MARKET BOSWORTH SOCIETY

December 2024

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all the Market Bosworth Society Members. Thank you all for supporting the Society over the last 12 months and I hope that you will be able to continue to support the Society for many years to come. Without you we could not continue and that would be a shame. We have a full line-up of guest speakers and Members Summer Visits in place for 2025/26 and I am confident that you will enjoy them all. We do try to pick topics close to Market Bosworth and in line with our interests in the history of Market Bosworth and its Conservation and Preservation. I hope you will enjoy reading your December Newsletter. If you are reading this via our Facebook page, you are very welcome but why not come and join in the fun? You can join very easily and if you join in January you will enjoy 15 months for the price of twelve. Who can resist a January Sale bargain?

Committee Members Review of the Year

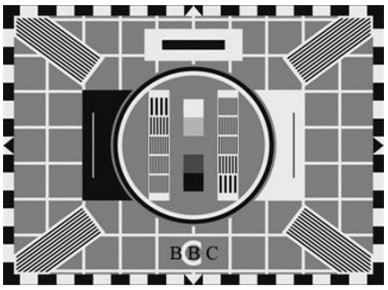
Each year I ask committee members to send in a photograph and a short piece about the highlights of their year. Here are the ones I have received.

Nigel Palmer I think the cheesy grin says it all! Here I am finally undoing the nut holding the MBRDC emblem to the outer skin of the wall. But a full report must come later. Removing the Emblem has been discussed here and elsewhere for over a year once HSBC closed their branch in Market Bosworth. I was really pleased when AR Demolitions offered to help. Without their expertise and equipment we would not have been able to rescue the emblem. I think seeing it come down was a mixture of relief and excitement. There have been many other highlights this year, Graham Hopkins musical lecture at Bosworth Hall a visit to Leicester Cathedral and who will forget our Lantern Lit Tour of the 1620's House? Thank you to all the members who attended the lectures and visits, I enjoyed seeing you and chatting to you.

Lynne Palmer When Nigel asked me to let him have the highlights of the year I struggled to think of my favourite. The visit to the 1620's House was so atmospheric and interesting, especially in the half-light. I also enjoyed Eddie's Medieval Medicine last March, I still have some of the slug skin cream he gave me. But I think the highlight was Nelly as told by Graham. It was a lovely afternoon surrounded by friends and members and listening to the lovely voices of Emily and Winter Wilson. It was a lovely afternoon and Bosworth Hall did us proud with cream and jam scones and plenty of tea and coffee to go with them. I look forward to next year and wonder what my highlight for December 2025 will be. Merry Christmas to everyone

Robert Leake. Review of the Year. Do you find that time seems to pass very quickly, with each month flying by? Then someone, like Nigel, asks you to look back at the year's events and suddenly the months seem a long time ago! So it seems quite a while ago in January when I presented a talk for the Society on 'Those Television Days'. I enjoyed researching this because I asked so many of you over the previous months what they remembered about early television programmes. Sometimes it was a name like Sylvia Peters, Peter Haigh or Noelle Gordon or it might have been a programme like 'Muffin The Mule', or an American western series like 'Champion the Wonder Horse' or 'Wagon Train'. I recall that Roger Payne remembered watching the Coronation in 1953 at a packed neighbour's house, in between his farm animal feeding duties!

Youngsters today [that's the under sixties!] find it hard to believe that we only had a single television channel at that time and programmes were only on for four or five hours each day. For much of the morning and afternoon we were able to stare at the Test Card.



It was the mention of this Test Card that brought up a local connection, when it was revealed that Arthur New had been largely responsible for the development of 'Test Card C' and he actually came to live in Market Bosworth! Sadly Arthur died in 2017 aged 95. He lived, with his wife Gloria, at St. Peter's Court overlooking Bosworth Hall

That's what made the evening [and following weeks] memorable – listening to your own memories of early television.

A Christmas task for you – whatever your age group - is to find a tv programme name for every letter of the alphabet, from A to Z. I had real problems with the letter 'X', wondering if I could get away with 'Criss Cross Quiz' [1957–1967], but then I remembered the more recent 'X Files' or 'X Factor' of course. See how you get on. I would be pleased to see your lists – and you can try it with radio programmes too.

Looking at the rest of the year I particularly enjoyed finding out more about the history of Desford and learning about those mediaeval medicines with Eddie Smallwood. The recent visit to the 1620s House made me decide to plan to see it in daylight during the Spring or Summer when the gardens can also be enjoyed. I am sure that many others will be tempted to go for another visit.

The main highlight of the year for me was another involving memories – the Walled Garden Tours involving former Head Gardener Rod Proudman. He worked there when Bosworth Hall was the Bosworth Park Infirmary. I am pleased to say that Rod has agreed to do some more tours in the coming year, with his daughter Louise, so watch future Newsletters for actual dates so that you can book a place.

Can I end by thanking you all for your support and particularly thanking Nigel for all that he does in making the Society such an active and successful one? I look forward to seeing you in the coming months and can I encourage you to bring a friend along to increase our membership still further?

Glynis Oakley. Well it has been a busy end of year for me as I have started doing some digitizing. It was hard work to begin with but I am getting used to it! It would help if anyone had any old photos relevant to Market Bosworth. I would copy them, insert them into the archive and return them immediately.

Peter Loseby. 2024 Review From the Dixie Archive perspective, the highlight has been the discovery of another two diaries written by the 11th Baronet. They cover the years 1877 and 1878 and record the unsustainable opulence of his lifestyle in the early years of his baronetcy. I am currently preparing a piece which I hope will be included in a Newsletter next year. The working title is 'The Sowing of the Seeds of Bankruptcy'

Looking back over 2024 there have been a number of highlights; firstly, the excellent and varied talks that have been given to the Society thanks to the work of Nigel and the Committee who put together the programme.

Secondly, and an ongoing one for me is the work of Bosworth Links. Little did I think in 2014 when Sheila and I joined the community dig at Rothley to see if it would be feasible for the Society to organise a similar project that ten years later, we would be able to look back on a major trail blazing initiative.

Initially it was to fill in the missing link between the Roman and Norman occupations. Not only did it achieve that but at the lowest level of Pit 51 two pieces of Neolithic pottery were found. As far as I was concerned that was that but not for Nigel who with his committee embarked on a unique programme of similar digs in 'satellite settlements'.

The last of these will be in Congerstone next year which will draw a conclusion to this ambitious and successful programme which has been a credit to the Market Bosworth Society.

Speaking of credits, the third highlight was the recent recovery of the RDC coat of arms. This historical artefact could have been lost but, thanks once again to Nigel, the Society has been able to save it. As I commented at the time this act typifies the work of the Society and is the reason why I continue to support it.

Finally, it would be remiss of me as a past Chairman of the Society not to thank the Officers and Committee of our Society for their hard work throughout 2024.

Ingrid Davison. It's time to review our busy year once again and reflect on a variety of MBS events. I like to think that members have found something of particular interest in either the lectures or visits.

I especially enjoyed the visit to St. Martin's Cathedral Leicester, in August. The first arranged visit there was cancelled due to Covid and immediately after that, the Cathedral was closed for 2 years for major restoration. Finally, in 2024, we made it! Was it worth waiting for? In my opinion, yes.

Once there, we were divided into two groups and the tour guides shared their excellent knowledge. The Cathedral looked amazing with its new heated stone floor, flexible space and impressive redecoration. Our Walled Garden tours have been well attended and will continue in 2025 thanks to Rod (retired Head Gardener) and daughter Louise.

We are currently assisting St. Peter's Church with its forthcoming 700th Anniversary. With history on our doorstep there's more to come.

Marion Lambourne. Another interesting and informative year for Market Bosworth Society.

When reviewing the past year I have enjoyed the amazing variety of lectures and visits the Society have arranged. The guided 'Bosworth Hall Walled Garden Tour' was definitely a highlight, made more special with the company of Rod Proudman, former Head Gardener, recalling what it was like back when it was managed by Bosworth Park Infirmary. Thanks must go to our committee members, Glynis, Ingrid and Robert for all their research, ensuring that the history of the Walled Garden is not forgotten.

Bosworth Links – it has been a very busy year with a Shenton Dig in April and another dig in Shackerstone in September. I for one shall be very sorry when we dig our last site next year.

As a 'finds collector' it allows me to visit the sites at regular intervals, collect what has been found and take it back to the 'finds washers', who painstakingly remove all the dirt, allowing the experts to inform us as to their origin. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Time for a Quiz, methinks. Let's start you off with a really easy one. Nothing less than 10 correct will do, no cheating!

Question 1

Where did the Victorians put their presents before they were handed out to be unwrapped?

a. They put them in the stables with horses pretending to be reindeers

b. The put them in a stocking

c. They hung them off the tree like ornaments

d. They hid them around the house

Question 2

Is this statement True or False:

Queen Victoria was known to serve roast swan as part of her Christmas Dinner.

Question 3

Name one thing that the first ever Christmas Cracker (invented in the Victorian Era) and a modern Christmas Cracker have in common:

a. They both have to be pulled by two people to be opened

b. They both have jokes inside them

c. They both make a “bang” noise when pulled

d. They both have treats inside them

Question 4

Is this statement True or False:

Mince Pies from the Victorian Era were suitable for vegetarians.

Question 5

Queen Victoria didn’t just give gifts to her family and friends, who else did she give Christmas presents to?

a. Her servants

b. Her enemies

c. The homeless

d. People in jail

Question 6

Is this statement True or False:

The Christmas carol Away In A Manger was written during the Victorian Era.

Question 7

In the Victorian Era, how long after the first postage stamps were invented did Sir Henry Cole start printing the first commercial Christmas Cards?

a. 1 year later

b. 2 years later

c. 3 years later

d. 4 years later

Question 8

Is this statement True or False:

The Victorians traditionally handed out their Christmas gifts on Christmas Eve, not on Christmas Day.

Question 9

Which of the following Christmas traditions was NOT made popular by the Victorians in England?

a. Christmas Pudding with lots of alcohol

b. Christmas Markets

c. Boxing Day

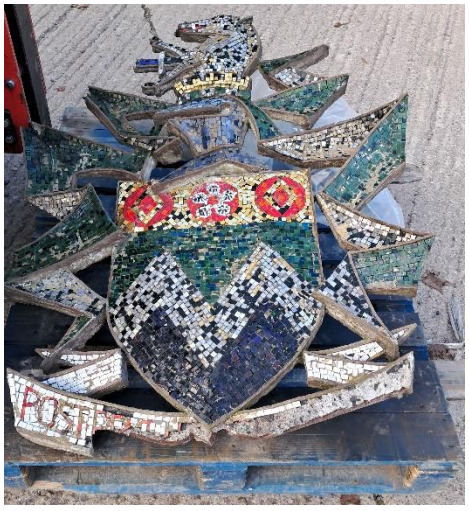
d. Indoor Christmas Trees

Question 10

Is this statement True or False:

The invention of factories and steam trains made Christmas gifts really expensive to buy during the Victorian Era.

Market Bosworth Rural District Council Emblem



The Rural District of Market Bosworth (Market Bosworth Rural District Council – MBRDC) existed from 1894 to 1974 in Leicestershire, England. It was created under the Local Government Act 1894, based on the Market Bosworth rural sanitary district, and that part of the Atherstone rural sanitary district which was in Leicestershire. The parish of Higham on the Hill was added in 1936, from the Hinckley Rural District, which had been abolished under a County Review Order.
In 1974 most of the district merged with Hinckley to form the new Hinckley and Bosworth District, (apart from Ibstock, which went to North West Leicestershire). The building which housed the MBRDC in 1974 was originally purpose built in 1931. Even then the meetings of Councillors took place in the Boardroom at West Haven (former workhouse) until 1964 when the offices were extended to house the council chamber. The armorial bearings were awarded to the MBRDC in 1954 but it was not until the extension was built that the plaque was placed on that building. The plaque was saved by Jack Atkinson, Manager of the Midland Bank and placed on the new bank buildings in the Market Place. After Midland Bank was acquired by HSBC it remained in place until more recently when removal was required for safety reasons. The latest photograph is shown above and you can see that there has been some deterioration especially in the lower portion.
Market Bosworth Rural District Council Offices are shown below left after conversion to a Sports Club in 1975 the buildings are now used as a Nursing Home.

The Latin motto appears to be ‘Post Proelia Concordia’ which translates to ‘After the Battle Peace’’. Possibly a reference to the new debating chamber with a link to the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485. Much work was done by the council which was responsible for all the usual duties of a Council from rubbish collection and removal to housing.
The Market Bosworth Society is grateful to Mr. R. Dolman of AR Demolition who made the removal of the plaque possible, by providing the equipment expertise and manpower free of charge.
It has not been easy. There were three attempts in total to remove the Emblem. Initially it was believed that the emblem was fixed using French Cleats. These are a type of interlocking bracket where one piece is fixed to the mounting surface and the other to the item to be mounted. The latter bracket is lowered into the first and the item is held safely against the wall. This was not the case, the emblem stubbornly refused to move and the fixings turned out at that time to be a mystery. The first attempt was by the Parish Council who resolved to wait for the owner to advise on how the emblem was fitted. Instead the Market Bosworth society was contacted

by Richard Tilbrook of Roger Etchells & Co Chartered Surveyors of Ashby, acting on behalf of the owner. He asked me if the MBS would be willing to help save the emblem. Of course we would be willing to help save the emblem. After checking with Cathy Monkman, Parish Clerk that we would not be stepping on any toes we proceeded to take on the rescue.
I met Richard Tilbrook and Richard Dolman (of AR Demolition) and we had a look inside the building. It was impossible to tell how the emblem was attached so another plan was hatched.
Heat. In the form of Oxyacetylene cutting, which should cut through the brackets and release the emblem. When it was tried the brackets were coated with a kind of resin which did not react to heat. Josh Scriven tried to chip some of the material away but mosaic tiles started to jump off and so that had to be aborted.
Plan C! It was agreed with the owner that we could remove some material from inside the building in order to discover how the emblem was attached. It was very kind of the owners as it was inevitably going to leave a mess and they could have simply destroyed the emblem to remove it. It was with bated breath that Robert Leake and I once again met with Josh and Steve Jones (Project Manager) to have what was going to be our last attempt. Armed with a set of door keys we entered the building and made our way upstairs. Steve donned his safety equipment and began to chip away with a cordless electric chisel. We soon started to see where the wall had been patched up before and guessed, correctly as it turned out that we were close to a solution.
Once the repair had been removed we could see the brackets. Three were simply cemented into holes in the outer skin of the wall, the facing bricks. The third was a huge bolt which passed through the first skin and was bolted on from the cavity. Once the cement was loosened and the bolt undone the emblem was easily removed and returned to the ground. I almost think I heard it sigh as it was released from the wall.

It is hoped that renovation will be possible and the plaque will once again smile down on residents and visitors alike.
The emblem is now safely secured in the storage area of AR Demolition. AR Demolition have been wholly supportive of the desire to retain the emblem. We simply could not have done it without their kindness and generosity. The main piece of equipment was a telehandler which enabled some of the team to safely support the emblem whilst it was loosened and then lowered to the ground.
What next? The intention is to have the emblem refurbished so that it looks more like the representation on the left. It is in remarkable condition considering how long it has been at the mercy of the weather. We did lose the bottom piece and some of the mosaic tiles are missing (some we managed to recover for reattaching). Had the emblem remained aloft it may well have resulted in an injury as the bottom really was quite loose.
The emblem appears to be made of resin poured onto a metal frame. We need an expert restorer to examine it and to give advice about restoration.
It is the intention to have it once again looking down on the community, although that may not be possible. It may be necessary to keep it at ground level in which case a case may be needed to protect it from any damage. It is too early to say. The mosaic appears to be glass or ceramic. I have not had a really close look at it yet, but if you know of a ceramic expert or a glass expert I would love to get their opinion of how it could be renovated. Someone suggested that a school may be interested and certainly that could be an option. I think we would need specialist advice and possibly supervision but many hands do make light work. If you are interested in the project or know of someone who may be then please pass on my contact details and I will be pleased to hear from them. I'm tempted to have a competition to give the emblem a name, what do you think?
I promise to keep you apprised of future developments, so watch this space as they say. For now you can see some of the photographs here: Market Bosworth Rural District Council « Market Bosworth Society.
Thanks to Peter Loseby for his help with the research.

It's A Cracker!

For a bonus quiz point you can tell me who used that catch phrase….I hear that in some households frugality is the modus operandi and so here are a few cracker jokes for you.

1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
2. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
3. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.

4. It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
5. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
6. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
7. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
8. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
9. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
10. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
11. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
12. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
13. I run like the winded.
14. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
15. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
16. When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminium can stuffed with celery?
17. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
18. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
19. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
20. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
21. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

December 2024 – Parish Council Report (Bertie Harrison-Rushton, County Councillor)

Bertie has very kindly given me permission to reprint some of his report to you. I thought some of it may be of interest.

Gritting:
• When the weather is consistently cold, approaching 130 tonnes of salt will be spread every day.
• The council treats major roads, including A-routes and heavily used B-routes, roads linking towns and larger villages and outside bus, train, fire and ambulance stations and hospitals.
• There are 23 gritters and 20 drivers on standby to be called into action.
• Weather conditions last year were generally milder, but the gritters were still out and about. They undertook 47 runs around the county, treated roads with over 5,000 tonnes of salt and covered half of the road network.
• To keep up to date with the latest information on gritting and travel, including our interactive gritting map, please use the following link: Winter weather | Leicestershire County Council

Age-UK Partnership:
• More pensioners are getting support to claim pension credit this winter, helping them to stay warm and well, thanks to a new partnership between Leicestershire County Council and Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland.
• Leicestershire County Council is using a slice of its Government-funded Household Support Fund to help Age UK. This means the charity can help more people check if they're eligible for Government support and complete the application process.
• The charity has been over-subscribed with requests this year and the move is supporting them to deal with the surge in calls.
• Recent figures show that 6,500 Leicestershire residents are at risk of missing out on pension credit - over half of those who qualify.

• This month, the council has also opened up its wider Government-funded £3.6M Household Support Fund, enabling eligible households to apply for an average of £200 for food and energy costs.
• Under the scheme, more than 19,000 children will receive a £15 food voucher during holidays, food banks across Leicestershire will receive £200,000 to support with purchasing food and white goods. Age-UK Leicestershire can be found here: Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland

Primary School
• If your child is starting primary school for the first time in autumn 2025, families need to apply by Wednesday 15th January 2025
• For hints and tips about the process, information on Leicestershire schools and how to apply can be found here: Apply for a school place | Leicestershire County Council

Please pass on this information to anyone you think may be able to use it. Remember that if you or they do not have access to the internet the Market Bosworth community Library will be happy to help.
The current library opening hours are as follows:
Monday 2:30 pm until 4:30 pm
Tuesday 2:30 pm until 4:30 pm
Wednesday 10:00 am until 12:00 noon
Thursday 2:30 pm until 4:30 pm
Friday 10:00 am until 12:00 noon
Saturday 10:00 am until 1:00 pm.

Time for a smile

How much did Santa's sleigh cost? Nothing it was on the house.
Which of Santa's reindeer are dinosaurs afraid of? Comet.
Why is Santa scared of chimneys? Because he's claus-trophobic.
How can you say that Santa is real? You can always sense his presents.
What nationality is Santa Claus? North Polish.
Why did Mrs. Claus get mad at Santa? Because her husband was a flake.
What's Santa's favourite type of music? Wrap.
Why is Santa so good at karate? He has a black belt.
Why does Santa go through the chimney? Because it soots him.
What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa? A rebel without a Claus.
How does Santa take pictures? With his Pole-aroid camera.
What kind of motorcycle does Santa ride? A "Holly" Davidson.
How much did Santa's sleigh cost? It was on the house!
Why was Santa's little helper so sad? He had low elf-esteem.
Who is Santa's least favourite reindeer? Rude-olph.
Why did Santa go to the liquor store? He was looking for holiday spirits.
What do you call Santa's little helpers? Subordinate Clauses.
Why don't you ever see Santa Claus in the hospital? Because he has private elf care.
How does Santa take care of sick people? He nurses them back to elf.
How did Santa's little helper stop eating cookies? He used elf control.
What does Santa eat for breakfast? Frosted Flakes.

FAMOUS ALUMNI (old boys and girls)

Of The Dixie Grammar School Market Bosworth

Some members may recall the lecture in May 2023, about Rev. Dr Arthur Benoni-Evans. I delivered the lecture from Walters research. At that time I was sure there could not be a more successful or hardworking

family. I was wrong. Walter enjoys proving me wrong and this time I take my hat off to him. The following pages will serve to illustrate the immense influence a family can have on not just local but world events. I did think about serialising the five boys but then when I started to read it I wanted to continue so here it is in its entirety for you to enjoy.

