)



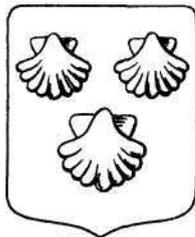
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Saint James the Greater

Saint James, was one of the **Twelve Apostles** - son of the fisherman **Zebedee** and the elder brother of **Saint John**. He is mentioned as the first of the disciples to go on a missionary journey. **Saint James** may have preached in Spain but he returned to Judaea in AD44 where he was put to death by **Herod Agrippa**. Later legend suggests that his

remains were miraculously spirited to **Santiago de Compostella** which became a centre of medieval pilgrimage. He is the patron saint of **Spain** and of all pilgrims whilst the scallop shells in his badge refer to pilgrimage. **Saint James's** badge is described as:- *three gold shells on a blue field.*

Rev. T. F. Thisleton Dyer in his **British Popular Customs** (1876) tells us that "It is customary in London to begin eating oysters on **Saint James's Day** (5th August) and in the course of the few days following upon their introduction the children of the humbler class enjoy themselves in diligently collecting the shells which have been cast out from taverns and fish-shops, and of these they make great piles in various rude forms. By the time that **Saint James's Day** has come about they have these little fabrics in nice order, with with a candle stuck in the top to be lighted at night. In the grotto thus made we have a memorial of the world renowned shrine of **Saint James** at Compostella which may have been formerly erected on the anniversary of **Saint James** by poor persons as an invitation to the pious who could not visit Compostella."



Militaria No.35 -

The East Lancashire Regiment

Raised in 1689 as **Lord Castleton's Regiment** - by 1698 the **30th** had become **Colonel Saunderson's Regiment of Foot**. It was disbanded in that year and re-raised in 1702 as **Colonel Saunderson's Regiment of Marines**. Thereafter the regiment changed its name with its colonels up to 1714 when it became **General Wills's Regiment of Foot**. Subsequently



again changing its name with its colonels up to 1751 when it became **The 30th Regiment of Foot**. The only other change took place in 1782 when the regiment changed its title to the **30th (1st Cambridgeshire) Regiment of Foot**. In 1755 the **59th Foot** was raised by **Colonel Sir Charles**

Montagu as the **61st Regiment of Foot**. In 1757 it was renumbered as the **59th Regiment of Foot**. These regiments known as **59th (2nd Nottinghamshire) Regiment of Foot** became in 1881 **1st and 2nd Battalions of The East Lancashire Regiment** although called for a short time **The West Lancashire Regiment**.

The regimental badge of the **The East Lancashire Regiment** is described as:- *The Sphinx upon a tablet EGYPT above the Rose of Lancaster within a laurel wreath*



all ensigned with the crown. The motto is Spectamur agendo (We are viewed by our actions). -Another translation is - By our deeds are we known.

The nicknames of the regiment are very poor-*The Three Tens, The Triple Xs* referring to the **30th** and *The Yellow Bellies* because

of the yellow facing of their uniform

However in 1958 the regiment merged with **The South Lancashire Regiment** to become the **The Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Volunteers)** and the regimental badge is described as :- *The Plume, Coronet and motto (Ich Dien - I serve) of the Prince of Wales.*



In 1970 this regiment merged with **The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire)** to form **The Queen's Lancashire Regiment**.



The regimental badge of **The Queen's Lancashire Regiment** is described as:- *Within an oval the Rose of Lancaster ensigned with the Crown.* The motto of the regiment is **LOYALLY I SERVE** from the old **81st Foot**.

At one time or another the **30th** and **59th Regiments** have fought individually or as a single unit after amalgamation - in the War of Spanish Succession (1701-15) and

in the Peninsular War which added Badajoz, Vittoria, Nivelle and San Sebastian to the Regiment's battle honours. The **30th** fought at Waterloo and lost 360 men including 53 at Quatre Bras. During the Crimean War the regiment acquired the battle honours Alma, Inkerman and Sevastopol. It was involved in the Boer War and among its many other battle honours are Retreat from Mons, Marne, Aisnes, Neuve Chapelle, Ypres, Albert, Cambrai, Somme, Arras, Vimy, Menin Road, Passchendaele and Landing at Suvla (Gallipoli) which were awarded in the Great War. In WWII the regiment earned the battle honours Dunkirk, Falaise, Caen, North West Europe and Burma.

The **Victoria Cross** has been won by six members of the regiment - one in the Second Afghan War(1870), four in the Great War and one in WWII. The first award was to **Captain E. H. Sartorius** (1844-1925) of the 59th at Shahjui, Afghanistan on 23rd October 1879. His brother also won a **VC** whilst serving in the Indian Army.

The Regimental Museum of the The East Lancashire Regiment is at Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Street, Blackburn.

The Regimental Headquarters of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment. is at Fulwood Barracks, Preston, Lancs and the recruitment area is Central Lancashire.

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Special Boat Service

by **Michael Smith**

From an article by the D T Defence Correspondent -

The **Special Boat Service** is to get a new cap badge as part of "a corporate make-over" to give it as high a profile as its Army special forces rival, the **SAS**. The **Royal Navy's SBS** has traditionally been part of the **Royal Marine Commandos** and its members wear the same green beret and cap badge as their commando colleagues, leaving the service struggling to create its own identity.



