

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

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The illustration opposite is a card from Taddy's "*Heraldry Series*" of c.1913. It shows the arms of the ninth Duke of Beaufort. For more information on this fascinating set of cigarette cards see the article on p. 14.

Editorial It is with great pleasure that we are able to announce that Alex Maxwell Findlater, who was instrumental in founding our society in January 2003 has agreed to become its president. Alex is now based in Scotland, where he is chairman of the Scottish Heraldry Society, but at least part of his heart is still with us here in Somerset.

Notification has just been received of the death of Tony Ryan, a long standing and much valued member of the society. A full appreciation will appear in the August issue of *The Somerset Dragon*.. Tony will be greatly missed by his many friends and fellow enthusiasts.

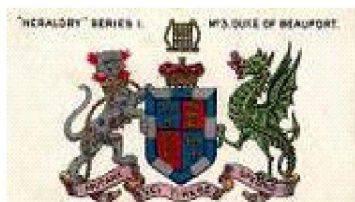


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REFLECTIONS ON A DOUBLE-HEADED EAGLE

BY STEPHEN SLATER

My favourite heraldic charge happens to be the double headed eagle. It is met with in English heraldry for time to time but more often is associated with continental families linked with the old Holy Roman (later Austrian) Empire, where of course it was the symbol of the emperor himself.



Some time back in *The Somerset Dragon* I showed a rare instance of an English family that placed its shield of arms on the imperial double eagle, that being Arundell of Wardour, one of our (sadly extinct) most noble of Catholic families, who had the distinction of being counts of the Holy Roman Empire. I know of few other English families that employed that heraldic conceit, although among them were the Dukes of Marlborough, Earls Cowper and the Earls of Denbigh.

I have in my little bookplate collection two plates which include in their design the imperial eagle (technically used as a 'supporter') and they caused me to look into the respective claims to that 'fearful wild-fowl' (as I have seen it termed). The fact that neither family in question claims either the double eagle or the title of 'Count of the Holy Roman Empire' came about through the writings of the great genealogist (and writer on heraldic matters) John Horace Round (1889-1928).

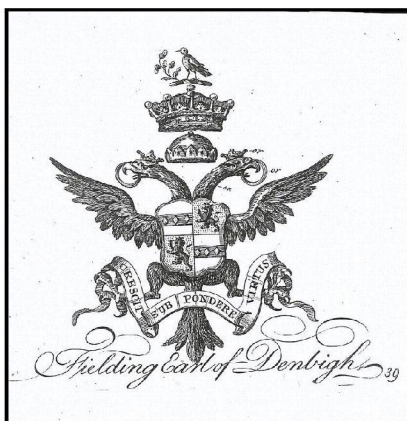
JHR's dogged research and critical eye for detail led in 1914 to his being made Honorary Historical Advisor to the Crown in which capacity he was famed for debunking many the myth that so many of our ancient families had been 'companions of the Conqueror'.

The family of Feilding (often spelled Fielding) had gained for it the Earldom of Denbigh, and for centuries had claimed kinship with the mighty House of Habsburg, Holy Roman Emperors and later Emperors of Austria. To accentuate the claim the family not only quartered the Feilding arms, *argent on a fess azure three lozenges or*, with that of Habsburg, *or a lion rampant gules ducally crowned azure* but placed the shield on the breast of the imperial eagle, and just to make sure, above the eagle was the cap or bonnet of an Austrian archduke.

The Feilding claim excited the interest of JHR who cast his keen eye to the evidence, and the more he looked into the matter the more sceptical did he become. The Feilding claim suggested that the family had actually started out as a branch of the Habsburgs that held the imperial counties of Laufenberg and Rheinfelden on the River Rhine. One of the family, Galfridus or Geoffrey of Rheinfelden, emigrated to England (so they claimed) in the reign of Henry VIII. In time the name of Reinfelden was anglicised to Feiling/Fielding and eventually the family settled in Warwickshire where it prospered so much that in 1622 William Feilding was created Earl of Denbigh.