THE BARRINGTON-WARD BROTHERS

Frederick Temple
Lancelot Edward
Victor Michael
Robert McGowan

Let us begin with, Frederick Temple Barrington-Ward. He was born on August 30, 1880, the eldest son of the Rev. Mark James Barrington-Ward, DD, HM Inspector of Schools and later Rector of Duloe, Cornwall. We have been unable to find any records of his admission to the Grammar School at Market Bosworth but there are many instances of his successes recorded in the School's magazines and Honours Boards. These show that in 1893 he was awarded an Open Scholarship to St. Peter's College, Westminster. Westminster College admission records show that on the 28th September 1893 he was admitted to the college as a Queen's Scholar. He remained at the College until 1899 when he left to join Hertford College, Oxford, with 'Triplett and a Triplett-gratuity' as funding. He gained his matriculation in the Michaelmas Term of that year. He was awarded a B A degree in 1902 and went on to study for his M A and B C L, (Bachelor of Common Law), which were awarded in 1906. In 1902 he was made a Tancred Student of Lincoln's Inn, one of the four Inns of Court (the professional associations for barristers and judges) in London.

Christopher Tancred, of Whixley Hall, died on August 21st, 1754. Earlier, in 1721 he had endowed land for charitable purposes. 'Tancred's Charity' was established under the provisions of his will, made in 1746. The Governors and Trustees were Master of Christ's College; Master of Gonville and Caius College (both Cambridge), President of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn; Master of Charterhouse, London; Governor of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea; Governor of the Royal Hospital, Greenwich. The meetings of the Charity were held at Lincoln's Inn in London. The Charity provided for 4 Divinity, 4 Physics and 4 Common Law studentships, and for the students to continue their studies for three years after taking a degree. A student from each branch was required to make a speech in Latin, yearly, in the Halls of two Colleges, and Lincoln's Inn, in perpetual remembrance of the Charity.

1904 he was made a Vinerian Law Student on account of his results in his B C L studies. The Vinerian Scholarship is the most prestigious law scholarship awarded by the University of Oxford. The Vinerian Professorship of English Law, formerly Vinerian Professorship of Common Law, was established by Charles Viner who by his will, dated 29 December 1755, left about £12,000 to the Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford, to establish a Professorship of the Common Law in that University, as well as a number of Vinerian scholarships and readerships. Until the establishment of the Vinerian Chair, only Canon Law and Roman (Civil) Law had been taught at Oxford and Cambridge. Only the Inns of Court provided any instruction in the Common Law, which was of most practical use to practitioners. Upon Sir William Blackstone's appointment to the Vinerian Professorship, his lectures were the first to be given on English Common Law at any university.

Also in 1904 he was appointed a Barstow Scholar and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. The College is primarily an academic research institution with particular strengths in the humanities and social and theoretical sciences and an outstanding library. It also has strong ties to public life. Although its Fellows are involved in teaching and supervision of research, there are no undergraduate members. He went on to obtain his M A and B C L and was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1905 appointed to the Southeastern Circuit. The Call to the Bar is a legal term of art in most common law jurisdictions where persons must be qualified to be allowed to argue in court on behalf of another party.

On 6th June 1908 he married Mary Alice "Molly" Forster, the second daughter of Arthur Lionel Smith, Master of Balliol College, Oxford. A School magazine of July 1908 records one of his early legal successes "*Old Market Bosworthian Barrington Ward, FT, at the Junior Bar is coming very rapidly to the front. Our Daily Press have recently had in big lines :- " Wife's Savings! Are they the husband's property? " We can say that Mr. Barrington Ward, as a recently married man, got the Whitehaven County Court Judge's decision reversed, and convinced a very strong Divisional Court consisting of .Justices Phillimore and Walton, married ladies must not pocket the hard-won earnings of their better halves"*

In 1910 Frederick became involved in the famous murder trial of Dr. Harvey Oswald Crippen and his mistress Ethel le Nève (shown below). The pair appeared in court at the Bow St. dock, on trial for the murder of Crippen's wife, Cora.

They had left the country before the body was found in the cellar of his house, but were recognised by the captain of the ship they were sailing on, who used the new wireless telegraphy method to send his suspicions to the police in the vessel's home port of Liverpool. Those investigating the case were informed and were able to get a message to the captain requesting that he slow down whilst they boarded a faster vessel in order to overtake. Crippen was the first criminal to be caught by the use of wireless telegraphy.

le Nève was charged with being an accessory to murder after the fact and tried separately to Crippen. She was defended by Mr. F. E. Smith, K.C., M.P., and Mr. F. T. Barrington Ward and was acquitted. She changed her name and moved to America. Dr Crippen however was found guilty of murdering his wife by poisoning, and burying her remains in the cellar of their home. He was executed in Pentonville Prison on 23 November. In 2007, Professor David Foran re-examined the forensic evidence of the Dr. Crippen case and questioned the original examination of the Home Office pathologist Sir Bernard Spilsbury. Doubt still hangs over this case today.

In 1914 Frederick was appointed as the Recorder of Hythe. Recorders are required to manage cases actively as well as to determine claims at trial. Their duties include assisting the parties to prepare for trial, presiding over court proceedings and delivering judgments in both applications and contested trials. Frederick held this office until 1928 when he was appointed Recorder of Chichester. In 1919 he was appointed King's Counsel with the post-nominal initials KC added to his name. Appointment as King's Counsel is an office recognised by the courts. Members in the UK have the privilege of sitting within the inner bar of court. As members wear silk gowns of a particular design, appointment as King's Counsel is known informally as "taking silk" and KCs are often colloquially called "Silks". Appointments are made from within the legal profession on the basis of merit. Successful applicants are normally barristers with at least 15 years of experience.

In 1930 he was appointed as a Metropolitan Police Magistrate and it was this position of which his mother was most proud. Frederick died on 22nd February 1938 aged just 58.

Combined arms of the four Inns of Court. Clockwise from top left: Lincoln's Inn, Middle Temple, Gray's Inn, Inner Temple.

Next we meet Lancelot Edward. He was born in Salwarpe, Worcestershire on July 4th, 1884, the second son of Reverend. Mark James Barrington-Ward and his wife Caroline. He is shown on the first Honours Board of the Dixie Grammar School as being awarded an Open Scholarship, worth £80.00, in 1898 to Westminster College. He joined Westminster as a Queen's Scholar but due to ill health transferred to Bromsgrove School where he was awarded a classical scholarship to Worcester College, Oxford University. He went on to take his medical training at Edinburgh University. qualifying with honours in 1908. In the same year he was captain of the University Rugby XV. having played in it for six seasons. In the season 1907-08 he captained a successful University team that competed at the highest levels of British rugby. In that season the team won all its matches and the Scottish Club Championship. More than half of this team were current or future Internationals or International triallists, and four members went on to be awarded knighthoods. He also boxed for the University as a middleweight. In 1910 he played four times for England, playing in the first International match played at the new Twickenham

Stadium against Wales. (England won 11 - 4) The team of which he was a member were Five Nations Champions with three victories and one draw. He graduated MB ChB (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) with honours in 1908. He took the Edinburgh Fellowship in 1910, and the English Fellowship in 1912 after working at the Middlesex Hospital. At Edinburgh in 1913 he took the ChM (Master of Surgery, *Magister Chirurgiae*) with honours and was awarded the Chiene medal (shown left) in surgery.

The Chiene Medal

John Chiene, CB, FRSE, FRCSEd (25 February 1843 – 29 May 1923) was a Scottish surgeon, who was Professor of Surgery at the University of Edinburgh during some of its most influential years. He was a founder of the Edinburgh Ambulance Service. The Chiene Medal is presented as an annual prize in surgery at the University. He served as President of the Royal College of Surgeons from 1897 to 1899

In 1910 he became house surgeon at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, and this was the start of an association with that institution that lasted for the rest of his career. After this he was appointed resident medical superintendent at the hospital, which gave him experience with all aspects of hospital administration. He was appointed assistant surgeon at Great Ormond Street in December 1914. At the start of World War I he volunteered for duty as Surgeon-in-Chief to Lady Wimborne's Hospital at Uskub (now Skopje) in Serbia. For his distinguished services in this capacity he was awarded the Serbian Order of St. Sava. Later he worked as a surgeon in British military hospitals.

The Order of St. Sava

This is an ecclesiastic decoration conferred by the Serbian Orthodox Church and a dynastic order presented by the house of Karadordevic. It was previously a state order awarded by both the Kingdom of Serbia and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes/Kingdom of former Yugoslavia.
The state order was awarded to nationals and foreigners for meritorious achievements in the field of religion, education, science and the arts as well as for social and relief work. It was abolished in 1945 with the proclamation of the People's Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the end of the monarchy.

In 1917 he married Dorothy Anne Miles, second daughter of W. Miles of Caragh, Co Kerry, at one time an official in the Indian Public Works department. With Dorothy he had three daughters. He returned to London in 1918 and went on to establish a reputation as a paediatric surgeon.
In 1918 he operated for appendicitis upon HRH Prince Albert, afterwards Duke of York. In 1919 he was appointed surgeon to the Royal Northern Hospital, Holloway Road, London, and this enabled him also to build a substantial adult practice. For 38 years he was surgeon to the Woodgreen and Southgate Hospital and for 18 of these was senior surgeon. During the 1920s and 1930s he achieved international recognition in the field of paediatric surgery, and his book The Abdominal Surgery of Children (1928) became a standard teaching text. He also made contributions to adult abdominal surgery, many of which were embodied in the chapters he wrote for the textbook 'Royal Northern Operative Surgery' (1939), the first two editions of which he edited.
In 1935 he was made a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (KCVO) in King George Vs jubilee honours list and in the following year was appointed Surgeon to the Household of HRH The Duke of York. When the Duke became King George VI, Barrington-Ward became Surgeon to the Royal Household and in 1952, after his retirement from active surgical practice, he was appointed by Queen Elizabeth II as extra Surgeon to her Household. Having attended the sister of King George V, Queen Maud of Norway, he was awarded the Grand Cross of St Olav.

The Royal Victorian Order

The Royal Victorian Order is a dynastic order of knighthood established in 1896 by Queen Victoria. It recognises distinguished personal service to the monarch, members of the royal family, or to any viceroy or senior representative of the monarch. The present monarch, King Charles III, is the sovereign of the order. The order's motto is Victoria. The order's official day is 20 June. The order's chapel is the Savoy Chapel in London.

While all those honoured may use the prescribed styles of the order, the top two grades grant titles of knighthood, and all grades accord distinct postnominal letters. The Royal Victorian Order's precedence amongst other honours differs from realm to realm and admission to some grades may be barred to citizens of those realms by government policy.

The Royal Norwegian Order of Saint Olav

This is a Norwegian order of chivalry instituted by King Oscar I on 21 August 1847. It is named after King Olav II, known to posterity as St. Olav.
The Order of St. Olav is the kingdom's only order of chivalry. The Grand Master of the order is the reigning monarch of Norway. It is used to reward individuals for remarkable accomplishments on behalf of the country and humanity. Since 1985, appointments to the order have only been conferred upon Norwegian citizens, though foreign heads of state and royalty may be appointed as a matter of courtesy.

He examined for the Universities of St Andrews and of Edinburgh, served as President of the Section of Diseases of Children in the Royal Society of Medicine, and was a Hunterian Professor at the College (14 February 1952) lecturing on "Swellings of the neck in childhood".
Lady Barrington-Ward undertook much charitable work in connection with her husband's hospitals and for the Peter Pan League. She died on 26 August 1935. On 22 May 1941 he married Catherine Wilhelmina, only daughter of E. G. Reuter of Harrogate, who survived him with a son. He died after a long illness at his country home, Hawkedon House, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk on 17 November 1953, aged 69.
He had formerly practised at 85 Harley Street, and at Harcourt House, Cavendish Square, London. A memorial service was held at St Peter's, Vere Street on 2 December 1953, at which the Queen, who was then at sea crossing the Pacific Ocean, was represented by Her Majesty's Serjeant Surgeon, Sir Arthur Porritt, and a memorial oration was given by Sir Thomas Fairbank.
Footnote.
His daughter, June Barrington-Ward (1922-2002), after training at Chelsea School of Art exhibited widely in the 1960s and 70s at galleries, including the Royal Academy, alongside artists such as Denis Mitchell, John Milne and Kim Lim. .She met Maggie Cameron Frazer (1923-2021) during the second World War and after living together in Chiswick, West London, June and Maggie retired in 1978 to a farmhouse near Lanreath in Cornwall where Barrington-Ward continued to make sculpture and Cameron Fraser worked as an academic specialising in antique glass.

The third son is Victor Michael (Shown below left) was born in Worcester on July 17th, 1887, the third son of Reverend Mark James Barrington-Ward and his wife Caroline. He joined Westminster School as a King's Scholar on September 26th, 1901, leaving in July 1904 to join Edinburgh University where he studied engineering, qualifying with 1st Class Honours and a Bachelor of Science degree in 1907. He was then appointed as Assistant to the Engineer of the Midland Railway Co. By 1914 he had been promoted Assistant to the General Superintendent of Engineering.

In October 1914 he joined the newly formed St. Helens Pals: 11th (Service) Battalion South Lancashire Regiment (St. Helens Pioneers) with the rank of Captain. He joined the Royal Engineers with the rank of Major in June 1915 and was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel on January 1st, 1919. He was mentioned in despatches (London Gazette) four times; October 20th, 1916, January 4th and December 14th, 1917, and again on May 21st
1918. He was awarded the DSO on October 20th, 1916. The citation reads *"For conspicuous gallantry. During a fire at an ammunition depot he took an engine between sheds where ammunition was exploding and brought back fifteen men who were exposed to considerable danger."* In 1918 he was awarded the Croix de Guerre with palm.

Distinguished Service Order

Instituted on 6 September 1886 by Queen Victoria in a royal warrant published in The London Gazette on 9 November, the first DSOs awarded were dated 25 November 1886. The order was established to reward individual instances of meritorious or distinguished service in war. Whilst normally given for service under fire or under conditions equivalent to service in actual combat with the enemy, a number of awards made between 1914 and 1916 were under circumstances not under fire, often to staff officers, causing resentment among front-line officers. From 1916, ribbon bars could be authorised for subsequent awards of the DSO, worn on the ribbon of the original award.

The Croix de Guerre

The Croix de Guerre, Cross of War, is a military decoration of France. It was first created in 1915 and consists of a square-cross medal on two crossed swords, hanging from a ribbon with various degree pins. The decoration was first awarded during World War I, again in World War II, and in other conflicts; The medal is awarded to those who have been "mentioned in dispatches", meaning a heroic deed or deeds were performed meriting a citation from an individual's headquarters unit. The unit award of the Croix de Guerre with palm was issued to military units whose members performed heroic deeds in combat and were subsequently recognized by headquarters.

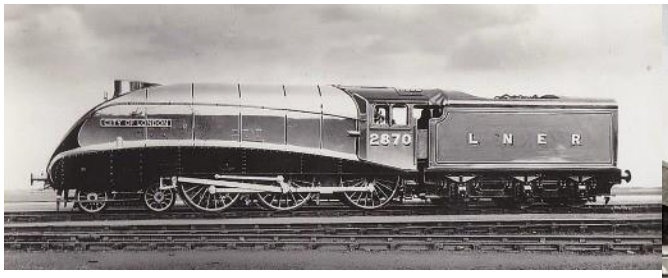
In 1915, on the formation of the Railway Operating Division in France, he was transferred to this unit as Major on the Headquarters Staff, at the request of his old chief, who had been appointed Commanding Officer. He subsequently became Lieutenant-Colonel commanding a large group of operating companies. In March 1919, at Sir Eric Geddes' request, he joined his personal staff, and on the formation of the Ministry of Transport, he was appointed Director in Charge of the Railway Operating Section.

In 1922 he joined the General Manager's staff of the Northeastern Railway, and in January 1923, became District Superintendent, Middlesbrough. He was largely instrumental in organizing and raising the Transportation Troops, Royal Engineers (S.R.).

On November 25th, 1920, he married Barbara, only daughter of John Taylor Pilling, of Wolverley Court, Worcester. They were divorced in 1937.

In 1922 he became District Superintendent of the London & Northeastern Railway, a position he held for the next five years until he was promoted to Superintendent, (Western Section) LNER in 1927 and (Southern Area) 1939-42; He was the Chairman, Operating Committee, Railway Executive Committee, 1938-45. In 1938 he married Isobel, elder daughter of Stanley James Kerfoot, MRCS of Clifton, Bristol.

In 1942 he was appointed Assistant to the General Manager of LNER becoming Divisional General Manager in 1945. Also in 1945 he was awarded a CBE. This is the highest Order of the British Empire before a Knighthood, (KCBE). He was made a member of the Railway Executive in 1947, a position he held until 1953. In 1952 he was made a Knight Commander of the Victorian Order. It was in his role as a member of the Railway Executive that on August 4th, 1953, at Euston Station, Sir Michael escorted Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles and Princess Anne to the royal train for their journey to Balmoral. The locomotive hauling the royal train was to be LNER's The City of London, one of Sir Nigel Gresley's famous designs, He of course was responsible for the design of The Flying Scotsman, the first steam locomotive to travel at 100 miles per hour, and Mallard, which still holds the world record as the fastest steam locomotive at 126 mph. Sir Michael held the responsibility for the royal train for a total of twenty six years.



LNER Class B17 Loco. No 2870 City of London as it would have looked in 1953 with the streamlining panels attached.

The Euston Arch at the entrance to the station which was demolished in 1962.

Dr. Michael Bonavia's book "British Rail: the first 25 years." notes that *"Sir Michael was universally known as 'B-W'. He was tall, with very blue eyes and a rather austere, clean-shaven face. His early training had been on the Midland Railway under that wayward genius Sir Cecil Paget who, as General Superintendent, had, with J. H. Follows, introduced the pioneer system of train control, later extended to the whole LMS. B-W had transferred to the LNER where his fondness for Midland practices led him into a prolonged tussle with C.M. Jenkin Jones, the supreme exponent of the alternative Northeastern Railway control principles. B-W was famous for his taciturnity. He seldom gave reasons for his decisions, but always commanded respect even from those who disagreed with him. And if a decision was taken over his head with which he disagreed, he would still loyally carry it out. His loyalty to the Midland Railway was legendary; Jenkin Jones once wrote of B-W 'putting on his Derby hat and, facing the Northwest, saying his morning prayers to the gods of the Midland Pantheon."*

On Wednesday July 29th, 1953, the Minister of Transport, Mr. Lennox-Boyd, announced to the House of Commons that the Transport Executive (with the exception of the London Transport Executive.) would be abolished on September 30th. He also informed the House that Sir Michael Barrington-Ward, a member of the Railway Executive since its inception, would also be retiring on the 30th September. 1953 was a busy year for Sir Michael as in that year he was elected onto the Beaconsfield Urban Council and very quickly appointed as their representative on the North Thames Gas Board. However at the Council Meeting on 29th May 1956 he dropped a resignation bombshell!, When proposed as Deputy Chairman of The Finance and General Purposes Committee he said that he felt the jobs of chairman of the various committees should be shared round to give a greater number of councillors experience. He continued *"There are things I do not like, but I don't believe in airing grievances in public. If there are things you don't like the best thing to do is to get out."* As was his way, he refused to discuss the matter further. *"There are reasons that I am keeping to myself. The least said the soonest mended."* He also withdrew from the Highways Committee. (*A touch of Quod Dixi Dixi?*)*
Sir Michael died in 1972 aged 85.

**Quod Dixi Dixi"* The Dixie family motto - "What I have said I have said."

The fourth son was Robert McGowan Barrington-Ward was born on February 23rd, 1891, at Salwarpe, Worcestershire. He was the fourth son of Mark James and Caroline Barrington-Ward. He was admitted to Westminster School as a Kings Scholar in September 1903 and won the Mure Classical Scholarship, linked to Westminster School, in 1907. He was appointed Captain of the School in 1908. He left Westminster in July 1909 with a Triplet Scholarship to Balliol College Oxford. This success was reported in The Bosworthian by his uncle, the Headmaster of the Dixie Grammar School, as *"R. M. Barrington-Ward, a major scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford, a year and a half underage."* He got his matriculation in Michaelmas 1909 and a 1st class pass in the Classical Moderations of 1911. In 1912 he was elected President of the Oxford Union Society, following in the footsteps of men such as William Ewart Gladstone and Lord Salisbury. In 1911 he got the Tancred Scholarship to study Law at Lincoln's Inn. He got his B.A. Degree in 1913.

Though planning for a career in the law and in politics, he undertook freelance editing work for The Times while reading for the Bar, and in February 1914 was given a position as secretary to the editor, Geoffrey Dawson. At the start of World War I, he joined the 6th Batt. Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (DCLI) with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. He was mentioned in despatches in the London Gazette on January 1st 1916 and again on June 15th. He was awarded the Military Cross in January 1917 and became a Gen. Staff Officer on February 3rd, 1917. He was wounded in the battle at Bullecourt in May of that year. On December 11th he was again mentioned in Despatches. On January 1st 1918 he was awarded the DSO having served with distinction in France and Flanders. He was promoted to rank of (temp.) Major on July 13th 1918.

