



*Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1733 onwards and divers historical prospecting.*

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## A PEEK THROUGH THE WINDOW - NO. 12

**M**IKE DEEMING WRITES:



In Jot&Tittle 62, I incorrectly named Susan Harris, the student who drowned whilst rescuing a child at Harnham in 1966. My sincere apologies to all who knew her.

**T**he Church of the Holy Cross (left) is the dominant feature in the village of Akrotiri in Cyprus, though perhaps not as well-known as the Holy Monastery of St Nicholas of the Cats! The monastery tended to be used as a navigation guide for the planes and helicopters landing at the British base, because it's on an exposed site outside the

village. But the church is the highest feature; so it's the church that is depicted in the top-left of the left lancet of the fiftieth anniversary Army Air Corps windows in the North nave aisle. Tony Markham gave an excellent talk\* to guides in 2014 outlining how the AAC was reborn in 1957 after the Glider Pilot Regiment and the earlier AAC were wound down. The AAC windows feature eight zones where the AAC operated, including Cyprus, together with images of numerous helicopters and other aircraft. The Corps is now based at Middle Wallop, where its excellent museum can also be found. It has a long history of association with Salisbury, the original Royal Flying Corps having been established at Netheravon in 1912. During WWII the main depot was at Tilshead and Larkhill nearby still has AAC warehousing. The Cathedral and Stonehenge would have been used as navigation references and so appear in the lancets.

The first principal image is of the Archangel Michael (the patron saint of the military) slaying Satan, represented by a dragon, the picture based on a C15 engraving by Albrecht Dürer. The second main image is of St Christopher (the patron saint of travellers and rescuers) carrying the Christ child across a stream (right), his oak staff bursting into leaf. Other symbolism in these windows



include the phoenix (the rebirth of the AAC), Noah's Ark, a dove with an olive branch, and the lion and the lamb symbolizing peace. The fringe foliage is also significant – cedar leaves symbolising strength and oak leaves endurance.

To the west of the AAC window, the Glider Pilot Regiment windows are completely different in character. The windows were commissioned in 1950 as a tribute to the many pilots lost in WWII. Here we see Elijah ascending to heaven in a chariot drawn by Pegasus, the emblem of all airborne forces. All such forces wore maroon berets so maroon is the dominant colour of the windows.



The reborn AAC had to adopt a different colour – light blue was chosen and that is reflected in the cap badges at the top of the AAC lancets. The left lancet's badge is that of the WWII AAC surmounted by King George VI's crown and the badge for the reborn AAC carries the crown of HM The Queen.

The AAC windows show eight scenes relating to their operations around the world. The most recent, pictured left, depicts Operation Barron in 2004, when the AAC stepped in to support the Indonesian Government dealing with the aftermath of the massive tsunami in the Indian Ocean. In the next Jot & Tittle, I'll talk more about Caroline Swash and Harry Stammers, the artists who designed the AAC and GPR windows, and the artistic innovation they introduced.

\*I'm grateful to Tony Markham for his advice; a copy of his paper is on the J&T website.

## CORRESPONDENCE

James Thompson (Friday PM Guide) points out that there is a second faces on the pulpitum that might be a candidate for someone of African origin. James also pointed out that Edith Olivier was the first female Mayor of Wilton, and her portrait hangs in the Council chamber to this day. She lived in the dairy house (Daye House) in the grounds of Pembroke House, accessed from the large gates about half way down the road from the lights on the A30/36 outside Pembroke House wall, and the turning up to the race course. There is a painting by Rex Whistler of her in the garden of the cottage in the Museum, one of several Rex did there.

Coincidentally, Rosemary Pemberton wrote: While researching Wilton's mayoral chain I came across the fact that the same company in Frome made an altar cross for the cathedral =J W Singer. The firm has an interesting history. Has anyone written about it before and if not - how can I check which altar cross it is/if it is still in use? It would have been made in the second half of c19. I have passed this on to Emily to see if she can help.



## JUST WILLIAM

Now that shops are reopening, I could not resist a visit to the Oxfam Bookshop to hand in a load of books and see what was new. My 'find' was *The Knight Who Saved England* by Richard Brooks (Osprey 2014). It is of course about our old friend William (the) Marshall and sheds a slightly different light to Thomas Asbridge's *The Greatest Knight*. One of Brooks' themes is that the epic *History of William Marshall* (19,214 lines of rhyming couplets which surfaced at Sothebys in 1861 after disappearing six centuries earlier) does not just tell us

about the man but helps us to understand what life was like in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and something of the mindset of the protagonists. The book was financed by William's son and much of the information came from William's devoted squire, John of Earley.