JHR put the claim to Habsburg kinship firmly at the door of Basil, 2nd Earl of Denbigh (1643-1675), who in his writings stated that even a prince of Savoy had called him cousin, believing Denbigh to be related to the imperial family. Denbigh even stated that on his entry to the city of Basel, he was much feted by the city government through his Christian name and supposed kinship to the emperor. Denbigh's evidence for such a claim seems mainly to have been gathered by an heraldic scholar and researcher, John Vincent, who among other claims saw a chimneypiece in a Feilding family home at Lutterworth which showed "some relation to the renowned family of Hapsburg (the surname was often spelled with a p as opposed to b). Writers have called Vincent a 'needy seedy man' who often was known to pawn his father's extensive collection of heraldic and genealogical notes to buy liquor!

Even that great heraldist Elias Ashmore seemed to endorse Denbigh's claim, a fact that surprised JHR who thought the great herald looked with a partial eye on a peer of the realm who also happened to hail from Ashmole's own county of Warwickshire. Round was never afraid to take on claims which appeared to be endorsed by other genealogists and he did so most exactly with J Arthur Fox-Davies, who had included the Denbigh claim in his own *Armorial Families*. As a result of his criticisms, Round says he received letters 'almost libelous in their virulence'. Be that as it may, in later editions of *Armorial Families*, the imperial title had been dropped.



Burke's *Peerage* which had mentioned the imperial claim seems to have dropped it by 1900 in probable response to Round's findings. After this Round seemed happy with his debunking, writing (in Latin) 'Great is Truth'!



The Feilding arms with its fearsome wild-fowl first attracted my own attention when many years ago I saw a plaque in a Wiltshire church (Lacock) to Rear Admiral Charles Feilding (died 1837), his arms clearly showing the Habsburg lion, the imperial eagle and archducal bonnet. It is my luck to have the Admiral's bookplate, the arms on which, exactly ape those on his memorial.

I have another rather splendid bookplate which features the imperial eagle and which I would like to share with you. The arms and title of the bearer once more coming in for acute criticism from J Horace Round.

The 'count of the Holy Roman Empire' to whom the bookplate is for was John De La Feld CRE, as befitted his origins in a far off corner of Alsace Count John's plate title is titled in French. According to the family tale the De La Felds heralded from the castle of Feldenstein, three days travel from the city of Colmar. The family arms *sable a cross paty or* were supposedly famed throughout the Kingdom of France and the family was regarded as one of the most ancient and worthy in the land.



The De La Felds eventually emigrated to England and Ireland, one branch settled at Fieldstown outside

Dublin, whilst the English branch had homes in Sussex and Buckinghamshire. The family called itself variously De La Feld, De La Field and eventually Delafield.

JHR looked closely at Count John's origins and claims, and traced his ancestors to the Aylesbury area. It would seem that this great and ancient family which had originated in remotest Alsace had fallen upon hard times, for JHR found that the Count's grandfather, John Delafield, migrated from Aylesbury to Cripplegate in London where he became a cheesemonger. John Delafield died in 1763 and was commemorated with a monument in the church of his native Aylesbury. It was on this monument that JHR claimed the ancient and noble arms of the De La Felds, *sable a cross paty or*, first became manifest in England

Count John's grandfather had several children, the eldest son emigrating to New York , thereby establishing the American branch of the noble house. John's second son, Joseph Delafield, became a well-to-do brewer and purchased for himself a fine house in Kensington. Brewer Joseph's third son, John Delafield went into the church and as Reverend John Delafield lived at the grandly named Feldenstein House in Richmond, Surrey, however, by the time he died in 1866 the Reverend John was now styled John Leopold Ferdinand Casimir, Count De La Feld, of the Holy Roman Empire. Count John made a fine marriage with Cecil (yes, that's her Christian name), sixth daughter of Edmund Pery, first Earl of Limerick.

The Reverend Count's bookplate shows a rather splendid collection of heraldic quarterings, less on the husband's side than for his wife, yet the De La Feld quarters do seem to include the fleurs de lys of the kings of France, not bad for a brewer's son from Kensington! The six quarters of Pery include Cecil and Nevil.

JHR looked closely into the matter of the Delafield arms and believed them to really belong to a Midlands family surnamed Ellesfield, and also might have been a corruption of the arms of Lascelles, Lords Harewood.

JHR's assassination of the De La Feld legend took place in 1904 in Number XI of *The Ancestor*, 'A Quarterly Review of County Family History, Heraldry and Antiques'. This was the platform in which Round destroyed many a family's claim to remote and glorious ancestry. Such was the exacting and comprehensive nature of JHR's critique that the claim to the countly title seemed immediately to sink without trace in this country although Round believed the American branch of the family still claimed it.