MC

The Military Cross

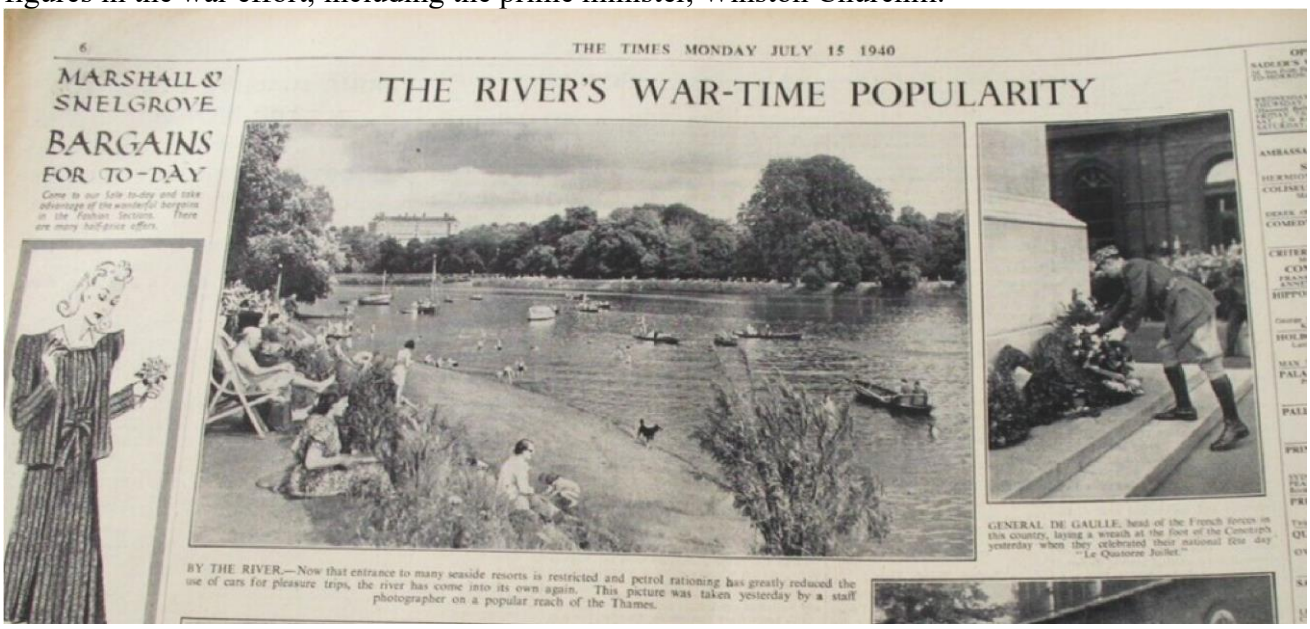
The Military Cross (MC) is the third-level (second-level until 1993) military decoration awarded to officers and (since 1993) other ranks of the British Armed Forces, and formerly awarded to officers of other Commonwealth countries.

DSO

The MC is granted in recognition of "an act or acts of exemplary gallantry during active operations against enemy on land" to all members of the British Armed Forces of any rank. From August 1916, recipients of the Cross were entitled to use the post-nominal letters MC,

Postwar demobilisation left Robert ‘a man without a position’. While he was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn a few weeks after the end of the war, early in 1919 he received an invitation to become an assistant editor of a Sunday newspaper, The Observer. Though his initial interview with the paper's editor, J. L. Garvin, did not go well, a successful period as a special correspondent to the Paris Peace Conference soon won Garvin over. The position provided him with valuable experience in the management and operations of a newspaper, and he developed a close friendship with the legendary editor.
In 1926 Robert met and married Adele Radice, the daughter of an Indian civil servant who was working as a schoolteacher. The couple had two sons, Mark and Simon, and a daughter, Caroline. Mark followed his father by serving in the DCLI, studying at Balliol and editing a newspaper. More about Simon later.
In April 1927 Robert received an invitation from Dawson to return to The Times as assistant editor. This he accepted, taking over most of the day-to-day administration of the office. His responsibilities soon grew and in 1929, he began writing most of the leading articles on domestic policy and European matters. In 1934 he was made deputy editor. Convinced by his own military service of the futility of the First World War, he supported Dawson's views in favour of appeasing Germany in the 1930s. In fact, he worked behind the scenes to promote his vision. Lester B. Pearson, then a young Chargé d'Affaires in the Canadian High Commission, recalls in his memoirs a visit paid by Robert in furtherance of the appeasement policy which was fashionable at that time.
“Then followed another Nazi violation of the Treaty of Versailles, the reoccupation of the Rhineland in March 1936. There were those who counselled firm action with France against this Nazi move. German troops should be ordered out of the Rhineland under threat of war. The great majority in Britain and Canada condemned such a threat as war-mongering. Robert agreed, with the Times thundering against strong anti-Nazi policy and emphasizing the danger of precipitate action against a Germany which, however deplorable its regime, was merely trying to free itself from some of the worst shackles of an unjust treaty”. Lester Pearson recalls how *“at this time, in pursuit of the policy which became known later as ‘appeasement’, Robert and an old Balliol friend of Mr Massey, The Canadian High Commissioner, came over to Canada House to persuade the High Commissioner to suggest that a message be sent to Mr Baldwin warning him that Canada would not support any strong or rash action against the Nazis over the occupation of the Rhineland.”* Pearson was present at this talk. *“The idea appealed to Mr Massey and the High Commissioner in fact sent a telegram to Mr King along these lines on March 13th 1936.”* Robert changed his mind, opposing further German expansion after the Germans invaded the remainder of Czechoslovakia in March 1939.

Robert was then approached by the owner of The Times, John Jacob Astor, about succeeding Dawson as editor upon Dawson's retirement, which was anticipated by the end of the year. Though he accepted, Dawson's departure was conditional on the continuance of peace, and the outbreak of war led him to postpone his retirement indefinitely. It was not until Astor pressed Dawson for a departure date in May 1941 that the editor finally agreed to leave the paper at the end of September 1941. As an editor, Robert was more interested in policy matters than in the business of running a newspaper. Though a Tory democrat in his youth, he became a Labour supporter after the First World War and adopted an editorial stance more left-wing than that of his predecessors. In terms of the war, he believed that it was generally the patriotic duty of the paper to support the government. However he reserved the right to oppose specific policies, such as the deployment of British troops to Greece in 1944. He enjoyed regular contact with many of the leading figures in the war effort, including the prime minister, Winston Churchill.


6 THE TIMES MONDAY JULY 15 1940

MARSHALL & SNELGROVE

BARGAINS FOR TO-DAY

Come to our Sale to-day and take advantage of the wonderful bargains in the Fashion Sections. There are many half-price offers.

THE RIVER'S WAR-TIME POPULARITY

BY THE RIVER.—Now that entrance to many seaside resorts is restricted and petrol rationing has greatly reduced the use of cars for pleasure trips, the river has come into its own again. This picture was taken yesterday by a staff photographer on a popular reach of the Thames.

GENERAL DE GAULLE, head of the French forces in this country, laying a wreath at the foot of the Cenotaph yesterday when they celebrated their national fête day "Le Quatorze Juillet."

The Times, Monday 15th July 1940. *Caption reads "BY THE RIVER - Now that entrance to many seaside resorts is restricted and petrol rationing has greatly reduced the use of cars for pleasure trips, the river has come into its own again. This photograph was taken yesterday by a staff photographer on a popular reach of the Thames.*

In early 1947, Barrington-Ward's colleagues noticed a decline in his work. Though he was given a long break, upon his return he shocked friends and colleagues with his worsening condition. That November, Astor advised him to take three months off. In January 1948 he travelled to South Africa; on the return voyage, he fell ill with malaria which his weakened body was unable to fight. Robert died on board the ship MV Llangibby Castle, which was docked in the harbour of Dar es Salaam in what was then Tanganyika. He was buried onshore.

And lastly we meet the youngest son, John Grosvenor Barrington-Ward. Born on December 26th , 1894,

John was the youngest of the five brothers. He entered Westminster School as a King's Scholar, as did his brothers. He worked hard, did well, and was elected as Head Boy. He gained a Westminster Scholarship to Christ Church College, Oxford in July 1912. He got his Matriculation in the end of the Michaelmas Term that same year. In 1914 he won the Hertford Scholarship and the Chancellor's Prize for Latin Verse.
With the outbreak of War he joined the Royal Marine Artillery (RMA) rising to the rank of Lieutenant in 1915. The Royal Marine Artillery was formed as a unit within the British Royal Marines in 1804 to man the artillery. As their coats were the blue of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, this group was nicknamed the "Blue Marines" and the Infantry element, RMLI, who wore the scarlet coats of the British infantry, became known as the "Red Marines. The RMA and RMLI were merged to form the Royal Marines in 1923. Before then they were Gunner, Bombardier (RMA) or Private, Corporal (RMLI). The Royal Marine Artillery were the first anti-aircraft Batteries to arrive in France. They also fought with those huge 15-inch Howitzers.

The Ordnance BL 15-inch Howitzer was developed by the Coventry Ordnance Works late in 1914 in response to the success of its design of the 9.2-inch siege Howitzer. The Howitzer was cumbersome to deploy, since it was transported in several sections by giant Foster-Daimler tractors. The weapon was operated by Royal Marine Artillery detachments of the Naval Brigade, with one gun per battery. It was used at the Battle of the Somme in September 1916 and at the Battle of Passchendaele. It operated successfully where it was needed to destroy deep fortifications on the Western Front, but was limited by its relatively short range.

In November 1915 John was appointed Adjutant and Quartermaster whilst he served in France, the Dardanelles, and Egypt through to the end of the War. Along with three of his brothers he would have received all three of the commemorative Campaign Medals, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

WWI Campaign Medals

The records held by Westminster School show that he was awarded his B.A. Degree in 1917 and his MA in 1919. He was appointed a Governor of Westminster School in 1920, a position he held for the rest of his life. The School records that he served his old School with "unswerving dignity and piety". In 1919 he returned to Christ College, Oxford, and "soon became one of the best 'Latinists' and Classical Tutors in Oxford" according to his peers. At this time his "scholarship and wit were exhibited in a constant stream of admirable addresses for honorary degrees that he gave whilst Deputy Public Orator." *(The Public Orator is a traditional official post at universities, especially in England. The holder of this office acts as the voice of the University on public occasions. The position at Oxford University dates from 1564. The Public Orator presents honorary degrees, giving an oration for each person that is honoured. They may also be required to compose addresses and speeches when members of the royal family are present. The post was instituted for a visit to Oxford by Queen Elizabeth I in 1566.)*

In June 1924 he married Diana Beatrice, the only daughter of John Embleton Macfarlane, of Hindhead, Surrey; They had a son and daughter. In the years between the First and Second World War, as part of his involvement with his old School, he was part author of the Epilogue to the Westminster Play on four occasions. His ability, energy and competence was impressive. One outcome of his retentive memory was the College address list of living members of the College first issued in 1937, the production of which saw him working closely with the College Librarian, Mr. Hiscock. He hoped one day to expand it into a much larger and more detailed College Register. Between 1928 and 1938 he completely reorganised and modernised the College Library. He changed and made great improvements to the Junior Common Room. In 1937 he was made Supervisor of the I.C.S. Probationers for as long as the Delegacy existed. He was honorary treasurer of the University of Oxford's Golf Club, being a keen and accomplished golfer himself. Up until his death he had been acting Steward of the College, a task that even he found difficult and taxing. John died at his home on Belbroughton Road, Oxford, on 6th June 1946.

His son, John Craig B-W, had a successful career with the Royal Artillery, attaining the rank of Major, but he is best remembered for his involvement with the Olympic Games. In 1948 he was a Torchbearer for the

Summer Olympics held in London. These were the first Summer Olympics to be held since those of 1936 held in Berlin. The 1948 Summer Olympics, officially the Games of the XIV Olympiad and branded as London 1948 were an international multi-sport event held from 29th July to 14th August. The 1948 Olympics came to be known as the "Austerity Games" due to the difficult economic climate and rationing imposed in the aftermath of World War II. No new venues were built for the games, with events taking place mainly at Wembley Stadium, also known as the Empire Stadium, and the Empire Pool at Wembley Park, and athletes were housed in existing accommodation in the Wembley area instead of an Olympic Village. A record 59 nations were represented by 4,104 athletes, 3,714 men, and 390 women in 19 sport disciplines. Germany and Japan were not invited to participate in the games; the Soviet Union was invited but chose not to send any athletes, sending observers instead to prepare for the 1952 Olympics. Israel requested to participate (symbolically represented by Raya Bronstein and Frieda Berson-Lichtblau), but was denied as the International Olympic Committee did not yet recognize the country, while the Olympic mandate of Palestine had expired. This in turn shifted the view of the Arab countries who had intended to boycott the event and now decided to take part.

Torch Details

Description: *On the upper part, the torch is engraved "Olympia to London with thanks to the bearer XIVth Olympiad 1948", as well as the carved and traced Olympic symbol.*

Colour: *Silver*

Height: *40.5cm*

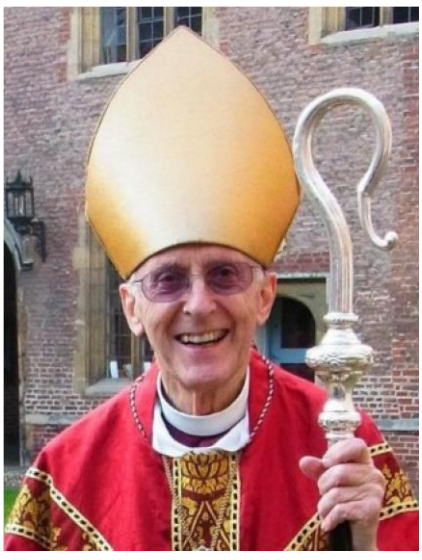
Composition: *Steel, aluminium*

Fuel: *Hexamine tablets with 6 per cent naphthalene*

Designer / Manufacturer:
Ralph Lavers /
E.M.I. Factories Ltd,
High Dury Alloys Ltd.

John Craig Barrington-Ward represented Great Britain at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics in one of the Sailing classes but unfortunately I have been unable to discover how well he performed. Suffice to say he was not listed as a medal winner!

Bishop of Coventry 1985 - 1997



I feel it would be wrong for me to end this record of the Barrington-Ward family without recording the life of Robert's son Simon, in actual fact The Rt. Rev. Simon Barrington-Ward KCMG, MA. (1930–2020),
What follows is a heavily edited version of "A celebration of the life of the Rt. Reverend Simon Barrington-Ward KCMG MA". by Canon Paul Oestreicher.
The Rt Revd Simon Barrington-Ward, KCMG, MA. Born 27 May 1930. Educated at Eton (Scholar), Magdalene College (Matric 1950, Scholar), Historical Tripos, Pts 1 & II; Westcott House, 1954–56; National Service (Pilot Officer, RAF Regiment), 1949–50; Lektor, Free University of Berlin, 1953-54; Chaplain of Magdalene College, 1956–60; Assistant Lecturer in Religious Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 1960–63; Fellow and Dean of Chapel, 1963– 69; Principal of Crowther Hall, the Church Missionary Society College at Selly Oak, Birmingham, 1969–74; General Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, 1974–85; Honorary Canon of Derby Cathedral and an Honorary Chaplain to the Queen; Bishop

of Coventry, 1985–97; Prelate of the Order of St Michael & St George, 1989–2005; knighted 2001 (KCMG); Honorary Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Ely and Honorary Assistant Chaplain of Magdalene College, from 1997. Married to Dr Jean Taylor, 1963; two daughters, Mary and Helen. Honorary Fellow from 1987. Died on Easter Saturday, 11 April 2020, aged 89.

If Simon had not been so hopeless at maths, he would never have studied at Magdalene College as an undergraduate. His family had close ties with Oxford University, and young Simon was desperate to go to his father's old college there. His Eton tutor, however, was convinced that Oxford would reject him for failing maths, and after long and difficult discussions persuaded him to try for Magdalene Cambridge. Simon won an Open Scholarship in History to Magdalene in December 1948, and then had to complete his National Service with the Royal Air Force before joining in October 1950. Simon's famous father, Robert Barrington-Ward, DSO, MC, a First World War hero, died suddenly from an insect-bite when travelling to Dares-Salaam in February 1948, when Simon was seventeen. Simon always regretted that his father had died just when he was of an age to appreciate and learn from Robert's political ideas, but he was aware that his father was supportive of the post-war Labour Government's social welfare reforms and promotion of Indian independence. He believed in evolutionary policies and 'liberating truths, at whatever cost to conventional opinion' and however painful. These formed the bedrock of Simon's social philosophy.

He was a popular History undergraduate, 'a good mixer' with many friends in different spheres. Shortly after the beginning of his second year, he decided to submit himself as a candidate for ordination, supported by the Chaplain, Tony Pearce, and his Tutor, Francis Turner, whose recommendation stressed that he was 'a man of marked intellectual ability, lively mind, wide interests, and personal charm'. However, before starting theological training at Westcott House, he spent his first year after graduation in 1953 as a Lektor at the Free University of Berlin. This was a profoundly important experience, exposing him not only to German language and literature, but also to its religion and philosophy. As Simon was finishing his training at Westcott House in the summer of 1956, Tony Pearce as Chaplain of Magdalene was spectacularly successful in being elected to a University Lectureship in Divinity. Naturally enough, he hoped and indeed expected that this could be combined with promotion to a Fellowship at Magdalene. The College authorities, however, hesitated to make a tenured appointment and worried about his 'high church' Anglicanism; they denied him a Fellowship. Pearce therefore decided to resign as Chaplain and to leave Cambridge for Australia.

The College was likely to be left without a chaplain for the beginning of the new academic year, but realised that Simon was due to be made a Deacon on 30 September. He could therefore be appointed Chaplain from 1 October 1956, before his ordination as a priest, which took place the following year. If this was a gamble for the College, it was nothing less than a privileged and exciting opportunity for the youthful new Chaplain. Simon later recalled: *"From the start I loved it. I was virtually an ordained undergraduate, close to those amongst whom I was working. The Chaplain was a figure accepted by everyone…. The Chapel was almost as much part of the College's life as Hall. It was packed out every Sunday evening… Everyone wore one of the surplices that hung in the Ante-Chapel. This and most of the other old traditions were still in operation. All undergraduates had had to declare their religion on their application form. It was not difficult being Chaplain in such a community, and it was hugely enjoyable, joining High Table every night, and talking among others to C S Lewis as a Professorial Fellow."*

In 1960, with Simon's five-year appointment drawing to a close, he accepted an Assistant Lectureship in Religious Studies at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. This was another formative step for him, opening up the exciting world of Africa, of African religion, and Anglican mission. But in 1963 the College decided to try to tempt him back with the offer of a Fellowship and the post of Dean of Chapel which had long been vacant. Simon accepted eagerly, and all seemed to be arranged. Then came the news that Simon was getting married. A shocked and agitated Master (Sir Henry Willink) announced this to the Fellows, suggesting that they could hardly say they didn't want him after all, just because he was no longer unmarried and wouldn't live as a bachelor chaplain in College. The Fellows learned that he had married Dr Jean Caverhill Taylor, who was practising in Nigeria, the daughter of Dr. Hugh Taylor, a medical missionary who had served in China. When Simon and Jean first met, they discovered that each of them had furnished their rooms with identical curtains designed by John Piper. It was a Sign, surely?

More of a "Sign" than he could ever have imagined! The Baptistery Window, Coventry Cathedral, by John Piper.

Described by Sir Basil Spence as a masterpiece the Baptistery Window is made of 198 brightly coloured glass panels and measures 26 metres high. The artist John Piper was asked to design the stained glass. His view was that with 198 small areas of window to fill, the glass needed dazzling colour and an abstract pattern to create unity. Working with glassmaker Patrick Reyntiens, he created the window from thousands of differently-sized pieces of glass to visually vary the space and rest the eye.

The College was about to witness an unprecedented double pastorate. At their home in the newly-converted Northampton Street cottages, with the paired Piper curtains now on facing walls, Simon might be in the living room giving spiritual comfort and guidance to one undergraduate, while Jean was in the kitchen dispensing medical and psychological aid to another: these rooms could be entered separately, so complete privacy was assured to students seeking their complementary but equally warm-hearted and understanding practical help. But although many individual members of the College were thus helped enormously, Simon was acutely aware that the overall role of the Chaplain was much diminished. The College was quite suddenly entering a time of rapid and disconcerting change, the beginnings of an aggressive reform movement known to history as 'the Students' Revolt'. As he recalls: *"I had returned to a transformed scene. The cultural shock was far greater than anything which the vital spiritual turmoil of Africa had confronted me with…. Amid the welter of cults, enthusiasms, Utopian passions, Chapel had no place. I was part of the rejected 'Establishment'…. The faith I had articulated seemed now too bland and glib. What is more, I realised I had become estranged not only from many of those I was trying to reach, but even from my former self."* He began to sense something of the impatience of the rebels, to accept the need for evolving change, the need for a genuine 'death and resurrection' in the world and in Magdalene.