For example, we take it for granted that there should be rules governing warfare and internecine feuds and we look in horror at such wanton cruelty as the bombing of civilian targets, the genocide practiced by the Turks in WWI or the torture endemic in the Tudor period. If we are to understand the minds of the Barons we need to discard our 21<sup>st</sup> century goggles.

The *tenants-in-chief* (magnates and higher clergy) fought in full armour and were rarely killed. It was regarded as a waste when they could be profitably ransomed. Only one Lord was killed at the battle of Lincoln (1217), and that was much regretted. When it came to the ordinary people it was quite a different story. Castles made it difficult to conquer a King or another Baron so it was quite normal to lay-waste (*Chevauchée*) an area and either kill the peasant farmers or cause them to starve. In fact raids were the most common form of warfare. Knights were usually *vavassours* (landed) but the *bacheliers* who had yet to settle down, formed part of the Lord's or king's household. *Well fed, physically fit, and boiling over with repressed sexual energy, they swarmed out of their castles in times of unrest like angry wasps, to pillage and burn.* No Magna Carta was likely to help the poor peasant.



Left, tournament from the Codex Manesse, Herzog von Anhalt, Heidelberg, 1305 - 1315, public domain.

The History describes sixteen tournaments or *conflicti Gallicani* (French fights) as they were known in which William participated. These took place within a rough quadrilateral from Eu to Troyes and then on to Le mans and Caen. Participants however came from as far afield as Germany. Local teams were formed, usual based on nationality. Tournaments resembled real battles with sharp weapons but no lethal intent. Knights were often beaten about the head until sufficiently dazed to be captured. William survived having taken over 500 knights in his career. However, he was found one day, after a tournament at Pleurs, in a blacksmith's with his head on the anvil, having his helmet knocked into shape so it could be taken off.

## ODDS AND ENDS

Recent information gathered this month includes:  
Henry II received Papal authority for intervening in Ireland.  
The French revolutionary government banned slavery.  
Napoleon rescinded the slavery ban.

Geoffrey de Mandeville, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Essex got caught between the warring factions of Stephen and Matilda and was forced to become an outlaw. He and his band evicted the monks from Ramsey Abbey in the Fen Country and used it as a base for raiding. Geoffrey comes into the

Brother Cadfael books *The Potter's Field* and *The Holy Thief*. He was killed by Stephen and as an excommunicate was not allowed burial in holy ground. Eventually his lead casket was accepted by The Temple in London where he was later joined by William Marshall. King John hanged twenty-eight Welsh hostages in 1212, including a seven year old boy.

### TOMB TALK - Bishop Wyvil

**I**n the Morning Chapel is a floor brass with the following inscription translated by James Harris: *Here lies Robert Wyvil, who collected and preserved his flock as a vigilant Pastor. Among many other benefits to his Church, he recovered the Castle of Sarum from the violent and unjust occupation of the military (after it had been in their hands several years), like an undaunted champion, and procured the restitution of the Forest of Bere [north of Fareham] to his Church, He, died on the 4th day of September, 1375, and year of liis conse- cration 45, as it pleased God, paid the debt of nature in the said castle.—(The rest is imperfect).* The brass depicts a castle (supposedly Old Sarum) with the figure of a bishop in an arch over the portal and a warrior standing at it armed with a shield and battleaxe. There are rabbits around. Right, brass courtesy of I.G. and L.A.B Waller, public domain.



Wyvil (or Wyvill or Wyville) was Lord Privy Seal and consecrated as Bishop in April 1330. He was the first Bishop to use Sarum on his seal and offered to use 'trial by combat' to get control of Sherborne Castle. As a corollary, John Coldwell, originally a doctor of medicine, who became Bishop of Salisbury in 1591, lost Sherborne Castle to Sir Walter Raleigh. As a

result of this and similar misfortunes, including a running battle with the local citizens over taxes, he died deeply in debt in 1596. His friends were glad to bury him 'suddenly and secretly' in Bishop Wyvil's grave. He was the first of our bishops to be married. His coat of arms is shown on the left.



### IN MEMORIAM

**I**would like to mark the passing of retired Group Captain and former Mayor of Salisbury, John Collier, our Monday afternoon Team Leader. A great organiser with a light management touch and a great sense of humour. He will be much missed by his 'A-Team'.