Coat of arms of the
Emperor Sigismund
in 1433

Notes & Queries



This magnificent achievement is to be found above a shop in Stonegate, York. Has anyone any thoughts about it? Observations will as always be gratefully received.



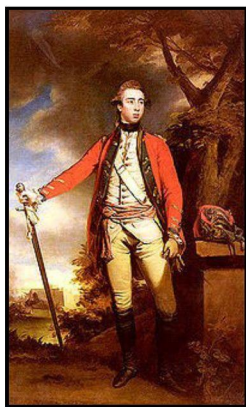
And a reader in Surrey (my, we get about!) has asked whether anyone can anyone identify the location of this splendid heraldic window? The image below is that of the top right light - on which I am currently still working !



THE ARMORIAL ACHIEVEMENT OF TOWNSHEND EARL OF LEICESTERSHIRE

This, our third offering from *The Universal Magazine*, shows the arms of George Townshend, 2nd Marquess Townshend, PC, FRS (18 April 1753 – 27 July 1811), known as the Lord Ferrers of Chartley from 1770 to 1784 and as the Earl of Leicester from 1784 to 1807. Townshend was the eldest son of George Townshend, 1st Marquess Townshend, by his first wife Charlotte Compton, 15th Baroness Ferrers of Chartley and 7th Baroness Compton. He succeeded to the titles held by his mother on her death in 1774 and became known as the Lord Ferrers of Chartley

Townshend was summoned by writ to Parliament in 1774. In March 1782 he was appointed Captain of the Honourable Band of Gentlemen Pensioners, a position he held until May 1783, and again from December 1783 to 1797. He was admitted to the Privy Council in April 1782 and also served as a member of the Committee for Trade from 1784 to 1786. In 1784 he was created Earl of Leicester in his own right. His choice of title derived from the fact that he was a female-line great-great-great-grandson of Lady Lucy Sydney, daughter of Robert Sidney, 2nd Earl of Leicester (a title which had become extinct in 1743). He later held office under William Pitt the Younger and Henry Addington as Master of the Mint from 1790 to 1794, as Joint Postmaster General from 1794 to 1799 and as Lord Steward of the Household from 1799 to 1802. In 1807 he succeeded his father in the marquessate of Townshend.



Apart from his political career, Townshend was interested in archaeology and served as President of the Society of Antiquaries. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Trustee of the British Museum.

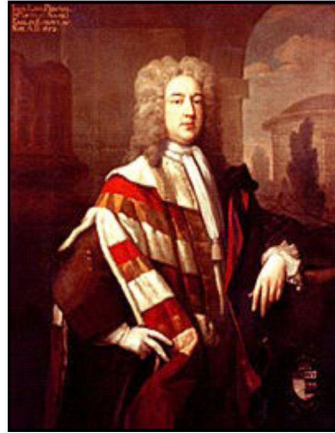
Lord Townshend died suddenly in July 1811, aged 58, and was succeeded in his titles by his eldest son George, who had previously been disinherited. On the latter's death in 1855 the earldom of Leicester became extinct while the marquessate passed to his cousin John Townshend.

Quarterings are those of Townshend, Compton, Shirley, Devereux, Plantagenet and *****. The portrait of Lord Townshend (Earl of Leicester) is by Sir Joshua Reynolds.



A QUESTION OF PRECEDENCE

Members who attended the meeting on the 5th December and learnt about *The Rootless Earls: The Vicissitudes of the Noble House of Egmont* might be interested to read this snippet from the first earl's memoirs. The fact that he was an Irish peer was a source of both pride and jealousy to the new earl, and the question of the precedency of his class was one which was to exercise his mind greatly over the next few years, and to result in an extensive pamphlet on the subject, published in 1739. The saga commenced in 1733-4 when Lord Egmont was one of those peers who boycotted the celebrations surrounding the marriage of the Princess Royal and the Prince of Orange on account of the fact that the Irish peers were not accorded the rights they felt were theirs.