For a start, he embarked upon a radical redesign for the Chapel, encouraged by his friend Jim Ede of Kettles Yard. Out went the last of the Victorian panelling; the ornately carved Edwardian altar was evicted and put into storage, replaced by a serviceable table rescued from an undergraduate room; the walls were repainted in uncompromising 'brilliant' white. Simon wanted to get rid of the Victorian glass windows which made the Chapel dark and dreary, and fill all of them (except the Pugin east window) with plain glass. This would be a major alteration, requiring Governing Body approval. The College's Architect-Fellow, David Roberts, a Welsh Nonconformist, supported him, arguing that the Chapel was the chaplain's work-space and he should have as light and modern a facility as possible. The Governing Body was not persuaded (eventually a sensible compromise was adopted, involving the radical modification of the two worst windows, those at the sanctuary end).

As the Students' Revolt intensified, Simon thought he might usefully act as a go-between, a moderating, reconciling influence. However, a new Master and a traditionalist Bursar were nervous and sceptical about this. It was suggested to Simon that he might like to move on and further his ecclesiastical career.

And so in 1969 Simon moved to Birmingham to become the first Principal of Crowther Hall training college at Selly Oak, the start of his momentous connection with the Church Missionary Society, of which he was appointed the General Secretary in 1974. Simon was now right at the centre of reconciling modernisation, rejecting the old missionary authoritarianism and devising an evolving 'partnership in mission'. He travelled the world, writing a striking series of newsletters about what he found: thoroughly characteristic, stylish reflections, their regular arrival eagerly awaited. They have been published as an anthology, 'Love Will Out' (1988), hailed as one of the finest statements of 'mission theology' for the late-twentieth century. As the General Secretary, he and Jean lived in a CMS semi-detached house close to the riverside at Twickenham and the bridge to Richmond. It was here that their daughters Mary and Helen spent most of their childhood.

If the General Secretaryship marvellously fitted his talents, enthusiasms and experience, the same was hardly less true of his appointment as Bishop of Coventry in 1985. It was greeted with something like a general acclamation. He received nearly 500 letters of congratulation, including, it seemed, greetings from almost everyone who was anyone in the Church of England, and many others besides. His openness to all things German, and competence in its language, was of especial value in developing Coventry's links of reconciliation with Dresden Cathedral, while his experience of Coventry itself resonated with his own spiritual

vision of brokenness followed by redemption and renewal. 'Reconciliation' was now a central theme of his ministry: it was something which called for 'the sharing of the gift of forgiving love with others'. If it sometimes called for an unpopular stance in opposition to the government, he took it: his father would have been proud of him. He attacked unconscious racism, opposed the Thacherite poll tax and policy towards apartheid, and joined Archbishop Desmond Tutu in calls to free Nelson Mandela. As Bishop he chaired the International Affairs Committee of the General Synod Board for Social Responsibility, and the Partnership for World Mission, together with various other bodies.

Magdalene was the cherished thread which ran through seventy years of his life. Simon spent a sabbatical term as Bishop living in Mallory Court. His links with the College were decisively renewed and strengthened with election to an Honorary Fellowship in 1987. When the question of the admission of women to the College became a live issue he seized the chance to set out his vision of what he hoped Magdalene would become by 'transposition'. He wrote as follows: *"I am sure that it is important that the College can demonstrate that its real character and quality are able to be translated effectively into contemporary terms without being in any way distorted or diminished…. a mixed community in which still, more than ever even, the truly Magdalenian virtues, of humane, Christianly-rooted relationships, of a valuing of the whole person and not just of the intellect, can be cherished and realised, through…. continuing resilience, imagination and readiness for fresh exploration."*

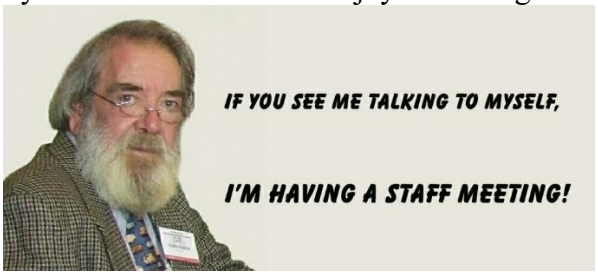
It was no surprise when Simon and Jean decided to retire to Cambridge in 1997, and live as close to the College as they could. A house in Searle Street was found for them and they got to know a whole new generation of appreciative students and Fellows. During a term's interregnum in the chaplaincy, Simon was the acting Chaplain.

Simon was a man of almost unlimited imaginative insight and cultural breadth and refinement. Many will remember his joyful bursts of song, or his clear calligraphic handwriting, which remained unchanged throughout his life since his early teens. He had a childlike sense of fun, and could sometimes be seen in full ecclesiastical rig, speeding down Castle Hill into Magdalene Street on his drop-handled racing bike. Inevitably his shortcomings were the obverse of his virtues. The fluency and spontaneity sometimes meant an absence of focus and intellectual control: the sermons that went on too long, the important monographs on Nigerian religion, or contemporary spirituality, which never got written, the muddle that might overtake social engagements. But he made even vagueness seem endearing. He was in some ways a stern and committed pastor, but of great human sensitivity and sympathy, a genuine intellectual with considerable powers of critical judgment and understanding. He had an instinctive gift for kindly, unembarrassed and cheerful friendliness, and he developed into an inspirational figure who could reach out to all sorts and conditions of men and women. There was a sheer joyful abundance in what he was able to share lovingly with so many others. It was always a joy to see Simon, whether for a long and stimulating conversation, or just briefly in passing, for you could always be sure he would greet you with his unquenchable good humour and enthusiasm.

Sadly Simon died on Easter Saturday, 11th April 2020, aged 89, a victim of the Covid Pandemic.

I would like to acknowledge all of the help that I have received during the long and detailed period of research that the preparation of this article has taken. Thanks to Graham Rawlings for the many press cuttings, birth and death certificates and checks on the validity of much published data. To Robert Leake for answering questions such as "Have you ever heard of a…?" (Not he hadn't! But he found me the answer.) To Nigel Palmer for tolerating many, many phone calls at the most inconvenient times (always a pleasure, never a chore -NP). To Phil Tebbutt for answering a question via the British Legion. And to everyone who has given their time to help.

Thank you Walter for a tremendous piece of research and journalism. What is remarkable is that they chose to be educated right here in Market Bosworth as part of the Tripartite System, now the Comprehensive System. I am sure we all enjoyed reading about this fabulous family.



Time for another quiz, ho ho ho what do you know about a Christmas Carol?

1 Which of the spirits does not speak to Scrooge?

a) The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

b) The Ghost of Christmas Past

c) The Ghost of Christmas Present

d) All the spirits speak to Scrooge.

2 What is Jacob Marley forced to drag about as a result of his sinful life?

a) A huge safe full of lead

b) An ox cart piled with gold

c) Heavy chains forged from ledgers and lockboxes

d) A cross made of gold

3 Why does Scrooge like darkness?

a) It helps him sleep.

b) It helps him to forget his past.

c) It hides the ghosts from his eyes.

d) It is cheap.

4 Where does Martha work?

a) At a seamstress'

b) At a laundress'

c) At a blacksmith's

d) At a milliner's

5 Who is in the grave in Stave Four?

a) Ebenezer Scrooge

b) Jacob Marley

c) Bob Cratchit

d) Tiny Tim

6 In what year was A Christmas Carol written?

a) 1830

b) 1837

c) 1843

d) 1846

7 Which character is Fred's mother?

a) Mrs. Cratchit

b) Fan

c) Belle

d) Fezziwig

8 Why does Belle end her engagement to Scrooge?

a) Because she falls in love with Fred

b) Because she falls in love with Peter

c) Because Scrooge is too poor for her

d) Because Scrooge is consumed by greed

9 What is the Ghost of Christmas Present's throne made of?

a) Food

b) Gold

c) Pine needles

d) Fur

10 To whom does Scrooge send the Christmas turkey?

a) Fred

b) Belle

c) The Cratchits

d) Jacob Marley

11 Who brings Scrooge home from school?

a) Belle

b) Fan

c) Fezziwig

d) The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

12 Which one of the spirits has a glowing head?

a) The Ghost of Christmas Present

b) Jacob Marley

c) The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

d) The Ghost of Christmas Past

13 Who appears in Scrooge's door-knocker?

a) Jacob Marley's ghost

b) Fan's ghost

c) Death

d) The Ghost of Christmas Past

14 How does Fezziwig die?

a) He falls ill with pneumonia.

b) He is struck in the head by a horse's hoof.

c) Fezziwig does not die in the novel.

d) Fezziwig does die in the novel, but the manner of his death is unspecified.

15 Which spirit takes Scrooge to a ship at sea?

a) The Ghost of Christmas Past

b) The Ghost of Christmas Present

c) The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

d) None of The Above

16 Who inherits Bob Cratchit's shirt?

a) Tiny Tim

b) Scrooge

c) Fred

d) Peter

17 Who asks Scrooge for a charitable contribution?

a) Two merry gentlemen

b) Two portly gentlemen

c) Two obsequious gentlemen

d) Two angry gentlemen

18 What is Scrooge's typical response to "Merry Christmas"?

a) "Bah! Nonsense!"

b) "Pah! Life's too short!"

c) "Bah! Humbug!"

d) "Oh, fiddlesticks!"

19 Which character utters the famous words, "God bless us, Everyone"?

a) Tiny Tim

b) Bob Cratchit

c) Scrooge

d) The Ghost of Christmas Present

20 Who wrote A Christmas Carol

a) Lewis Carol

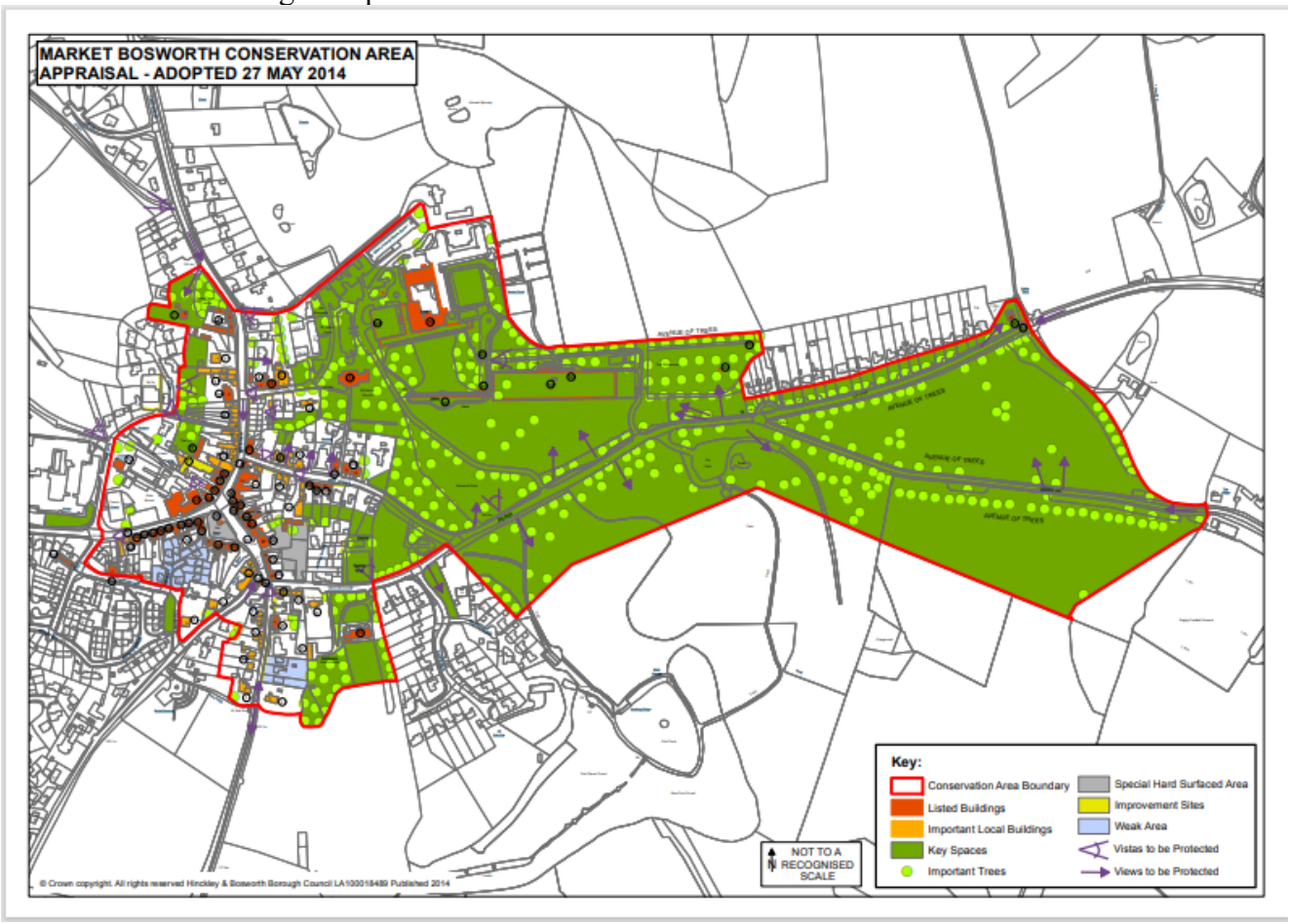
b) Emily Bronte

c) Charles dickens

d) John Bunyan

Market Bosworth Conservation Area

I am regularly asked about the boundaries of the MBCA and so I thought it might be helpful to add a map here and a link to a larger map on-line.



That link is https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/4095/appraisal_map_-_adopted_27_may_2014 or Market Bosworth Conservation Area | Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. The map is in the form of a PDF to download. If you have any questions about the Conservation Area please ask. Some time ago Paul Grundy and I ran a series of articles in Aspect about the Conservation Area so I have plenty of reference material.

Can you Help?

I was recently contacted by David Caldwell, a relative of the current owners of Warwick House, the former police station/house on Warwick Lane. David later sent me an email "*Nigel; it was good to meet you at the Hall earlier. Just a reminder - do any of your members know of any photos of the inside of the old police house, Warwick House, that my daughter now lives in? I've copied her into this email.*"
I remember the house well as it was occupied by Anne Shepherd when I was a boy. Miss Shepherd as I knew her took me to Sunday School every Sunday and brought me home again. I would visit from time to time and was always made to feel welcome, but not in the front room, which was reserved for special guests, not urchins like me. I remember there was a grandfather clock near to the door and the old cells in the yard. Miss Shepherd let her upper rooms. They were usually occupied by a nurse from Bosworth Park Infirmary and I well remember wash day as there was always a prodigious amount of suds floating above the drain as uniforms were scrubbed clean.
If anyone has any photographs of the inside of the house or knows any of Miss Shepherds relatives who might please get in touch. I recall that Miss Sheperd was a cousin of Colin Cowdray the England batsman. Are there any living relatives of Annie Shepherd Call or phone please.

We do have this on the MBS Website: No. 11 Warwick House GD II Police station, now house. 1848, converted late C20. Red brick with painted ashlar dressings, slate roofs and brick gable stacks. EXTERIOR. 2 storey, 4 window front arranged 3:1. 3 window section to left has broad pilasters at either end and narrower pilasters between, plus ventilated brick first floor and eaves bands between pilasters. Central projecting single storey porch with stepped gable and chamfered ashlar coping, panelled door in double chamfered surround with above a chamfered panel inscribed WARWICK HOUSE. Either side single iron framed cross casements with interlocking diamond pattern glazing, and above three 2-light iron casements with similar glazing. Single window section to right slightly set back with a similar 2-light casement to each floor. Rear has paved yard and 2 original police cells with their original cell doors.

Leicestershire and Rutland Police Historical Society pointed me to the above entry and also shared this image:

Unfortunately the image is undated but does not look too old. Does anyone remember when the house was extended? I am still on the lookout for other images external and especially internal.

Can You Help Two?

I received a most interesting email from Michael Dix of Moxon Cottage, Station Road:

Hi Nigel

Further to my research into Moxon Cottage, I came across the 1592 map of Bosworth on the Society's website.

It says it was drawn up from the findings of a survey. Do you know when this was or what the survey was? Does the society have a copy of this survey?

The land where Moxon Cottage now is, is shown as belonging to John Morton, and the mapmaker has placed his house almost exactly where ours is today, but presumably that is a best guess rather than the exact location. Regardless, it would be interesting to discover who this John Morton was.

There is also The Cage shown at the road junction in the square. Would this have been some sort of lock-up?

Kind regards
Michael

I immediately turned to my Committee colleagues and the Bosworth Hall and Dixie Family Archivist Peter Loseby. Peter responded by saying:
"Hi Nigel
To the best of my knowledge we have no supporting evidence for the 1592 survey.
I do believe that there's records in the archive at Wigston though I have never requested them.
You could tell him about the book based on the diaries of John Moxon.
There are other snippets of information about a Moxon headmaster of the DGS, landlord of the Bull Inn later renamed the Dixie Arms.
John Moxon ran a book club that used to meet at the George Inn and the Bull.

There's various references to Moxon in the Dixie archive mainly to do with legal cases.
Regards Peter

I have contacted the Leicestershire Records Office and have asked if they have a copy of the survey of 1592. I am still waiting for a response to my enquiry about the MBRDC emblem so we may have to provide an update in January or February. Watch this space. Should there be a copy of the survey I shall do my best to obtain a copy for the Archive (the digital archive is beginning to fill nicely).

Robert Leake sent me this:
"Hi Nigel
I do not know about the map that Michael mentioned. The Cage though certainly was a lock- up and it was there that Thomas Kimberlin in 1838 died after being rather brutally thrown in.
The full story:
In the corner of the churchyard between the tower and the porch of the church is Grave A**107 Thomas Kimberlin**, who died aged 40 in August 1838. Thomas was part of a family that ran The Wheatsheaf for 118 years.
In 1838 he was arrested following the attempted murder of his wife Catherine. He was apparently arrested and thrown into the lock up, where the old bank building now stands. He died there and was found the next day, possibly having been thrown in with such force that he died from his injuries!
His epitaph gives us a hint of what happened to him:
"This world some faults in me may see
But is this world from imperfections free,
Cast not reflections then upon my dust
None has a right to cast them but the JUST"
His wife, Catherine, continued to run the Wheatsheaf until 1867 when her son took over until 1881. She died in 1866, age 70, and was buried well away from Thomas in the middle of the new churchyard section [Grave B85]"

Perhaps that may be of interest?
Best Wishes
Robert"

Very much of interest. I have read press cuttings about the incident and it appears that the two police officers were called to the Inquest to explain their parts in the untimely death. It appears that the officers were dealing with a large, powerful and allegedly drunk man who had carried out an assault on his wife and therefore considered violent. Taking no chances they hurled Thomas into the lockup whereupon he sustained injuries which caused his untimely death. A report in one newspaper suggested it was a fractured skull another a broken neck. Both officers were admonished and allowed to continue as policemen.

But what about 1592? Why was that year chosen for a survey, well I have the answer. I also know that the Dixie Grammar School was created in that same year. Walter Baynes may well have more information and if so you will be able to read it next month. There was already a school in Market Bosworth before 1592 and I think it likely that it was under the patronage of Henry Hastings the 3rd Earl of Huntingdon. I have found some information about him and the demise of both his power and his wealth. It is known that he raised a debenture against the Market Bosworth Manor and being unable to settle the amount when the time came the ownership by default passed to the Dixie family who held the debenture. I have been unable to confirm beyond doubt that they were the original bond holders but it is quite likely that was the case.
I have detailed below the research I have discovered about Henry Hastings, the transfer of the estate to the Dixie family and the founding of the Dixie Grammar School. My theory is that the school would have petitioned the new owner for funds and either offering to rename the school or being required to by the new benefactor. Before I share that information, who can tell me about Hastings High School in Burbage? Is there a connection to the Earls of Huntingdon? the school was originally built in 1901 as an infant's school on the Ridge, opposite the Borough Cemetery. It was then redeveloped as Hastings Secondary School for Girls in 1912. Why Hastings? Is there a connection or is that just a fluke of history. Please educate me dear reader. Now for that research I promised you.
In April 1602 George, fourth earl of Huntingdon wrote to his friend Sir Robert Cecil lamenting his fate at the hands of George Belgrave esq, a Leicestershire gentleman who had piled 'insolvencies' and 'dishonour' upon him through 'his false imputation of my misgovernment' and his 'scorn at Leicester'. This was a 'scandal … witnessed by the parliament, court and country to the shame of me and my poor ruinate house' There was a certain amount of hyperbole in this because Huntingdon was desperate to get the privy council

to arrest Belgrave before he could flee overseas. But he was also acutely conscious that Belgrave's challenges had revealed a collapse in the power of the Hastings that had simply not been evident a few years before and that left him, as head of the family, exposed to bitter humiliation.