Where its presence on the ground is overt, its operations are usually credited to the commandos and when it takes part in covert special forces operations the credit invariably goes to the **SAS**.

"There has been a problem with the image of the **SBS** for

some time," one senior source said. "The fact is that these days the **SBS** are on a par with the **SAS**. They often take over from each other on operational tasks and covert duties." Although the **SBS** traditionally came under the control of the **Royal Marines**, and only recruited from among the commandos, in recent years command of the unit has passed to the Director Special Forces, who is also in charge of the **SAS**.

Over the past year, another link to the **Royal Marines** has been severed with the introduction of joint selection for both the **SAS** and the **SBS**. Now any member of the armed forces can join either unit. As a result, the unit has doubled in size to about 230 men. A number of ex-soldiers, including a former **Parachute Regiment** captain, are now members of the **SBS** and wear their old cap badge on the green beret. Senior officers want to replace the **Royal Marines** "Globe and Laurel" cap badge with a new insignia which all **SBS** members can wear, although the unit is expected to retain the elite green beret in recognition of its link to the commandos. The **SBS** already has an unofficial emblem, which incorporates a frog, paddles and a parachute, but the new badge is expected to be a more sober image combining the traditional special forces dagger with elements of its commando tradition.

The **SBS**, based in Poole, Dorset, was created during the Second World War as the **Special Boat Section**, earning its nickname as "the Cockleshell Heroes" after a 1942 raid on German ships in Bordeaux harbour. Five two-man teams, each paddling a collapsible canoe or "cockle", attached limpet mines to the ships. Only two of the 10 Cockleshell Heroes escaped. Six were executed by the Germans and two are believed to have drowned.

After the Second World War the **SBS**, now the **Special Boat Squadron**, was re-organised into boat units and deployed around the world. Then, in the 1980s, the name was changed to **Special Boat Service**. The unit played a key role in the Falklands war when they swam ashore ahead of the Task Force to identify the beaches weeks before the main landing force arrived.

To earn the status of Swimmer Canoeist, the traditional **SBS** trade, potential members must be able to canoe five miles at night on the open sea in a two-man team to a landmark from where they march for 30 miles. They must also be able to swim two miles and dive underwater the length of a pool twice, before jumping off the top diving board blindfolded wearing full equipment.

The **SBS** plays a key role in the war against drugs, using high-powered interceptor speedboats around the British coastline to catch smugglers in support of Customs and Excise.

The Illustration shows how the badge might look.

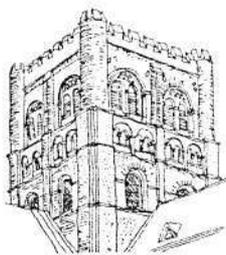
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Thought for the Day

*You can shed tears that she has gone or
you can smile because she has lived.*

*On the passing of H. M. Queen Elizabeth
The Queen Mother*

Visit to St Albans



Members of the **Middlesex Heraldry Society** and **The Chiltern Heraldry Group** are indebted to the "Middlesex" Treasurer, **Stuart Whitefoot**, for arranging the splendid day we spent at **St Albans** on Saturday, 17th August. Beginning with the shuttle service provided by the

Whitefoot family from the car park to the centre of the town followed by a visit to the Council Chamber and culminating in a tour of the Abbey itself. **Stuart** is, of course, a 'Blue Guide' which, by itself, was a bonus – even the fact that my ankles are still swollen, several weeks later, did not detract from a rich experience.







Visit to the Middlesex Guildhall, the College of Arms and the Goldsmiths Hall

Although your Editors were prevented by illness from joining the visiting party on Thursday, June 6th we understand that it was a great day. The exhibits in the Goldsmiths Hall and the exhibition of Garter crests in the College of Arms were breathtaking whilst the guided tour of the heraldry in the Middlesex Guildhall was first class. The Society owes its thanks to **Nan Taylor** for the tremendous efforts she made to ensure that the day was such a huge success.

Stained Glass Windows

from **Leslie Pierson**

Were you married in a church in Buckinghamshire but never had a good look around? Ever wandered round to a Norman church on a summer day but found the door locked? Well now you can have a look inside and view the stained glass of many of the churches in the county.

In a new partnership between Buckinghamshire County Council, local residents and NADFAS church recorders, **Monica** and **Cliff Robinson**, we have a collection of over 1000 images of stained glass in the county on display on our web site.

For details see www.buckscc.gov.uk/glass. It is hoped to extend the collection to include other faiths and secular buildings over the next few years. There is further information on Places: Maker/Artist: Makers' Marks: Donors: Dedictees: and Window Types.

From the *Buckinghamshire Times* of June 2002 published by Buckinghamshire County Council Communications Unit.

Next Meetings

The Armorial Apogee

by **Keith Lovell**

on **Thursday, 17th October**

Quarterly Gules and Or and

by **Marjorie Kirby**

on **Thursday, 21st November**

Christmas Games, Readings and Quizzes

on Thursday, 19th December

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

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The Chiltern Heraldry Group

Livery Buttons

by **Patricia Lindsay**

on **Saturday, 12th October**

in The Parish Hall, White Waltham

Slater's Travels

by **Steven Slater**

on **Saturday, 16th November**

in **St Michael's RC Church Hall,
at Sonning Common**

Meetings begin at 2.30pm and
Are followed by a light tea
Provided by members

Visitors welcome

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