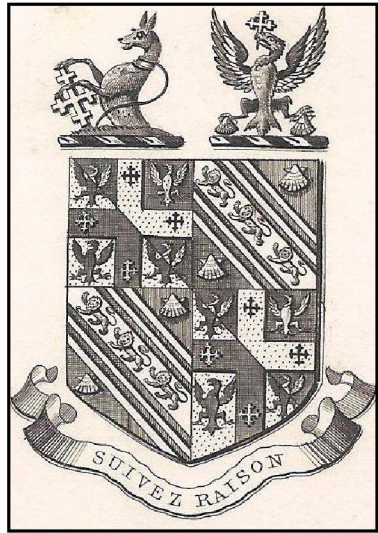
Earl of Egmont and his bookstamp



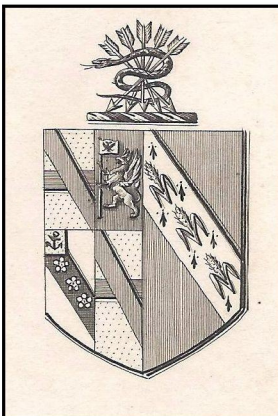
'My steward Mr Taylor dined with me,' indignantly noted Lord Egmont in his diary on the 14th March 1734, 'and told me that this morning the Earl of Orre-ry [an Irish title] went out of town till Monday next to avoid walking at the procession as Lord Boyle [an English title]'. In 1736, at the funeral of Queen Caroline, Egmont and his colleagues came back to fight their corner again and this time successfully insisted upon the right of Irish earls to take precedence over English viscounts and barons. 'My Lord Grantham told me he had seen the order of the procession at the funeral, and that Irish peers are to walk in their places according to their rank mixed with the English, and not as a nation,' he confided to his diary on the 15th December 1737. 'Thus the Irish peers have recovered the right they contended for, but I doubt if it had been granted, if we had not made the stand we did two years ago at the Prince of Orange's wedding,' he concluded triumphantly.

HERALDIC QUIZ 3 & 4

The answers to Quiz No.3 were Carey Charles Elwes Esq., of Great Billing, Northamptonshire and Dixon Dixon Esq., of Unthank Hall, Northumberland. Cathie Constant points out that Unthank Hall came into the ownership of the Dixon family and then by marriage to the Browns. Dixon Brown (1776-1852) changed his name to Dixon Dixon. Much of his house has now been demolished but what is left serves as commercial offices. The arms are blazoned *Quarterly 1st and 4th, per bend sable and or, on a cross pattee throughout, between four eagles displayed as many crosslets all counterchanged for Dixon; 2nd and 3rd, per pale sable and gules on a bend engrailed with plain double cotises between two escallops argent three lions passant guardant of the first for Brown.*



Cathie had a head start when it came to blazoning this particular achievement because her neighbour Heather Austin was a Miss Brown and a member of the family! To be exact she is Dixon Dixon's great-great granddaughter.



The Elwes arms are blazoned quarterly 1 & 4 or a fess azure and a bend gules for Elwes, 2 gules a griffin segreant or holding in the claws a flag staff bendy argent and sable on it a flag of the third charged with a double headed eagle displayed of the second for Gabott and 3 argent on a bend sable three roses of the field for Carey impaling sable on a bend ermine three rye stalks sable for Rye.

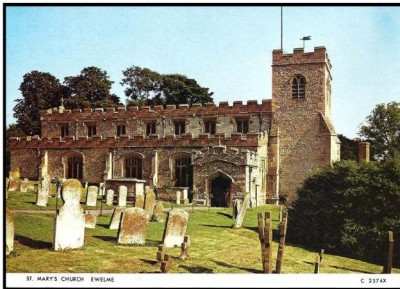
For those who like an heraldic teaser to sort out over breakfast, Quiz No.4 requires you to identify the sixth quartering on the achievement of Townshend, Earl of Leicestershire on page 9.