We will return to the Belgrave case. This article is intended to be about more than this. It is based on the premise that the investigation of decline and failure is just as interesting and informative as success and achievement. It is a truism that dominant systems of political power are essentially impermanent. They are , generally, a matter of individuals or coalitions operating at specific moments in time pulling together and shaping particular sets of circumstances to their advantage. All too often the impression of dominance is illusory, based on a perception of the impregnability of the current regime and the lack of a feasible alternative. But leaders and commanding coalitions pass away, circumstances change and the illusion of invincibility can be shattered by events. What appeared permanent can, in retrospect, look all too vulnerable and transient, and it is in the moment of collapse that the features that made it effective and successful in the first place are often laid bare. This is the rationale for looking more closely at the processes by which a local aristocratic power structure in Elizabethan England was diminished and broken down. The Hastings hegemony in Leicestershire was summed up in what the History of Parliament has described as a control over county elections 'unparallelled' in any other shire. Yet, within little more than five years it had collapsed to the point at which the head of the family could be defied and humiliated in the manner described by Earl George. An analysis of how and why this happened can tell us a good deal about the nature of aristocratic power in Elizabethan England.

It should be emphasized at the outset that this is not, primarily, intended as a contribution to the broad debates that have taken place about aristocratic decline and crisis in early modern England. It may offer insights that can be applied to these debates, but it is about something more fleeting and impermanent: the short-term collapse of a family's local political power. There are a number of striking examples of this happening in Tudor England: the downfall of the duke of Buckingham in 1521, the collapse of the power of the Percies, earls of Northumberland, in 1537 or the destruction of the duke of Suffolk in Mary's reign. Most of these were the result of some catastrophic event, such as an act of treason and the consequent attainder of a family's estates. Hassell Smith brilliantly documented the impact of the removal of Thomas Howard, fourth duke of Norfolk, for the politics of Elizabethan Norfolk following his treason and execution in 1572. Overnight it created a power vacuum that different groupings amongst the gentry competed to fill, plunging the county into decades of political in-fighting. No such catastrophe happened to the earls of Huntingdon, unless the death of the third earl can be described as such. But within a few years of his demise the Hastings hegemony had crumbled and Leicestershire, like Norfolk, was rife with factional conflict.

The Third Earl of Huntingdon in Leicestershire

Claire Cross has provided a superb account of the third earl of Huntingdon at the height of his powers in Leicestershire. The foundation of this, as was invariably the case with aristocratic dynasties in Elizabethan England, was the family's territorial possessions. These were centred on two blocs of manors in Leicestershire that had been in the hands of the Hastings since at least the late fifteenth century. To the south and west of Leicester were their ancestral estates, around Kirby Muxloe and Wistow; then in the north-west of the county, the manors around Ashby-de-la-Zouch given to William Lord Hastings by Edward IV to support his title, and the location for the castle that he built in the 1470s and 1480s. When the third earl of Huntingdon acquired his title in 1560 he inherited these estates, together with extensive landholdings in the home counties and the southwest that had come into the family via his mother Catherine Pole and his great-grandmother Mary Baroness Hungerford. But at the same time, he also inherited considerable debts that he himself added to during his lifetime. This forced him into undertaking major land sales and mortgaging of estates which eventually led to the alienation of estimated 94 manors amounting to more than £100,000 worth of landed property. In pursuing this course, however, he followed a careful strategy designed to protect his position in Leicestershire. The first estates to go were those in the far-flung counties of Cornwall, Devon and Somerset, followed by others in Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. He held back as long as possible from alienating property in Leicestershire and when he did sell here it was as far as possible to his four brothers, George, Edward, Francis and Walter, each of whom had been left a generous endowment by their father, the second earl. Loughborough and Castle Donington went to George; Leicester Abbey to Edward; Market Bosworth, that he himself had been able to purchase from his uncle, Edward Lord Hastings of Loughborough, to Francis; and Braunstone and Kirby Muxloe to Walter. This ensured that across the western hundreds of Guthlaxton, Sparkenhoe and West Goscote there continued to be solid blocs of tenants, bailiffs, estate managers and retainers who were primarily dependants of the Hastings family.

In spite of his indebtedness, the third earl was also able to maintain an impressive household at Ashby Castle, which in 1564 numbered 77 servants, including 10 gentlemen and 26 yeomen. By the standards of the leading aristocratic households of the day this was not particularly large; but it was far bigger than any other household in west Leicestershire. The only family in the region that could rival the Hastings in terms of territorial power was the Manners, earls of Rutland, based at Belvoir Castle in the far north-east of the shire. The household establishment of the second and third earls in the mid-sixteenth century was around a hundred and they enjoyed a reputation for particularly lavish hospitality. But the estates that serviced the castle were scattered across Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and parts of Yorkshire rather than being concentrated in a single shire. Inevitably this gave them less territorial clout.

The political fortunes of leading aristocratic families, however, depended on much more than just landed possessions. They also rested to a very considerable extent on their ability to navigate the treacherous currents of mid-Tudor court politics. Hassell Smith's assessment of the fourth duke of Norfolk is that the chief cause of his downfall was 'his aloofness from the court' and his failure to engage in the 'constant application to intrigue, negotiation and courtly behaviour which made for success in sixteenth century politics'. This was not a charge that could be laid at the door of either Henry, the third earl of Huntingdon or his father, Francis, the second earl. Both were astute and, in their earlier years, assiduous courtiers. Henry was educated in the intellectually precocious and staunchly protestant household of the future Edward VI. Francis grew up at the court of Henry VIII and then under Edward proceeded to hitch his fortunes to those of John Dudley, duke of Northumberland. He became one of the duke's most trusted lieutenants in the early 1550s and, as part of the project to put Lady Jane Grey on the throne married his son to Northumberland's daughter, Catherine. Huntingdon and the young Lord Hastings were arrested and sent to the Tower at the same time as Northumberland; but they were quickly able to make their peace with Queen Mary through the good offices of the second earl's wife, Catherine Pole, grand-daughter of Mary's former governess, and his brother Sir Edward Hastings who was one of the first to declare his support for the queen. Huntingdon and his son then moved swiftly to accommodate themselves to the new regime in spite of their protestant sympathies. At the time of Wyatt's rebellion, the second earl quelled the threat of a rebellion in Leicestershire led by Jane Grey's father the duke of Suffolk. He then conducted the duke to the Tower and served as one of the commissioners at his trial.

The subsequent attainder and execution of the leaders of the Grey clan had the effect of removing the Hastings' main rivals from Leicestershire politics for several generations. Like the Hastings, the Greys had established themselves in the shire in the late-fifteenth and early-sixteenth century. The centre of their patrimony was the estates around their two major residences at Bradgate Park and Groby Castle in Charnwood Forest, between Leicester and Ashby. The two families had been on different sides in the Wars of the Roses and violent clashes between their supporters were still taking place in the 1520s. The Suffolk author of the Vita Mariae Reginae referred to the 'perpetual enmity' between the between them as a fact of political life at Mary's accession. The eclipse of the Greys was, perhaps, the most important factor in ensuring the Hastings' dominance of the shire under Elizabeth. But the advantage that this provided was cemented by the courtly skills of the third earl.

Under Queen Mary he built a considerable reputation for himself at court in spite of his avowedly protestant religious beliefs. His mother, his uncle, Sir Edward (later Baron Hastings of Loughborough) and his great uncle, Cardinal Reginald Pole, all stood high in the queen's favour and made every effort to co-opt him to the new regime. He responded with apparent enthusiasm, becoming a regular attender at court after his appointment as a gentleman of the chamber to King Philip in 1554. Great uncle Pole, one of the leading humanist intellectuals of his day, also took a fatherly interest in his welfare and education, on one occasion encouraging him to undertake an English translation of a humanist work that they had both read together, Osorius's De Nobilitate. The young Lord Hastings was coming to be recognized as a role model for the classically educated courtier-nobleman of the day. When Sir Thomas Hoby translated Castiglione's The Courtier into English in 1556, he dedicated it to him as an exemplar of 'the courtly fashions, comely exercises and noble virtues that unawares have from time to time crept into you and already with practice and learning taken custom in you'.

At Elizabeth's accession Hastings was in the ideal position to prosper at court. His Protestantism was underpinned by the mastery of classical scholarship and courtly manners that were now seen as essential prerequisites of the renaissance statesman. Even more significantly his brother-in-law, Robert Dudley (later earl of Leicester), was quickly established as the queen's favourite. Henry began trading on this connection almost immediately. His wife wrote to her brother in May 1559 asking for a payment of debts that would

enable Hastings to wait on the queen and £400 was immediately forthcoming. Other grants and favours followed and Dudley's constant support was to be a continuing source of political strength. Hastings, however, did not fully capitalize on his courtly assets and connections. After succeeding his father in June 1560 his attendance on the queen was less regular than might have been expected of a leading peer. He was present at ceremonial occasions, such as Leicester's creation as an earl in September 1564. He was also part of Elizabeth's entourage on her progresses to the midlands in 1566. But the offices he held did not require regular presence at court and he chose, instead, to focus on his responsibilities in Leicestershire, on one occasion confiding to his friend, the young earl of Rutland, that he was 'but a rare courtier'.

Partly, this had to do with the indebtedness that his wife claimed was preventing his attendance in 1560. But a more important reason was the distrustful attitude of Elizabeth as a consequence of his claim to the succession through his mother Catherine Pole, a direct descendant of Edward IV's father, Richard duke of York. Because of his religious credentials and his relationship with Dudley, he became the candidate for the succession favoured by the protestant power brokers at court at the start of the reign. When the queen's life was in serious danger from smallpox in October 1562, the Spanish ambassador reported that Cecil, Dudley, Bedford, Pembroke and Norfolk had all opted in favour of Huntingdon's claim at a debate in the privy council. This did not endear him to Elizabeth. During the parliament of the following year, when the succession was the main issue of debate, Huntingdon observed that she delivered 'a privy nip [to the Countess] especially concerning myself whereby I perceive she hath some jealous conceit of me'. The earl responded by addressing a letter to Dudley, clearly intended for public circulation, in which he effectively ruled himself out of any ambition to succeed. He vehemently denied 'conceiting any greatness of myself' and emphasized that his manner was 'always to shun applauses'. This was the last time he referred to the matter; and when the Commons raised the issue of the succession once again during the 1566 session there was a conspicuous silence about his claim.

Meanwhile, Huntingdon showed no such reticence when it came to attending parliament. In the parliamentary sessions of 1563 and 1566, and again in 1571, he showed himself to be an assiduous and thoroughly trustworthy supporter of the protestant leadership in the upper house. In consequence, in 1569, when the queen and the council were casting around for a reliable custodian for Mary Queen of Scots, they settled on Huntingdon. He did not disappoint them, taking the main responsibility for the queen for the duration of the emergency created by the Northern Rising. The whole episode demonstrated to Cecil, in particular, that he could be relied on in a crisis. So in the autumn of 1572, when the council was looking for a strong and committed protestant to take over the presidency of the Council in the North, he was the ideal candidate. From this point onwards until the end of his life he was largely removed from day-to-day involvement in politics either in Leicestershire or at court. But his early experience in the royal presence, together with the trust and gratitude of Burghley and Leicester, and eventually the queen herself, provided him with solid support at the centre which, as well as ensuring that the crown looked favourably on his efforts to service his considerable debts, immeasurably strengthened his family's position in his native shire.

The nature and extent of the third earl's power in Leicestershire has been thoroughly documented by Claire Cross. He was a JP in the county by 1562 and custos rotulorum (chairman of the county bench) by 1573. He held a string of offices in and around Leicester acting as steward and receiver for the Duchy of Lancaster honour of Leicester, and bailiff, high steward and town clerk for Leicester itself. He was also responsible for supervising the county's military affairs, first as a musters commissioner during the 1560s, then as lord lieutenant during the first round of appointments to lieutenancies in 1569, and finally as lord lieutenant again from 1587 when the post was made permanent. This monopoly of the principal local offices was reinforced by his hands-on approach to local government. He managed the fallout from the revaluation of the coinage in Leicestershire in 1560, sat as a subsidy commissioner at Leicester throughout the decade, arbitrated a dispute there in 1568 and acted as an intermediary with the council in passing on information about seditious words in 1571. Once he became President of the Council in the North, however, he governed the county largely by remote control, through the agency of his brothers. George, the eldest, who lived mainly at Loughborough, was active on the county bench and later as muster commissioner and deputy lieutenant. His second brother, Edward, after retiring from a military career in the early 1570s, settled at Leicester Abbey and became a significant force in the politics of the town, taking over the town clerkship from his elder brother in 1591. His third brother, Francis, was the most active of all until, in 1582, he moved to Somerset to oversee the family estates there. From his initial base at Market Bosworth, he served as a JP, county sheriff and knight of the shire, sat on subsidy commissions, took the lead in hunting down Catholics and acted as musters commissioner and deputy lieutenant. The fourth brother, Walter, was not involved in the

commission of the peace because he had a recusant wife. But he did protect the county's interests in Leicester forest where his estates were located. The council acknowledged the influence of the brothers by occasionally writing to them directly in matters relating to the lieutenancy. But for the most part the earl was kept in the loop even whilst he was at York; and he would liaise with his brothers over sensitive matters, such as the apportionment of privy seal loans in 1589. He also continued to attend county business in person whenever he was in the shire. His control was demonstrated most clearly in the shire's elections to parliament. Members of the family filled 8 of the 20 available county seats during Elizabeth's reign, serving in tandem in the parliaments of 1584, 1586 and 1597. Other knights of the shire, notably Nicholas Beaumont (1563 and 1572) and William Turpin (1589), may also have relied on their Hastings connections to secure election. This was a record of electoral dominance within a single shire unmatched in Elizabeth's reign. Only in 1601 is there evidence of any sort of challenge; and on that occasion Sir John Grey withdrew when 'the country all with one voice said no gent[leman] in England should carry it from a Hastings if any of them would have it'.

The earl had a particularly close association with the borough of Leicester. He purchased a house called 'the Lord's place' in the High Street in 1569 and was regularly resident there. Every year he and his brother's received gifts from the corporation in recognition of his influence and his various benefactions. These included his endowment of the Free Grammar School in 1574, a scheme to provide cheap coal for the townsmen and support for a local clothing venture to set the poor on work. Such was his reputation for generosity that over 20 years after his death the corporation commissioned a special portrait recording his charitable deeds that still hangs in the mayor's parlour. In his dealings with Leicester, his court connections were often of particular value. Between 1584 and 1589 he played a notable role in helping the town secure a charter of incorporation and a grant of fee farm property from the crown. The town's legal agent, Richard Archer, was in constant contact with the earl and reported that he found him 'their very good lord' throughout these negotiations. Huntingdon, in return, clearly expected to get his way when it came to making recommendation for posts such as the town recordership; but he was careful not to push this too far. The town was part of the Duchy of Lancaster and therefore generally beholden to the chancellor of the duchy when it came to parliamentary elections. The only election for which we have evidence of the earl intervening directly was for the parliament of 1586–1587 when he requested the return of an unnamed candidate who was 'well-affected' in religion. But he politely backed off when he was told that the borough was going to follow the privy council's recommendation and return both the MPs from 1584.

Huntingdon's relationship with both town and county was in many ways the model of 'good lordship' that Archer testified to. He afforded local interests his patronage and support at court and, in return, enjoyed all the respect that he could have hoped for. This was also evident in his support for evangelical Protestantism within the shire. This was a new component of aristocratic power that emerged during Elizabeth's reign. Prior to this noblemen had taken a prominent role in establishing a variety of ecclesiastical endowments that promoted their reputation for piety and augmented the prestige of their families. But, amidst the frenzied religious politics of Elizabeth's reign, such activities took on a new dimension. Godly magistrates, such as Huntingdon, were in the vanguard of an ideological struggle to suppress popery, promote the protestant religion and secure the survival of the English nation. Amidst this raising of the religious stakes, ecclesiastical patronage, and the ways in which it was deployed, took on a much harder and more urgent political edge. Being seen to be at the forefront of this struggle was an essential element in the Hastings' dominance of the shire.

The earl deployed his ecclesiastical patronage in a systematic campaign to promote the Calvinist evangelical message. He held the advowsons to eight livings within Leicestershire, including the wealthy benefices of Loughborough and Market Bosworth, and his strategy, wherever possible, was to use these to advance university-trained preaching ministers. These included the likes of Thomas Wyndowes, who became minister at Ashby-de-la-Zouch in 1569, and Arthur Hildersham, who succeeded him in 1593. As with several other promising young students with local connections, the earl sponsored Hildersham's studies whilst at Cambridge; and his protégé went on to become a leader amongst midlands puritans and one of the organizers of the Millenary petition of 1603. However, perhaps his most influential appointee was Anthony Gilby, a former leader of the exiled English congregation in Geneva whom Huntingdon made his chaplain at Ashby within a few months of his father's death. He became a leading light of the Elizabethan puritan movement, described by one cleric resentful of his influence as 'Bishop' Gilby. Amongst his most enduring achievements was the inauguration, under Huntingdon's auspices, of a preaching lecture at Ashby. The earl was also the moving force behind a similar lectureship at St Martin's church in Leicester in 1562. The terms

of the endowment stipulated that one member of every household was required to attend sermons on Wednesdays and Fridays, on pain of a 12d fine; and the corporation paid for the building of a special pew in 'my lord's chapel' at the east end of the church so that the earl himself could attend, and be seen to attend. Huntingdon and the more religiously zealous of his brothers, Sir Edward and Francis, can be described as 'puritans'; but, like Gilby and Hildersham, they were part of the moderate wing of the movement. They were willing to extend their patronage and protection to nonconformists who had misgivings about some of the requirements imposed by the Book of Common prayer, such as John Willock, the minister at Loughborough, and Thomas Sampson, former dean of Christchurch Oxford, whom Huntingdon installed as the Master of Wyggeston Hospital in Leicester. But they believed in working through the existing church structure for further protestant reform and rejected the extremes of the presbyterian programme being advocated by radicals such as Cartwright and Field. The earl's version of puritanism – with its emphasis on evangelical preaching and the eradication of popery – fitted comfortably alongside that of councillors like Burghley and Leicester, or ecclesiastics, such as Edmund Grindal with whom he worked closely between 1572 and 1575, when the latter was archbishop of York. In the face of the popish enemy, they believed that it was essential for all good protestants to unite and work together. This helped set the tone for the Calvinist ministry in Leicestershire which quickly established a reputation as a model protestant shire. Their united front was evident in 1584 when virtually the whole of the local ministry signed up to a conditional subscription to Archbishop Whitgift's Three Articles, undertaking to use the prayerbook, but only insofar as it was found to contain nothing 'contrary to God's word'.

Patrick Collinson described influential town lecturers, like Gilby, Johnson and Sampson, as the 'conscience' of their communities, 'looked to for a lead in all religious and moral aspects of their affairs'. The lead that such ministers provided from their pulpits – emphasizing the need for godly repentance and the hazards of popery – had a profound, and well-documented, impact on the religious and political opinions of their congregations. In this context, the earl and his brothers were, no doubt, regularly held up as exemplars of the godly magistracy that was providing leadership to the nation in perilous times and this can only have enhanced their claims to authority and leadership amongst the politically engaged constituencies of the godly. The effects of this can, perhaps, be discerned in the 'voice' of the 'country' in the 1601 election, 'that no gent[leman] in England should carry it from a Hastings'.

There is one further dimension of the Hastings hegemony in Leicestershire that is worth analysing at this point: that is the notable clannishness of the family, the sense that they were part of a collective enterprise whose fortunes would rise and fall together. We have already seen the ways in which the third earl's brothers filled in for him in running Leicestershire whilst he was in the north and collaborated under his direction. Francis articulated this sense of common purpose in a lengthy letter of advice to his elder brother in 1592, the main thrust of which was to ensure that he preserved the patrimony of family lands in Leicestershire. Francis lamented that 'poor I shall live with little credit anywhere and with less comfort if the pillar of our house stand not upright in his full strength' and the whole letter was a classic statement of the importance of dynastic solidarity. The earl was reminded of his responsibilities to a line which stretched before and after him. Whilst 'the staff of Ashby' was entrusted to him, he was expected not only to secure a solid inheritance for his heir, but also to provide for the various 'branches' of his family. Failure would be disastrous for all of them because:

the honour and credit of the whole house dependeth upon your leaving the heir of the house in strength and ability to live in his place and calling as an earl … If you fail of this in Leicestershire I see not how it will be avoided but that the honour of the house must fall and the credit thereof in that shire [be] quite overthrown.

In these circumstances the earl could expect unstinting loyalty and service from his siblings and kin. In a subsequent letter to his brother George, when he became fourth earl, Francis explained that 'if every good member of the house will not add his best strength therein he is much to be blamed'.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Earl Henry took umbrage at the imputation that he was neglectful of the dynastic interests of the Hastings. In a subsequent letter, Francis was quick to back track and assure him that 'I never doubted of your honourable mind to the whole house … and sure I am that all the branches together can yield no such regard as you have showed at all times for the good of the whole house.' The earl had a point. He had been remarkably generous and conscientious when it came to fulfilling the term's his father's will and providing endowments for his siblings. He also took responsibility for the upbringing of his heirs presumptive, George's son, Francis, and his grandson, Henry. Yet there was some justice in Francis's original charge. Huntingdon had not applied himself as diligently as he should have done to managing his territorial legacy.