TWO TOMBS AND A DOOMED DUKEDOM A POSSIBLE SUMMER VISIT

It has been suggested that a possible June visit could be paid to St Mary's Church, Ewelme in Oxfordshire, home of two quite superb heraldic tombs. The first, that of Thomas Chaucer, son of the more famous Geoffrey. The second, that of Alice, Duchess of Suffolk (1404-75), wife of William de la Pole, the first Duke of Suffolk, who met such a grisly end in a small boat in the English Channel and thus became in many ways the first aristocratic casualty of the Wars of the Roses

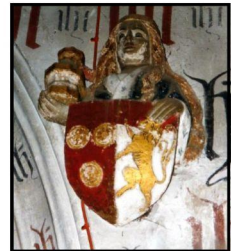


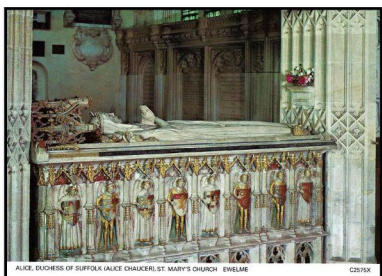
Arms of de la Pole



Thomas Chaucer (1367-1434) married Matilda Burghersh and through her inherited the Ewelme estate. His daughter Alice married William de la Pole, Earl and later Duke of Suffolk. Their tombs contain a wealth of heraldic detail

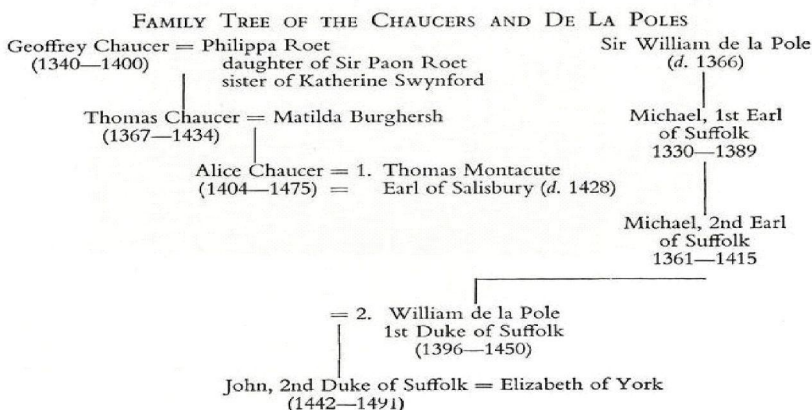
Interestingly enough, Geoffrey Chaucer possessed a coat of arms, *per pale argent and gules a bend counterchnged*, but his descendants chose to make use of the arms of Roet, his wife's family, or those of Burghersh, rather than the authentic Chaucer arms. The arms of Thomas Chaucer (opposite) are Roet impaling Burghersh and those of his grandson John, 2nd Duke of Suffolk, are seen here quartering Burghersh. (below)





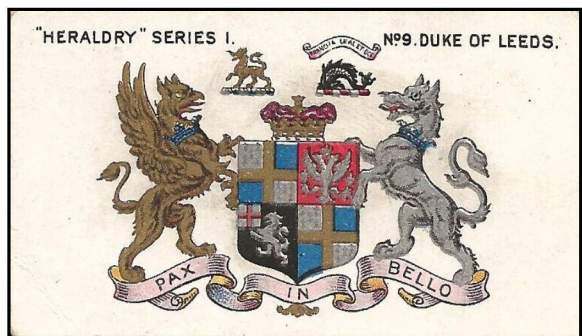
Tombs of Alice Duchess of Suffolk and her father, Thomas Chaucer

John second Duke of Suffolk (1442-1491) married Elizabeth Plantagenet, sister of Kings Edward IV and Richard III. It was a union that was to prove fatal to their sons. John Earl of Lincoln, the eldest, was the heir to his uncle Richard and died fighting King Henry VII at the Battle of Stoke in 1487. His younger brother Edmund, the third Duke of Suffolk, was beheaded on the orders of King Henry VIII in 1513. Sir William de la Pole, another brother, was incarcerated in the Tower of London for a record number of 37 years, and Richard, the youngest brother, died fighting as a mercenary for the French at the battle of Pavia in 1525. Edward, a fifth brother, died as Archdeacon of Richmond in 1485, and Humphrey, a sixth, died in Holy Orders in 1513. They were the lucky ones.



Note—Alice was affianced to Sir John Phelip who died (1415) before she became of marriageable age.