One of the keys to understanding the third earls' career is the fact that he did not have any children of his own. Nobles and gentry in this situation were sometimes less focussed than they might have been on building up a dynastic inheritance. They often paid more attention to providing the charitable benefactions and public service that would enhance their personal reputation and ensure that this lived on after their death. The two sets of priorities were, of course, by no means incompatible. Huntingdon himself saw his acts of charity and dedication to his offices as augmenting the strength of the dynasty. But such activities came at a cost and there was a balance to be struck. In Earl Henry's case his instincts and preferences inclined him more towards charitable acts, demonstrations of 'good lordship' and the service of God, queen and country that was so evident during his presidency of the Council in the North. In all this there was a certain distaste for the bargaining and calculation that was required to get the most out of his landed inheritance. Francis had first-hand experience of this in 1580 when it was he who was forced to go cap-in-hand at court around the earl's contacts at court to persuade the queen to accept a new mortgage on the earls' estates. Huntingdon also lacked the pushiness and sharp elbows that enabled his friends like Burghley, Leicester and Walsingham to make significant fortunes out of the royal service under Elizabeth. Occasionally he received a lucrative grant, like the licence to export 8,000 broadcloths in 1576, but this was small beer by the standards of many Elizabethan courtiers.

Francis' advice to his brother was remarkably prescient. With hindsight, it is evident that the family's grip on power depended to a considerable extent on the survival and continuing participation of the third earl. Whist he was alive his massive prestige and reputation, the credit at court that enabled him to stave off his creditors and his understanding of the processes of political management and negotiation were sufficient to sustain the vulnerable edifice on which their power rested. Once he was out of the way, unless his successor could pick up the threads with the same skill and effectiveness, its fragility was liable to be exposed.

The Fourth Earl and the Decline of the Hastings' Power

The first and most pressing problem that the fourth earl faced on succeeding to his title was the scale of his brother's debts. The third earl had intended to make a journey to London to secure a final settlement when he died at York on 14 December 1595. His arrears amounted to over £35,000, of which £18,000 was owing to the crown and a further £17,000 to private creditors. In spite of his widely recognized qualities, 'all the speech now amongst some', according to Francis, 'is to lay blame upon him for wasting his patrimony and leaving his heir in so weak terms of ability to maintain himself according to the dignity of his place'. To compound the family's misfortunes, the 25-year-old Francis died 3 days later. His shattered father was left to pick up the pieces.

As a country gentleman, Earl George had been a shrewd and effective manager of his estates. His marriage to Dorothy, daughter of Sir John Porte in the 1550s, had brought him a substantial landed inheritance in Derbyshire. He added to this with steady and well-judged acquisitions in Leicestershire. Following a series of small purchases from his brother, he secured the valuable lease of the manor of Loughborough which became his main residence by the 1580s. Then in the 1590s he moved to Donington Park which he purchased just before Earl Henry's death. But none of this prepared him for the magnitude of the task he faced in trying to service his brother's debts. He was under pressure from Lord Treasurer Burghley to redeem what he owed to the crown almost immediately. This led to lengthy negotiations and, eventually, a complicated arrangement whereby the crown seized all his unpledged properties then leased them back to him on relatively generous terms. But there were also the private creditors to contend with and this forced him into land sales and further mortgages which alienated estates worth over £2500 a year. He fought tooth and nail, but ultimately unsuccessfully to recover the valuable Buckinghamshire manor of Stoke Poges which had long been a family base in the home counties; and he engaged in a series of ultimately fruitless lawsuits to recover debts owing to his brother. Restoring the family finances was a task that consumed much of his energy for the remainder of his life. But he did achieve some success. After years of lobbying the crown, he was allowed to buy back the cherished manor of Lubbesthorpe in July 1604, with the help of his brother-in-law, the earl of Worcester. And his most successful transaction was arranging the marriage of his grandson and heir, Henry, to Elizabeth Stanley, daughter of the countess of Derby, in January 1601. This was not only a massively prestigious match, but it also brought the family a dowry of £4000.

William Dugdale, the historian of the family, later claimed that Earl George 'entered upon the estate almost quite torn in pieces and ruined, but by his prudence and discreet managery thereof … did exceedingly repair it and at last left it such, though not comparable to what it had been formerly, yet not unsuitable to his dignity and degree.' This was something of an exaggeration. The earl may have succeeded in steadying the ship, but he still left debts of more than £13,000 to the crown and his heir faced years of continuing struggle

to make ends meet. Just as important he had to accept that the family now faced an era of retrenchment. This induced a sense of lowered expectations and ambition that was evident in his correspondence with Burghley and the latter's son, Sir Robert Cecil. He repeatedly alluded to the 'ruinate' or 'impoverished' state of 'my poor decayed house'. There was in all this a certain amount deal of calculation and special pleading but it also reflected a lack of self-confidence and induced an unwillingness to invest in the levels of display and hospitality that, as his elder brother had recognized, were so important to maintaining the grandeur and status of the aristocracy. This belt tightening was most evident in his decision to live mainly at Donington Park – what he described as his 'little lodge' – rather than at Ashby Castle. Donington required a much smaller household establishment. But in choosing to live there he forfeited much of the prestige and reputation that accompanied the lavish hospitality at Ashby. This was to be on display again, briefly, when the fifth earl received his bride and mother-in-law at Ashby in 1607 and drew up his household ordinances in 1609.

The constant need for economy was also evident in Earl George's reticence about travelling to London and attending the court. In his formative years he had lived as a country gentleman and the habit stayed with him. He would occasionally go up to London to deal with his financial affairs; and as a reliable ally of the Cecil's he was one of the senior peers appointed to sit on the commission to try the earl of Essex in 1600. But he was much less in evidence at the centre of affairs than might have been expected of a premier peer and largely absented himself from proceedings in the House of Lords. During the early stages of the 1597 session, he was excused by Burghley from attending due to sickness. It was not until 21 November that he took his seat for the first time and in all he was recorded as attending only seven of the 41 sittings of the parliament and receiving only one minor committee nomination. During the 1601 and 1604 Parliaments he was not present at all and delivered his proxy to Worcester. At James I's accession, he did his best to ingratiate himself with the new regime by arranging for the queen and Prince Henry to stay at Ashby Castle on their journey south. But he had neither the stamina nor the inclination to follow up on this.

The fourth earl did not lack for contacts at court. Lord Burghley took a keen interest in his family and financial affairs; and following his death in 1598 he transferred his loyalty to Sir Robert Cecil. It was to Sir Robert that he wrote in September 1600 when he feared his own imminent demise, asking him to give his blessing to his marriage negotiations with the Countess of Derby and take care of his grandson during his minority. He could also rely on the support of his privy councillor brother-in-law, Edward, earl of Worcester. But having powerful supporters at the centre was not the same thing as knowing one's way around at court; and his lack of understanding in such matters was exposed early in 1604 when he sent his grandson to London with a request to his friends that they find him a place in the household of either the king or Prince Henry. In a polite and lengthy letter, his wife's nephew, Sir John Holles, pointed out the inappropriateness of such a course of action. Henry was too young to join the king's household and too old to join that of the prince. Besides he lacked the experience and artfulness in the ways of the court that was needed to show himself to best advantage and risked being 'mocked' or 'scorned', or making a poor impression on his first entry. The subtext throughout the letter was that it was the earl himself who lacked the requisite guile and know how. This was to compound his political problems in Leicestershire.

During the early 1600s Huntingdon relied a good deal on Holles to act as his agent in financial dealings in London. This was a consequence of another disadvantage that he faced in comparison with his predecessor. He no longer enjoyed the united support of his brothers. Since 1580 it was Francis who had acted as the family's go-between in dealing with London and court business and he indicated that he was happy to go on doing this following the third earl's death. But during 1598 he and Earl George had a falling out. Francis had hoped to relocate from Somerset to Leicestershire following the death of his wife in 1596 and to this end was negotiating to take a lease on the family manor of Lubbesthorpe. He also showed his intention to pick up the threads of county politics by serving as knight of the shire in 1597. However, it appears that Earl George got the impression that his younger brother was trying to upstage him; and late in 1598 Francis was writing to the earl's wife to defend himself against such a charge. He eventually resettled in Dorset, after marrying a local heiress; and, to judge by their lack of further correspondence, had little more to do with the fourth earl.

Earl George appears to have enjoyed a relatively respectful relationship with the eldest of his brothers, Edward. But there is no evidence of the warmth or personal closeness that characterized Edward's relationship with Earl Henry, or indeed Francis. The brother with whom George felt most comfortable was the youngest, Walter who, because of his Catholic sympathies, had always been a somewhat marginal figure in county politics. He now emerged as the member of the immediate family who was most trusted to handle

the fourth earl's affairs in London, often in tandem with the earl of Worcester; and it was Walter who took the fifth earl under his wing following Earl George's death in December 1604.

At the heart of the rift between the brothers was religion. William Camden once observed of the Hastings siblings, that 'whilst agreeing in brotherly love yet [they] were not of one mind in religion'. Earl Henry, Sir Edward and Sir Francis were all zealous puritans, whilst Walter, whose early education had been entrusted to his godfather, Cardinal Pole, was married to a Catholic. Sir George can probably best he described as a Calvinist conformist. His wife Dorothy was the aunt of the Catholic priest, Father John Gerard; and in 1586 a notorious local Catholic gentleman, John Palmer, was detained at the family house at Loughborough. But there is no evidence that George himself was a Catholic. When Sir Edward sought to ascertain his religious views at his accession to the earldom he was assured that Earl George would continue to support the puritan ministers in Leicestershire whom their elder brother had patronized. Edward told Francis, that 'not only myself but all the godly preachers and others are of my mind, that he is very desirous to hear the word preached. In some respects, the earl delivered on his assurances. Over 30 years later Arthur Hildersham would acknowledge his 'favour and bounty' in continuing to sustain his ministry at Ashby. But he was only prepared to go so far. He was conspicuous by his absence from the list of the Leicestershire gentry supporters of the Millenary petition of 1603 which was headed by Sir Edward. The united leadership that the three brothers had provided for evangelical Protestantism within Leicestershire had conferred immense prestige and drawn widespread support to the family in the time of the third earl. Once this was lost it left the fourth earl in a far weaker position.

Cracks began to appear in the edifice of Huntingdon's authority almost as soon as he succeeded to his earldom. On the face of it, he was in a powerful position. He had acquired his elder brother's various local offices, including the lieutenancy, the chairmanship of the county bench and the important Duchy of Lancaster appointments of steward, receiver and master forester of the Honour of Leicester. He also had the advantage of long experience in county government and more-or-less continual residence within the shire. But there were already mutterings about the appointment of Thomas Warde, a Hastings client, as county coroner, following some rather heavy-handed interference by Sir George and Sir Edward in what was supposed to be a 'free election'. This was later said to have been 'contrary to the liking of most of the gentlemen' and led to a quarrel at the county assizes in 1595 in which Sir Edward Hastings and William Skipwith came close to drawing their swords on each other. Then during 1596 Warde traded insults with George Belgrave in Leicester which led to both men being bound over to keep the peace. Belgrave also complained to the privy council about Sir Edward's son, Henry Hastings, interfering in his collection of the subsidy. These quarrels provided the background for the fractious county election of September 1597 in which the ambitious Skipwith stood for the place of second knight of the shire, behind his antagonist Sir Edward Hastings. According to his ally Belgrave, Skipwith 'secured a public and general assent, first had after the convention of the whole country'. This would appear to refer to some sort of informal pre-election meeting at which the gentry and freeholders had agreed on their candidates to avoid the acrimony of a contested election. Late in the day, however, Sir Francis Hastings entered the fray and after some ruthless lobbying by two Hastings retainers, John Bale and Edward Needham – described by Belgrave as 'indirect, indecent practices' – it was he who was elected.

This sort of bickering and antagonism between leading local gentry was a familiar enough event in other shires in the Elizabethan period; but there is a striking lack of evidence of such animosity in Leicestershire. However, this situation changed rapidly during the 1590s. Partly this was due to the reduced participation in local government of the third earl and Sir Francis during the early part of the decade. This had allowed Sir George and Sir Edward to come to the fore, neither of whom appears to have possessed the political tact that had enabled their two brothers to run the shire so effectively. Moreover, their principal enemies, Belgrave and Skipwith, both carried considerable clout within the ranks of the local gentry and Leicester corporation. The two men had been JPs since the early 1590s and both were active in the affairs of the town. Belgrave served as one of its subsidy commissioners, was called on to arbitrate local disputes and acted as an intermediary on the corporation's behalf in their dealings with the county gentry. Skipwith's father had served as one of the town's members of parliament during the 1580s and he would follow suit in the parliament of 1604–10. Significantly both men also had influential contacts at court. Belgrave was a friend of Michael Hickes, Burghley's powerful secretary; and it was to Hickes that he turned for assistance in the mid-1590s when involved in legal battles with Sir George over the valuable inheritance of William Stokes for whom he was acting as executor. Skipwith's father had been an equerry to the queen and a trusted ally of Burghley; and his court connections enabled him to entertain Queen Anne and Prince Henry at his house in

Leicester on their journey south in June 1603. Both men, then, had the backing, and self-confidence, to take on Sir George and Sir Edward and provide leadership for others who chafed at the Hastings ascendancy. However, the most formidable opposition to the family was provided by the Greys who suddenly re-emerged as a force in county politics in the late 1590s. Sir Henry Grey, heir to the original Grey inheritance in Leicestershire, served at court under Elizabeth and eventually became lieutenant of her band of gentleman pensioners. In 1575, he secured a grant of much of the former Grey property around Bradgate and Groby; but, by that stage he was already well-established as a gentleman in Essex and he left it to his son, Sir John, to set himself up in the family residence at Bradgate Park after a military career in which he was knighted by Essex at Cadiz. Grey was appointed to the Leicestershire commission of the peace in 1598 and, around the same time, was himself made one of the queen's gentleman pensioners. By the time he re-engaged with county politics he was already a confident and forceful political operator, as was demonstrated in a remarkable letter to the mayor of Leicester in December 1599. He warned that unless the town handed over a prisoner who had trespassed at Bradgate 'I will be righted of this your fond and unjust dealing with me … if you be able to cross me in one thing, I can requite your town with twenty … for as I am a gentleman I will be revenged one way or another to my contentment and to your dislikes.' Even allowing for the gentry's traditional contempt for townsmen, this was an extraordinarily aggressive way of dealing with a powerful corporation. But it was a measure of Grey's political temperament. True to his word, within a few weeks he was convening a meeting of local gentlemen and justices at Bradgate, including Belgrave, which raised the thorny issue of the market tolls being charged on market traders in Leicestershire. Sir John was beginning to offer the sort of sympathetic political leadership to the JPs that was no longer being provided by the Hastings.

It was, perhaps, with all this in mind that Earl George trod extremely warily in his dealings with Grey. In September 1601 Sir John put himself forward be knight of the shire, alongside William Skipwith. He approached the earl of Rutland, who was considerably indebted to him for help at court following the earl's implication in the Essex rebellion; and Rutland's agent was preparing to organize his tenants on Sir John's behalf by the end of the month. Grey also approached Huntingdon who, according to later report, consented to him becoming first knight and 'wrote effectually' on his behalf. However, late in the day, Henry Hastings of the Abbey, Sir Edward's son, decided to stand for the first seat himself; and such was the continuing prestige of the family name and the support he enjoyed from freeholders in and around Leicester that he carried the day. Grey appears to have withdrawn before there was an actual contest. But the damage had been done. It was common knowledge in the shire that he was intending to stand and his credit and reputation had been fully committed which made this a particularly bitter humiliation to have to face in his adopted shire. The fifth earl would later remark that this was the trigger that re-ignited the traditional feud between the Greys and the Hastings.

Sir John himself was predictably unforgiving and from then onwards did his best to make life difficult for the Hastings. Early in 1602 he and Belgrave, together with a senior justice, Sir Henry Beaumont of Coleorton, had a head constable called Gossen indicted as a 'common barretor' after his appointment had been pushed through at the behest of the earl and Walter Hastings. Grey and Belgrave also secured commissions to deal with the delicate matter of arrears on the county's purveyance payments which gave them an opportunity to interfere with Earl George's management of the service. However, in the summer of 1602 Sir John left the shire to take up campaigning in the Low Countries and returned only intermittently, leaving his father to pick up the baton. Sir Henry was ennobled at James's accession as Lord Grey of Groby and took up residence at Bradgate. He was soon in evidence providing leadership for the county bench in an initiative to set up a house of correction in September 1604. Then in December, at the death of the fourth earl, he mounted an attempted coup. Earl George was succeeded by his grandson, Henry, who was still a minor and therefore not considered capable of filling the traditional family offices of lord lieutenant, chairman of the bench, steward and receiver of the honour of the Duchy of Lancaster and master of the game in Leicester Forest. Grey immediately applied to have the offices transferred to him. He was in a strong position as a former ward and protégé of the Cecil's with a long record of loyal service to the regime. Moreover, he had recently been removed from his office of lieutenant of the gentleman pensioners, for which he had received no compensation. Cecil, however, sided with the young fifth earl. He was awarded the Duchy of Lancaster and forest offices and the lieutenancy was held in abeyance until he came of age in April 1607. In the meantime, there was effectively a Hastings interregnum. Grey and his allies – notably Sir Henry Beaumont of Coleorton who took over the chairmanship of the bench and his brother, Sir Thomas of Stoughton, knight of the shire in the 1604–1610 Parliament – ran the county's affairs. Even after the fifth

earl had resumed all the family's offices, Grey continued to act as party leader for all those who were disgruntled with the power of the Hastings and there ensued a series of battles over the management of the lieutenancy, the administration of purveyance and appointments to the commission of the peace.

The Belgrave Case and Leicester Politics

These battles were in the future, however. As far as Earl George was concerned, the most important struggle was with George Belgrave. This came about largely because of the slippage of his influence within Leicester. Over his years as a country gentleman, he had built up a respectful relationship with the townsmen. He could not compete with his elder brother's spectacular acts of generosity; but he had been involved in the town's affairs as a local governor and received his due share of gifts and gratuities. He had also lobbied successfully in 1584 for the election of Thomas Johnson, one of the queen's sergeants-at-arms, as one of the MPs for Leicester. The offices that he inherited when he succeeded to the earldom gave him an opportunity to exercise more extensive powers. However, since the corporation had received its charter in 1589 it had become more assertive in claiming its rights and his own family's influence had been reduced by their surrender of the town clerkship to the corporation in 1597. Earl George lobbied Sir Robert Cecil to regain this, but without success. In these circumstances, the town's relationship with the earl became tenser and more fraught than under his predecessor. He continued to work closely with the corporation over matters relating to the lieutenancy and subsidy, and used his influence as steward for the Duchy of Lancaster to prevent a patentee levying tolls on the town markets. He also got his way with some of the senior appointments, notably over sparing Hugh Hunter from being appointed as mayor in 1602 and securing the office of recorder for his client, John Stanford in 1603. But on other occasions the corporation resisted him. They fought a long, and ultimately, successful legal battle to oust the earl and the duchy's nominee for the town clerkship, Christopher Tamworth; and, when Stanford died, they rejected his candidate Christopher Cheyney and appointed Augustine Nicholls as recorder.

Perhaps the most embarrassing demonstration of the limits of Huntingdon's influence was the 1597 parliamentary election. He wrote to the town in support of the candidature of Thomas Beaumont of Stoughton, a gentleman whom he would later denounce as a 'Machiavellian knave' after he sided with Belgrave and Grey. But, when his letter was read out by the recorder to the town assembly of aldermen and common councilmen, Beaumont's candidature was rejected on the grounds that he was 'an encloser' and would be unlikely to rectify that particular grievance in the coming parliament. Huntingdon was incensed by this very public rejection. He wrote to the mayor, declaring (somewhat disingenuously) that whilst he had no wish to 'a placer of burgesses', he regarded himself as having been 'very hardly dealt with … wherein you played an unseemly [part]'. He concluded with an ominous warning that they and their recorder would feel the force of his displeasure.

With the experience of 1597 as a precedent, both sides proceeded extremely warily at the next parliamentary election in October 1601. The mayor wrote to Huntingdon on 22 September, as soon as he received news that the writs were being issued, expressing the corporation's willingness 'to please you therein', but also warning that 'the contrariety of factious heads and minds and voices [hinder] our good will's therein'. The earl replied a few days later approving the town's choice of William Herrick, a wealthy London goldsmith who had assisted both the third and fourth earls in their business dealings, and also recommending Roger Bromley of Bagworth, long time land agent to the Hastings family. However, he had also got wind of the fact that his avowed enemy Belgrave 'still continues his great practising in labouring to be chosen' and that there were some amongst the electors 'who do yield to his proud and saucy enterprise'. He warned the mayor that on no account must this be allowed to happen, following up with the menacing remark that if the townsmen 'think him a person better able to protect them and their causes when occasion falls out they may work their wills and free me from showing those kindnesses'. By the normal standards of his correspondence, this was an unusually aggressive tone to adopt, but it was a measure of the extent to which the earl felt that his credit and reputation were on the line. With less than a week to go before the election, the mayor rode over to Donington to confer with Huntingdon. The choice of Herrick was confirmed, but he made it clear that Bromley was encountering opposition from 'many wilful unruly people' amongst the 48 common councilmen who had a voice in the election. The earl recognized the danger and did not press the case for Bromley, but, in a follow-up letter, he warned again that 'if ever you account of my love a friendship towards you and all your brethren let Belgrave have no place'.

Meanwhile, Belgrave himself was under considerable pressure and was busy drawing on every ounce of political credit that he had accrued with the townsmen of Leicester. It was alleged in the eventual star chamber suit against him that he was seeking election in order that 'he might in the parliament time freely

walk up and down without fear to be arrested by his creditors (being indeed greatly indebted to many … .' This was entirely plausible. For years Belgrave had been struggling financially, to the point at which in 1597 he was considering giving up Belgrave Hall and retiring to more modest accommodation. He also blamed Huntingdon and his family for his predicament. Such was his desperation, however, that he was willing to seek a reconciliation with the earl, reportedly offering 'to follow his honour in that sort as is fitting for a gentleman of his worth. But Earl George was having none of it. So, at this point, Belgrave determined on a desperate ploy. He knew that he had considerable support amongst the electors, because, according to William Skipwith – who, with his Leicester contacts, was well informed about the whole affair – some had already 'given their voices and desired Mr Belgrave to take it'. The sticking point was the mayor and senior aldermen who were all too aware that electing him would bring down the wrath of the earl. So on the day of the election, Tuesday 16 October, Belgrave presented himself before the burgesses wearing the Hastings livery of a blue coat with a boar's head on the sleeve and announced that he had made his peace with the earl and was now his servant. He claimed to have reached an accommodation the previous evening through the good offices of Sir Henry Harrington. When asked whether he had a letter to support this, he answered 'that this (pointing at the cognisance on his coat) was a sufficient testimony of his lordship's favour towards him and of his submission', offering to testify to this effect on oath. The mayor and senior aldermen evidently saw Belgrave's assurances as a way of avoiding the acrimony of a divided election and with suspicious promptness – which Skipwith later observed was because they were 'willing … to be deceived' – took him at his word and voted him into first place. According to later testimony, as soon as the election was over Belgrave went 'openly into the street and in great contempt pulled it [the Hastings livery] off and cast it into the channel, saying now thou hast served me this turn thou shall never serve me more'. To compound Huntingdon's humiliation all this took place on the same day as the shire election when the town was full of gentlemen and freeholders, there to approve the choice of Henry Hastings and William Skipwith.

Back at Donington, Earl George received news of the election surprisingly calmly and exonerated the corporation from any blame in the matter. He had probably already calculated that Belgrave had overreached himself and given him a unique opportunity to strike back. He assured the mayor that he was ready to 'take such order as in honour and lawfully I may' and promptly launched a star chamber suit for a 'misdemeanour' committed 'to the dishonour of her Majesty and the house of parliament', persuading the attorney-general, Sir Edward Coke, to file the bill. Huntingdon must have hoped that this would result in very public retribution for Belgrave at the hands of both Lords and Commons. The problem was that the case was being brought against a sitting member of the Commons which raised the issue of privilege.

From the start the lower house was divided. Sir Edward Hoby reported from the privileges committee on 7 December 1601 that some 'censured it to be an enormous fault [for Belgrave] to invest himself … in a blue coat', whilst others were 'of contrary opinion because they were satisfied that it was done ad redimendam vexationem which had been offered to him'. The following day when the case was debated on the floor of the house, it was the same story. Hoby and Sir George More were in favour of a conference with the Lords because Belgrave's actions challenged the interests of both houses. This was supported by Sir Francis Hastings. But, whilst he acknowledged that his brother's honour was at stake, he spoke up for Belgrave as 'a man of very good carriage' and urged that some sort of settlement be reached 'that the honour of the person [Huntingdon] may be saved, the gentleman freed from further offence, and this cause ended with good conclusion'. This was not what Earl George would have wanted to hear. Given Sir Francis's previous protestations of his willingness to defend whoever held 'the staff of Ashby' to the hilt, he might have anticipated that his brother would deliver an unequivocal condemnation of Belgrave. Instead, what he got was an even-handed encouragement to arbitrate. The intervention of William Skipwith, the county's MP, was even more damaging. He pointed out that, far from wronging the earl, Belgrave had done his best to be reconciled to him and that the electors of Leicester had willingly colluded in his actions. He too hoped that the whole matter could be settled, but without resort to star chamber. The Commons decided to refer the matter to the Lords; but, after a conference between the two houses, the latter decided to take the matter no further until a properly certified copy of the star chamber bill had been presented to them. With the ball back in the Commons' court the privileges committee decided that Belgrave, as 'an honest gentleman and a good servant to his prince and country', should be absolved from 'any abuse offered to this house' and remain as a sitting MP.

This was very obviously not the outcome that Huntingdon was looking for. Belgrave had been exonerated by the Commons and the Lords had shied away from action to defend the honour of one of their number. The earl had only himself to blame. His lack of regular contact with the court, his failure to attend the Lords and

the rift with Skipwith and his own brother left him without allies to plead his case when he needed them most. The star chamber case dragged on until the summer of 1602 when Belgrave was finally sentenced and required to make a public submission to the earl at the Leicester assizes. However, he was able to evade even this punishment for several months. It was not until March 1603 that the earl could feel that his honour had, in some sense, been vindicated when the privy council imprisoned Belgrave for casting aspersions on his appointment of local officers. Significantly it appears to have been the earl's brother-in-law, Worcester, one of his few active allies at court, who applied the pressure during Belgrave's interrogation. But the damage had been done. Huntingdon's reputation and powers of command had taken a very considerable battering, prompting the anguished letter to Cecil cited at the start of this article. For the remainder of his life his authority and, just as significantly, his self-confidence in asserting it, were much diminished. Chastened by the whole experience he did not even attempt to intervene in the county election in March 1604; and at Leicester he simply requested that the town endorse the Duchy of Lancaster candidates.

Conclusion

What lessons can be drawn from this analysis of Leicestershire politics at the close of Elizabeth's reign? Why did the fourth earl of Huntingdon so rapidly forfeit the dominant position that his family had enjoyed for generations? What does the rapid collapse of the Hastings hegemony reveal, more generally, about the nature of aristocratic power?

It is important to recognize that Earl George was to some extent the victim of ill fortune. The full extent of the earldom's financial problems was largely concealed until the death of the third earl and came as a shock to his executors. The absence of the Greys had given the Hastings a clear run at governing the shire and their re-emergence at this juncture was sheer bad luck. And the circumstances that led to gentry like Belgrave and Skipwith turning against the Hastings, after earlier generations of their families had been loyal, were largely unpredictable. But circumstances could be managed; and how successful he was in doing this was the measure of a 'good lord'. In financial terms, Huntingdon achieved a good deal. Through a policy of retrenchment, attention to detail, assiduous lobbying and the coup of the Stanley marriage, he set the family finances on an even keel and was able to pass on a still-impressive patrimony to his grandson.

It was in the realm of politics that his limitations were exposed. He appears to have recognized the threat to his position posed by the combative Sir John Grey and did his best to accommodate him by giving his support in the county election of 1601. But this approach was derailed by the sudden decision of Henry Hastings of the Abbey to stand against him. Whether this was due to a lack of communication or a rift between the earl and Sir Edward Hastings is unclear. But the resultant re-igniting of the traditional feud between the families was a disaster for the earl for which he had only himself to blame. Had the Hastings brotherhood been as united as it had been for much of Elizabeth's reign it is likely that this and other setbacks could have been avoided. An individual with a grievance against the family, such as Belgrave, would probably have been denied a platform in county politics or in parliament. Similarly, an ambitious politician like Thomas Beaumont would have had nowhere else to go after his failure to get elected at Leicester in 1597.

The fourth earl's political shortcomings can largely be traced back to his upbringing and personality. He had been raised and lived most of his adult years as a country gentleman, with none of the advantages of the early entrée into court circles enjoyed by his elder brother and his grandson. This deprived him of the range of contacts and knowledge of the workings of the court that might have encouraged him to come to London more often and take up his place in the Lords. In spite of the support of the Cecil's, he lacked the familiarity and sense of shared interest with privy councillors and fellow peers that would surely have led to Belgrave being crushed when his case was brought before them. This was, indeed, what happened to the fifth earl's antagonist, Sir Henry Shirley, in similar circumstances during the 1628 Parliament. The fourth earl's lack of a grounding amongst the noble élite might also go some way to explaining why he lacked his elder brother's aura of assurance and natural authority. The tetchiness, anxiety over whether he would be obeyed and exaggerated sensitivity to slights to his honour that he displayed in his dealings with Leicester corporation were telling indications of a lack of confidence that in itself invited challenges and defiance.

Some of the same considerations shaped his relationship with his brothers on which rested the all-important advantage of dynastic solidarity. The fact that he had grown up as a country gentleman meant that they tended to regard him as their equal. In spite of Sir Francis's protestations at Earl George's accession that 'if every good member of the house will not add his best strength he is much to blame', dynastic unity was not much in evidence during the latter's tenure of the earldom. Neither Sir Francis nor Sir Edward displayed the loyalty and respect that they had afforded Earl Henry. The one brother the fourth earl appears to have felt

comfortable with and fully trusted was Walter, which was an indication of the importance of the religion in the fraternal rift. George and Walter were both married to Catholics or crypto-Catholics and, although there is no clear evidence that they were Catholics themselves, they certainly did not share the puritan views of their three brothers. Given the importance that Sir Francis attached to godly zeal as a measure of integrity and worth, there can be little doubt that religion made a significant contribution to the brothers' loss of a sense of common purpose.

It also prevented Earl George enjoying the considerable cachet of being regarded as the natural lay leader of the godly within the shire. In spite of the assurances he gave to Sir Edward at his accession, there is no evidence that his support went beyond the formal patronage of Arthur Hildersham. He did not have any works dedicated to him by godly ministers; he showed no discernible interest in the preaching lectures at Ashby and Leicester; and, most tellingly, he was not one of the signatories to the petition from the Leicestershire gentry in support of the Millenary Petition of April 1603 in which Hildersham was a prime mover. The list was headed by Sir Edward and Sir Henry Hastings of the Abbey, followed, amongst others, by his antagonists Skipwith, Beaumont and Belgrave. By the time of Earl George's death, it had become apparent that the religious leadership of the shire had passed into the hands of the Greys and their allies. In a petition to Cecil in January 1605, in support of the godly ministers in the shire threatened with deprivation, Henry Lord Grey was the leading signatory, supported by Skipwith and Sir Henry Beaumont of Coleorton. The political fallout from this is difficult to measure, but it was surely considerable.

A final element in Earl George's make-up and personality that had an impact on his political prospects was his reluctance to engage in the scale of expenditure and hospitality that might have been expected of a premier earl. In part, of course, this was a consequence of the need for retrenchment. But, to judge by the lavish outlay of his grandson when he was still facing financial constraints, this was also a matter of temperament. What he lost by this was demonstrated on James I's journey south in April 1603. The king stayed at Belvoir Castle, the home of Huntingdon's neighbour the earl of Rutland, where the new monarch and his entourage were lavishly entertained, whilst the leading gentry of Leicestershire and the neighbouring counties – including the earl's kinsman, Sir Henry Hastings of the Abbey, and Sir Thomas Beaumont – flocked to the royal presence to receive knighthoods. Had this happened at Ashby Castle the boost to the earl's prestige would have been enormous. As it was, his entertainment of the queen and Prince Henry in June was a much lower key affair that, according to one contemporary reporter, was rather overshadowed by Skipwith's reception the following day in Leicester. There was also none of the lavish entertaining that Leicester corporation had conferred on his brother in the 1580s, probably because the fourth earl had not provided reciprocal hospitality. The prestige that such events conferred on both host and guest is hard to quantify. But in an age when much of the aristocracy's status depended on their ability to project an aura of splendour and majesty, the earl was evidently missing out.

The decline of Earl George's authority in Leicestershire can, then, be traced back to a compound of unfortunate and difficult circumstances, financial constraints, failures of political judgment and a lack of self-confidence and assertiveness. This is a reminder – if one is needed – that the political fortunes of aristocratic dynasties depended as much on the personal and political capacities of their leaders as did those of early modern monarchies. The success and failure of both rested on how effectively they could manage the political circumstances they faced. Those who were most successful tended to be good judges of character and counsel, with the capacity to project an aura of majesty and authority, the ability to overawe subordinates, but also inspire their loyalty, combined with a reputation for being sound in religion. On none of these measures was Earl George a match for his elder brother.

However, in all this it is important to recognize that his grandson did succeed in recovering much of the family's political authority in the shire. Their fortunes may have been at a particularly low ebb when he succeeded the fourth earl, but he was able to see off the Greys' challenges to his administration of purveyance and appointments to the local bench in the late 1600s and early 1610s; then in the 1620s and 1630s defeat further attacks on his running of the lieutenancy by Sir Henry Shirley and Sir William Fawnt. He was helped in this by the deaths of Henry Lord Grey and his son in 1612–1614 and the resultant minority in the Grey family until 1621. But as Thomas Cogswell has demonstrated, it was the fifth earl's political assertiveness and ability to mobilize support amongst his fellow peers, privy councillors and, ultimately, King Charles that enabled him to restore the family fortunes to something approaching their former heights by the end of the 1630s. This cycle of ascendancy, decline and recovery puts into perspective some of the broader components of aristocratic power.

One of the most significant elements in this was the considerable shrinkage in the manorial holdings of the aristocracy. Stone and others have estimated that these fell by an average of around a quarter over the course of Elizabeth's reign which led to a considerable reduction in both their capital resources and political authority. The Hastings certainly exemplified the loss of territorial holdings, with family sources suggesting that the third earl alone alienated some 94 manors, well over half of his total estate. This had a political impact on the fourth earl in that it forced him to adopt a policy of retrenchment which limited opportunities for hospitality and display and, perhaps also, deterred him from making regular visits to London and the royal court. But in other respects, it appears to have left the Hastings authority in Leicestershire relatively unscathed. The key consideration here was that the third earl and Sir Francis followed the normal aristocratic practice of selling off outlying manors first and doing their best to preserve the family patrimony. The result was that the earl and his brothers continued to hold a relatively compact bloc of estates across the western hundreds of Guthlaxton, Sparkenhoe and West Goscote. It was the tenancy of these manors, and the numerous servants and family retainers within these hundreds and in and around Leicester, which provided – and continued to provide – a solid power base when it came to voting in county elections. Sir Wolstan Dixie provided an indication of what this meant when he was canvassing on behalf of the fifth earl in March 1628. Writing from Market Bosworth, in the heart of Sparkenhoe hundred, he was able to assure him of the 'affections of the freeholders my neighbours … [I] find them wholly your loyal countrymen and servants'. He was also able to report similar results from the northern parts of Guthlaxton and the town of Leicester – and the same probably applied to West Goscote which was the heart of the Hastings patrimony. The ability to influence county elections had become the supreme test of territorial power by the latter part of Elizabeth's reign. In this respect, the influence of the Hastings was second to none amongst the aristocracy and remained so for much of the early Stuart period

The political importance of holding a compact bloc of estates within a single shire was illustrated by the contrasting electoral experience of the Manners, earls of Rutland. The extent of their estates at the end of the sixteenth century was considerably greater than that of the Hastings. But instead of being concentrated around their residence at Belvoir Castle in north-east Leicestershire they were scattered across Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire. They held office in all of these counties and were the hereditary lords lieutenant of Lincolnshire up to 1629. But their electoral influence within Leicestershire was negligible; and even in Lincolnshire they were only intermittently able to affect the outcome of county elections.

If the significance of concentration rather than total extent in territorial holdings has been underplayed by historians of the aristocracy, so too have the advantages of 'ancient nobility'. Stone, in particular, argued that the sale of honours under the early Stuarts significantly undermined their prestige and fomented faction and conflict within their ranks that weakened the order as a whole. But this overlooks the crown's concern to uphold and maintain the status of those it recognized as its natural servants and supporters. Burghley was the foremost proponent of this policy under Elizabeth, consistently intervening to use his power – not just as royal councillor and Master of the Court of Wards, but also as the principal commissioner for the office of the Earl Marshal – to protect the interests and status of 'families of ancient blood'. His insistence on Earl George providing an expensive heraldic funeral for the third earl at Ashby in April 1596 was an example of this approach. This cost the family some £1400 at a time when it could ill afford it. But it brought considerable benefits in terms of enhancing their prestige; and the fourth earl was able to harp on this in the negotiations with the Cecil's that eventually secured a relatively generous financial settlement with the crown. There were other assets that long-established families, like theirs could draw on. They had privileged rights of access at court and a seat in the House of Lords; they could stake a hereditary claim to the leading county offices – particularly the lord lieutenancy – that it was hard for councillors and the crown to ignore; and they were in prime position in the marriage market when it came to securing large dowries or alliances with wealthy heiresses. These advantages all played an important part in the third earl's rise to dominance and they were much in evidence at the accession of the fifth earl. His grandfather was able to carry off the considerable coup of marrying him to Elizabeth Stanley, offspring of one of the most senior and best-connected families in the peerage, the earls of Derby, but also the step-daughter of the Lord Keeper, Sir Thomas Egerton. The family was also a beneficiary in the struggle to retain its offices at the death of the fourth earl. The young fifth earl responded to Lord Grey's attempted coup by pleading that 'to miss these places might make my house less esteemed where I hope to live and faithfully serve your majesty'. This subtle reference to the discourse of loyal service across the generations that underpinned the 'ancient

nobility's' case for preferential treatment – alongside lobbying by Cecil and Egerton – no doubt helped to carry the day.

The fifth earl also benefited from the same policy being pursued by Charles I, acting in tandem with his reforming Earl Marshal, the earl of Arundel. Following the death of Buckingham, and in response to a widespread perception that the prestige and honour of the 'ancient nobility' were in decline, the granting of new titles was carefully regulated and greater efforts were made to involve established noble families in the life of the court. The king also intervened more closely in appointments to the all-important county office of lord lieutenant, ensuring that senior members of the nobility were appointed and that sons were groomed to succeed their fathers. In addition, the courts of Chivalry and Star Chamber were given enhanced powers in dealing with challenges to aristocratic honour and status. In spite of being stand-offish towards the royal court in his earlier years, the fifth earl received a warm welcome when the state of his finances allowed him to attend during the 1630s. He enjoyed the kudos of escorting visiting ambassador, sitting as one of the panel of noble judges in the Court of Chivalry and having his son join him in the lieutenancy commission in 1638. He also profited considerably from the hard line against those who had impugned the honour of the nobility. Sir William Fawnt who publicly criticized his running of the lieutenancy was sentenced in Star Chamber to pay the exceptionally large fine of £5000, together with £2000 in expenses to the earl. It was this that did much to restore the finances and morale of the earl in the late 1630s. Far from being a declining asset, as Stone suggested, the political and ideological leverage afforded to those who enjoyed the status of members of the 'ancient nobility' remained high, especially when Burghley and Arundel were driving the crown's policy.

A third component of aristocratic power that has also received less attention than it deserves was their religious patronage. This was of minor relevance for their political influence prior to the Reformation; but the religious conflicts of Elizabeth's reign changed all this. With the nation's security threatened by the forces of Catholicism it suddenly became imperative that members of the nobility be seen to be taking a lead in the ideological struggle and one of the most effective ways of doing this was deploying their religious patronage to promote a godly preaching ministry. In this respect, the third earl of Huntingdon's religious impact on Leicestershire was exceptional, perhaps only matched by that of his friend, the second earl of Bedford, on Devon. But the patronage exercised by the likes of the earl of Leicester in Warwickshire, Robert 3rd Lord Rich in Essex, or Lord North in Cambridgeshire and west Suffolk had similar effects, albeit on a smaller scale. The combination of religious zeal, domination of local offices, extensive territorial holdings and religious patronage gave these peers a unique capacity to shape the religious complexion of their shires and ensured that they forged close alliances with the leadership of the protestant regime at the centre which guaranteed them considerable political leverage. It also meant that they were held up amongst the politically engaged constituency of puritan ministers, gentry and freeholders, as exemplars of a godly magistracy that was in the vanguard of the struggle against the forces of popery. Elizabethan peers, like Huntingdon and Bedford, can be regarded as the forerunners of those 'country lords', like the earl of Warwick in Essex and Lord Brooke in Warwickshire, whose extensive range of puritan patronage and contacts were to be so significant in mobilizing their counties for parliament in 1640–2. The extent to which all this mattered was illustrated by the collapse in the political authority of Earl George. His indifference to godly concerns exacerbated the fatal split with his brothers Edward and Francis, but, more damagingly, deprived him of the role of standard bearer for the puritan interest in Leicestershire that by the end of his life had passed to the Greys and their allies. This loss of trust and approval amongst the godly appears to have played a part in emboldening his enemies and critics, and limiting his effectiveness in parliamentary elections.