TADDY'S HERALDRY SERIES BY STEPHEN TUDSBERY-TURNER

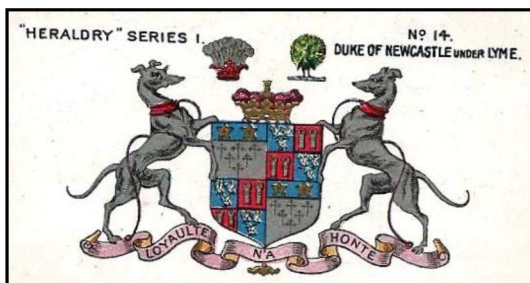


The firm of James Taddy & Company, producers of snuff and tobacco products, came into being in 1740 and by the end of the nineteenth century was one of the most important tobacco companies in Britain. The firm went out of business in 1920 when tobacco workers were called upon by their trade union to go on strike in order to win higher wages and better working conditions. The Taddy management warned their workers that if they went on strike they would close the business down for good. The union refused to back down and Taddy carried out its threat and ceased trading.

Taddy's first produced cigarette cards in 1897 with a set entitled *Actresses* and approximately sixteen years later produced the highly desirable set entitled "*Heraldry*" Series. It consisted of twenty five cards, each containing the armorial bearings of one of the existing dukes. One can be reasonably certain of the date of production because the set includes the thirteenth Duke of Abercorn and the eighth Duke of Sutherland, both of whom succeeded to their dukedoms that year. It also includes the fifteenth Duke of Norfolk, who died in 1917.

Members of the Somerset Heraldry Society will be well aware of the existence of Roland Symons' magnificent card of current dukes, but Taddy's included three dukes whom Roland did not include—for the obvious reason that the dukedoms are now extinct. These are the dukes of Leeds, Newcastle and Portland. All three are illustrated here.

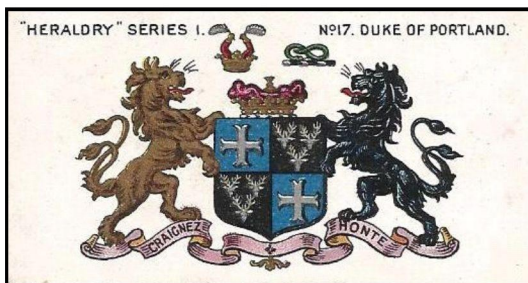
The first of these peerages to disappear was the dukedom of Leeds, created in 1694 for the prominent statesman Thomas Osborne, first Marquess of Carmarthen. Upon the death of the seventh Duke of Leeds in 1859, the dukedom passed to his cousin, the second Baron Godolphin, whose father (the second son of the fifth Duke of Leeds) had been created Baron Godolphin, of Farnham Royal in the County of Buckingham, in 1832. The Barony of Godolphin and the Dukedom remained united until they became extinct on the death of the twelfth Duke of Leeds in 1964.



The tenth and last Duke of Newcastle-under-Lyme, was a duke of a most unusual sort. He was an expert lepidopterist and was Deputy Keeper at the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh.

He succeeded his cousin the ninth Duke, in November 1988, but died only one month later, aged 68. As he was unmarried, and there were no other direct male heirs through the first Duke's line, the dukedom became extinct. His junior title of Earl of Lincoln, however, was inherited by a distant relative. Clumber Park, the ducal seat in that area of Nottinghamshire known as the Dukeries, was demolished in the late 1930s and the estate was sold to the National Trust in 1946.

The dukedom of Portland became extinct on the death of the ninth duke in 1990 at the age of 93. Welbeck Abbey, another ducal seat in Nottinghamshire, had long since passed to the descendants of the seventh duke, who had no sons. The eighth and ninth dukes were in fact his third cousins.



Today, after a long spell as a military college, Welbeck is now the home of his grandson.

THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President	Alex Maxwell Findlater
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Secretary	Stephen Tudsbery-Turner
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THE SOMERSET DRAGON

Editor Stephen Tudsbery-Turner

Address for correspondence

The Malt House,

The Old Threshing Mill,

Hedge Lane,

Pylle,

Somerset,

BA4 6SP

Tel: 01749 830538

Email: tudsberyturner@tiscali.co.uk

Contributions welcome

Objects

The aims of the society are to promote and encourage the study of heraldry especially in the historic county of Somerset.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dates to be announced for a summer visit to Ewelme Church and for a future meeting to be held at Portishead.

Wed. 26th Oct. Annual Lunch at the Beah Restaurant, Wells.

Meetings generally take place at Monteclefe Cottage, Somerton. 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm lunch, followed by 2.00 pm meeting. Finish by 3.30 pm.