The successful exercise of aristocratic power emerges from this study as a complex amalgam of economic, social, political, ideological and personal elements. Wealth and territorial holdings were a crucial underpinning; but much depended on how this wealth was deployed and whether estates were concentrated. The cachet of 'ancient nobility' brought advantages in terms of family and court contacts and favourable treatment by the crown; but to make the most of it one had to be assiduous in cultivating these connections. Local office under the crown, especially the newly-created office of lord lieutenant, garnered considerable power and patronage; but at the same time exposed the holder to challenges and criticism if he did not exercise it responsibly. Godly zeal and commitment to the protestant cause enabled peers to mobilize widespread support amongst the opinion-formers within the ranks of ministers, gentry and freeholders. Conversely the stigma of popery could limit the influence that a peer might otherwise have commanded by dint of his wealth and landholdings. But in the final analysis, it was often the personality and ability of the individual peer that determined their success or failure. Like early modern monarchs, those most likely to

succeed were those who were assertive and confident; who had the capacity to overawe subordinates, but at the same time command loyalty; who had a reputation for godliness, but were capable of displaying the appropriate degree of magnificence; and who were politically astute and attuned to the requirements of 'good lordship'.

DIXIE, Sir Wolstan (c.1576-1650), of Market Bosworth, Leics.

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DIXIE, Sir Wolstan (c.1576-1650), of Market Bosworth, Leics.

Family and Education

b. c.1576, 1st s. of John Dixie, yeoman of Catworth, Hunts. and Charity, da. of Thomas Henson of Oundle, Northants's educ. G. Inn 1595. m. 31 Aug. 1598, Frances, da. of Sir Thomas Beaumont I* of Stoughton Grange, Leics., 4s. 4da. (2 d.v.p.) suc. gt.-uncle Sir Wolstan Dixie 1594;5 kntd. 12 May 1604.6 d. 25 July 1650.7

Offices Held

J.p. Leics. 1604-at least 1641; commr. subsidy, Leics. 1605-8, 1621-2, 1624-5, 1641-2, aid 1609; collector, fifteenth, Leics. 1608, 1625, aid 1613;11 sheriff, Leics. 1614-15;12 commr. to inquire into the estate of Newark hospital, Leics. 1616, lands of Sir Griffith Markham, Leics. 1619, lands of Sir Henry Beaumont, Leics. 1622; dep. lt., Leics. 1625-at least 1635; commr. Forced Loan, Leics. 1627, swans, Midlands counties 1627, Crown debts, various counties 1628; commr. and collector, knighthood fines, Leics. 1630-4; commr. oyer and terminer, Midland circ. 1639-42, array, Leics. 1642.

Biography

Although Dixie came from a yeoman family of Huntingdonshire, his great-uncle, Sir Wolstan, made a fortune in the City as a merchant. Lord Mayor of London in 1585-6, Sir Wolstan acquired the manor of Market Bosworth in west Leicestershire after the 3rd earl of Huntingdon defaulted on a mortgage. In 1592 Sir Wolstan, having no children of his own, entailed Market Bosworth and other lands on Dixie whose 'custody and education' he entrusted to his widow. Dixie's father, who was still alive at the time, was bequeathed just £200. Nothing more is heard of him thereafter.

Dixie inherited his great-uncle's estate in 1594. Four years later he consolidated his position in his adopted county by marrying the daughter of Sir Thomas Beaumont I, a member of a long established Leicestershire family. He subsequently purchased further property in the county before settling permanently in Market Bosworth in 1608. Like his father-in-law, Dixie seems to have supported for a time the anti-Hastings faction in Leicestershire, opposing in 1611 the addition to the county bench of Sir John Bale, a henchman of the 5th earl of Huntingdon. However he may have become reconciled to the earl after the death of Beaumont in 1614. Dixie was probably elected to Parliament for Leicestershire in 1625 with Huntingdon's support, as the earl appointed him one of his deputy lieutenants in the following September. He was named to one committee, for a bill to prevent the conversion of arable land into pasture on 1 August. This was ironic, as the Leicestershire depopulation commissioners had presented him for this very offence in 1607. In addition, he was granted privilege on 5 July over a case in Chancery.

Farren, organist; and Joseph Goadby, sexton. The *Independent Chapel*, built in 1799, and enlarged in 1811, will seat 200 hearers, and the Rev. Charles Haddon is its minister. The *Baptist Chapel*, built in 1848, at a cost of £200, has 150 sittings; and the *Primitive Methodist Chapel*, built in 1850, at a cost of £110, will seat 80 persons. In the town are several Friendly Societies, a lodge of *Odd Fellows*, belonging to the Manchester Unity, and including among its members many of the gentry of the town and neighbourhood. Here is also a *Cattle Insurance Society*, numbering sixty members. Its principal object is to insure against that disease so fatal to cattle, called pleuro-pneumonia, and the members receive four-fifths of their loss. Mr. Thomas Drackley is the secretary.

FREE SCHOOLS:—There was a Free Grammar School here at a very early period, endowed with land and tenements in this and several other parishes, as appears by various deeds of the 16th century, still in the school chest; but the founders are unknown, though it is sometimes asserted that Hugh de Grentemaisnell was the benefactor. At the dissolution of the monasteries, it was in the possession of *Our Lady's Guild*, of Bosworth. In 1592, *Sir Wolstan Dixie, Kt.*, who was Lord Mayor of London in 1585, bequeathed £200 for the erection of a new free school, £500 for its endowment, and £500 for the foundation of two *scholarships* (since increased to four) at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, for boys from this school, and for his own poor kindred. His intentions were carried into effect by his nephew and heir, Wolstan Dixie, Esq., who purchased for £550 an estate at Appleby, for the school, and in 1601 obtained *letters patent* from Queen Elizabeth, granting license to him and his heirs to build and establish a grammar school, of which they and others were incorporated, by the same letters patent, as governors, by the name of "*The Governors of the Grammar School of Wolstan Dixie, Knight, of Market Bosworth.*" In 1617, the trustees of the old free school property transferred the same to the governors of the new school, and thus the two trusts were consolidated, for the support of a master and usher, to teach Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and English freely to all the children and youth of *Market Bosworth and its chapelries, and Cadeby*, and the kindred of the founder. In 1732, the celebrated Dr. Samuel Johnson for a few months held the office of second master of this school, but is said to have ever looked back to that period with horror, on account of the treatment he received from the patron. The affairs of this valuable charity were the subject of litigation in the Court of Chancery, from 1779 till 1835, when the suit terminated, and a new scheme for its future management was sanctioned. A third master was added in 1826, when the Court of Chancery sanctioned the expenditure of £5550, for the erection of *three new schools and two houses* for the first and second masters, and that sum was paid out of £14,010 Three per Cent. Consols, then belonging to the charity, but standing in the Accountant-General's name. The school premises comprise a large and handsome stone and brick building, divided into three spacious school-rooms, with a play-ground and other conveniences at the back, and two commodious houses adjoining, with gardens, &c., for the residence of the head and under masters. The English master has the free use of a good house, built by the governors, about 1830, at the corner of Church lane, in a different part of the town. The *school estates* are situated chiefly at Appleby, Loughborough, Measham, Carlton, Quorndon, Woodthorpe, and Barton-in-the-Beans, and yield an annual income of about £790, which, added to the dividends of £7320. 9s. 2d. Three per Cent. Consols, swells the total *yearly income* to about £1012. The yearly *salaries* paid to the teachers

are £250 to the *head master*, £130 to the *under master*, and £90 to the *English master*. The two first are required to be clergymen, and to teach the Classics, but they have seldom more than 6 or 7 free scholars. The English master has generally about 70 free scholars, and he instructs them in reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and English grammar. The governors supply coals, books, &c., for the schools. According to proposals sanctioned by the Court of Chancery, in 1835, the governors may send from 1 to 4 boys, who have been free scholars here, to either of the Universities, with *exhibitions* of £80 per annum. The rector and churchwardens of Market Bosworth, for the time being, and six other parishioners, are the *governors*, and meet four times a year. T. Miles, Esq., is the *bailiff*, in which capacity he has the general management of the estates and the charity. The head master is allowed to take twelve boarders; and boys from other parishes are admitted to any of the schools on payment of a capitation fee of £6 per annum. In 1848, the governors built a new school for the education of girls and infants. It is a neat brick building, of Elizabethan architecture, and is attended by about 70 children. The prize books formerly given to the boys are now discontinued for some unknown reason, and the charity, though a splendid one in itself, and having handsome and commodious buildings for educational and other purposes, has not hitherto been productive of that benefit which might have been expected from so munificent an endowment, as it has given rise to a great deal of litigation and bickering; but it is hoped that its position will shortly be improved, and its sphere of usefulness considerably enlarged.

The parish of Market Bosworth has the right of sending six poor widows to SPENCE'S ALMSHOUSE, at Carlton, near Skipton, in *Yorkshire*, founded by *Ferrand Spence*, in 1698, where they have each a separate apartment, an allowance of coals, and a yearly stipend of 20 guineas, in quarterly payments. Though at so great a distance from their native place, the six widows express themselves contented and happy, and the appointment is much sought after. In case of a vacancy, information is sent to the rector, and the place is filled up at a meeting of the parishioners, and the widow appointed is sent down at the expense of the parish. The dividends of £70. 10s. 1d. Three per Cent. Consols, derived from the bequest of *Charles Wagstaffe*, in 1784, are distributed among the poor parishioners in bread, on New Year's day. Market Bosworth is entitled, with Atherstone, in Warwickshire, to an equal share of *Sharp's Charity*, which produces £20 a year, for apprenticing four poor boys. In 1847, *Miss Eleanor Dodson*, of Reading, left £400 Three per Cent. Consols, to the rector of Market Bosworth for the time being, in trust to distribute the dividends on the 13th January, in such a manner as he shall think fit, to poor aged women residing in the town and not receiving parochial relief.

Sir WOLSTAN DIXIE was the youngest son of Thos. Dixie of Catworth, Huntingdonshire, Mayor A.D. 1585, temp. 27 Eliz. Master, A.D. 1573, 1576, 1580, 1588, 1592.

Arms: Azure, a lion rampant or, a chief of the last.

During his mayoralty there appears to have been a great muster of the citizens both by reason of domestic insurrection and to

resist the then contemplated Spanish Invasion; large contributions were raised by the citizens, towards which fund Sir Wolstan Dixie gave 1,000*l.* for which the Queen paid 10 per cent. About this time she found it better to borrow from her own subjects than negotiate with foreign merchants. We find that in the year 1588 the members of the twelve Livery Companies raised a sum amounting to no less than 51,000*l.* Shortly after which, the Queen being at Greenwich, the City Militia was mustered before her, for six or eight days lying intrenched about Blackheath, to the number of between 4,000 or 5,000 men; amongst these we find the Skinners furnished 174 men, fully equipped, and contributed a sum of 163*l.* 5*s.* He married, firstly, his master's daughter, Walkenden, secondly, Agnes, daughter of Sir Christopher Draper. Agnes was the founder of a Greek and Hebrew lectureship at Emanuel College. He died without issue at the age of 69, and was buried in St. Michael's Bassishaw in 1593. "He dwelled in the howse," says the MS., "where Sir Leonard Halyday now dwelleth," and like Sir Andrew Judd amassed a large fortune as a Russia merchant.

There is an excellent portrait of him in the court-room of Christ's Hospital as president in 1592, of which foundation he was a liberal benefactor, as appears on a shield in the corner. The knight is habited in his Lord Mayor's dress; his features show considerable firmness of character as he leans on a table holding a richly embroidered glove in his right hand; he wears a venerable beard, and hat of the period.[1]

Besides assisting liberally in the building of Peterhouse, Cambridge, he left in trust to the Skinners' Company a sum of 700*l.* towards founding a grammar-school at Market Bosworth, Leicestershire.

Skinners, however, appear to have been averse to accepting the trust, no doubt on account of the annoyance and loss they had sustained in resisting the claims of Andrew Fisher to the property devised by him for a similar purpose in the foundation of Tonbridge School,[1] in the prosecution of which trust some 4,000*l.* are stated to have been swallowed up.

A complaint was therefore entered in the Court of Chancery by Wolstan Dixie, a nephew of the testator, and an order was obtained, A.D. 1600,[2] that the bequest and the trust accompanying it should be transferred to him; and statutes were by his direction drawn up for the government of the school.

To Christ's Hospital he gave yearly for ever 42*l.*

To Emanuel College, Cambridge, the maintenance of two Fellows and two Scholars, 600*l.*

To the building of the College 50*l.*

To be lent unto poor merchants 500*l.* thrifty young men free of the Company.

For marriage portions to poor maids 100*l.*

To poor strangers, Dutch and French, 50*l.*

1825. *Dec.* 23.

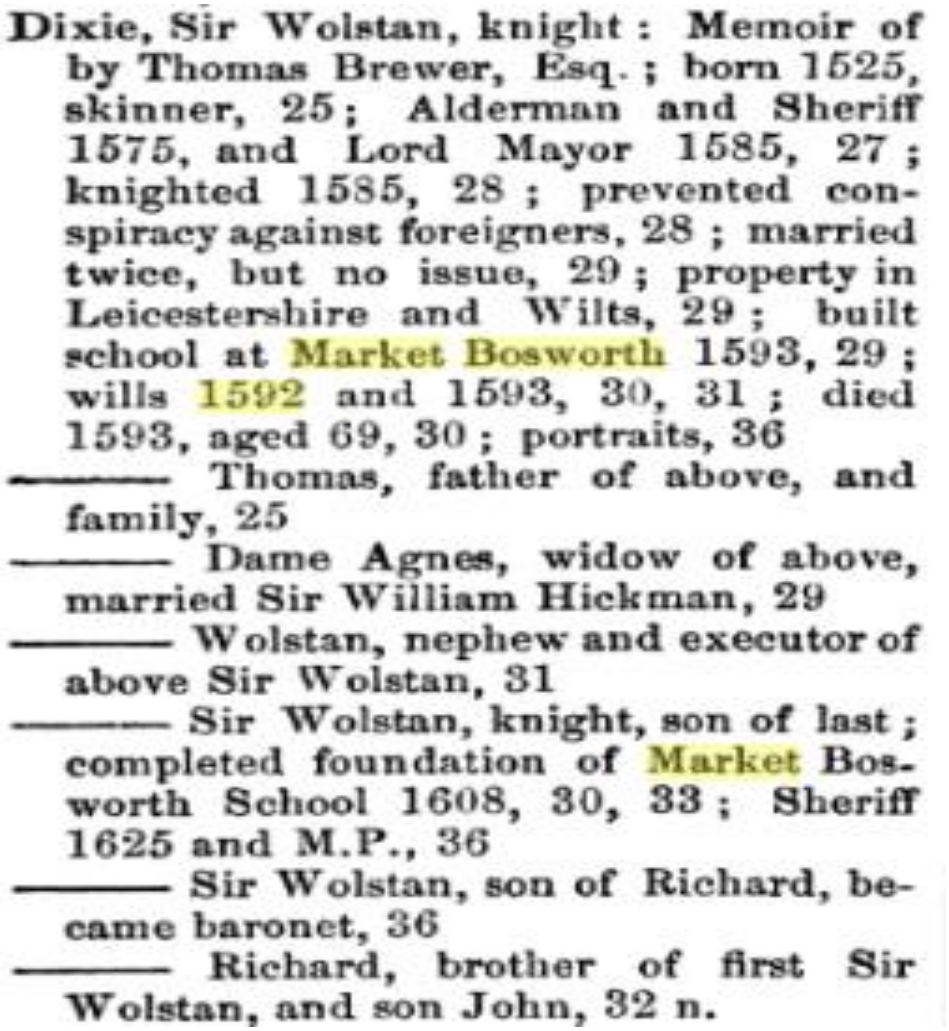
* ATTORNEY-GENERAL *v.* DIXIE.

Provisions for instructing the boys in writing and arithmetic made part of the scheme of a grammar school.

Sir *Wolstan Dixie* by his will and codicil, dated respectively in 1592 and 1593, gave a sum of money for the endowment and establishment of a school "for the bringing up and teaching of fifty or three score poor scholars." The school was to be under a good and learned master: boys educated in it were to have a preferable claim to certain fellowships and scholarships, which the testator had founded in *Emanuel* College, *Cambridge:* and the codicil stated the purpose of the bequest to be "for the maintenance and increase of learning and good acts."

The nephew and heir of the testator made an addition to the endowment; and, in the forty-third year of the reign of *Elizabeth*, he obtained letters patent establishing "one perpetual grammar school for the instruction, education, and bringing up of boys and young men within the village or parish of *Market Bosworth*, according to the orders, statutes, and constitutions in that behalf thereinafter to be made and ordained to continue and endure for ever."

In 1630, he made certain statutes for the government of the school. The first of these provided, "that in the said school in *Market Bosworth* there shall be for ever successively a schoolmaster and an usher, who shall with all care and diligence instruct and teach the children and youth, and that to be done freely, of the parish of *Bosworth* and *Cadeby*, and the kindred of the said Sir *Wolstan Dixie*, citizen, and late mayor of *London*, and their heirs, and the children of the tenants or occupiers of the school lands, in learning and good nurture: the master to be of a degree of a Master of Arts, and the usher, of a Bachelor of Arts, at the least."



Dixie, Sir Wolstan, knight: Memoir of
by Thomas Brewer, Esq.; born 1525, skinner, 25; Alderman and Sheriff 1575, and Lord Mayor 1585, 27; knighted 1585, 28; prevented conspiracy against foreigners, 28; married twice, but no issue, 29; property in Leicestershire and Wilts, 29; built school at Market Bosworth 1593, 29; wills 1592 and 1593, 30, 31; died 1593, aged 69, 30; portraits, 36
——— Thomas, father of above, and family, 25
——— Dame Agnes, widow of above, married Sir William Hickman, 29
——— Wolstan, nephew and executor of above Sir Wolstan, 31
——— Sir Wolstan, knight, son of last; completed foundation of Market Bosworth School 1608, 30, 33; Sheriff 1625 and M.P., 36
——— Sir Wolstan, son of Richard, became baronet, 36
——— Richard, brother of first Sir Wolstan, and son John, 32 n.

I usually change the raw research into a more readable version but thought that as there was so much it would be better to leave well alone and let the experts explain the various positions of those involved.

Contact Details Please see the website www.marketbosworthsociety.com for information or email on info@marketbosworthsociety.com or if you would like to call MBS then 07930149408. Correspondence can be sent to Market Bosworth Society, c/o 29 Warwick Lane, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire CV13 0JU. Membership subscriptions (single £14.00 joint £21.00) can be paid by BACS/Bank Transfer using the following Details. Market Bosworth Society, Virgin Money Sorting Code 82-11-07 account number 00452350. Please place your surname (and the last three characters from your postal code – if permitted) in the reference section. For example mine would be palmer0ju.
If you have any items you would like to preserve for future generations, please contact MBS, or any Committee member.

Nigel Palmer
Chairman

Answers to the Victorian Christmas Quiz.

Question 1

c. They hung them off the tree like ornaments

Gifts were hung off the branches of Christmas Trees like decorations. Soon, when the gifts got too big and heavy to hang, people started putting them under the tree like many people do today. Although Queen Victoria herself preferred hers laid out on a table!

Question 2

True Queen Victoria had quite a feast for her Christmas Dinner. She was known to have some pretty out of the ordinary roast meats including the head of a boar, exotic birds and even swans!

Question 3

d. They both have treats inside them

Tom Smith the sweet-maker wrapped up his confectionary in a twist of coloured paper. This was the earliest version of a Christmas Cracker. Later he added jokes and the all important "bang" noise when pulled.

Question 4

False

During the Victorian Era, Mince Pies were stuffed with a meaty filling. Not like today's Mince Pies that are filled with delicious, sweet fruits.

Question 5

Queen Victoria didn’t just give gifts to her family and friends, who else did she give Christmas presents to?

a. Her servants

Queen Victoria always got her servants gifts for Christmas. The royal family would gather in the servants living quarters and watch them opening their presents before opening their own.

Question 6

True

Many of the old Christmas carols were re-written with new words or new notes. But the Victorians loved carolling so much that they wrote a bunch of new songs too, including Away in a Manger, O Come All Ye Faithful, Once In Royal David's City and more.

Question 7

c. 3 years later

Christmas cards were originally quite expensive to make and post to your loved ones. But with the invention of the first postage stamps, called the "Penny Post", Sir Henry Cole started the mass-production of cards that could be quickly and cheaply sent across the country.

Question 8

True

For the Victorians, it was the tradition to put up your Christmas Tree on Christmas Eve. Because Victorians originally decorated their trees with their gifts, it became habit to hand out the gifts on the same day as you'd put up the tree.

Question 9

b. Christmas Markets

Christmas Markets actually started in Germany. They were originally December Markets to mark Advent in the 1200's and 1300's. Christmas Markets didn’t become popular in England until the 1990’s!

Question 10

False

The Industrial Revolution during the Victorian Era saw the rise of factories churning out tonnes of mass-produced items and the invention of the steam engines for trains to transport these items quickly across the nation. This made gifts easier to find and cheaper to buy.

Answers to the Christmas Carol Quiz

1 a
2 c
3 d
4 d
5 a
6 c
7 b
8 d
9 a
10 c
11 b
12 d
13 a
14 c
15 b
16 d
17 b
18 c
19 a
20 c