



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

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A PEEK THROUGH THE WINDOW - NO. 26

MIKE DEEMING WRITES: One of the privileges of being Head Boy of 'H' House at Winchester College was to wear a bowler hat for the house photograph. In 1877 this privilege fell to Clifford Wyndham Holgate, seated in this photo. A studious pupil he also distinguished himself in being part of the team that won the Ashburton shield at Wimbledon that year – not tennis, but an inter-school shooting competition held at the National Rifle Association site there, before it moved to Bisley.

From Winchester, he went up to Brasenose College, Oxford, where his tutor was a young Rev John Wordsworth, himself a Wykehamist, who later recalled that it was “their friendship that shaped his (Holgate’s) career”. Holgate graduated in 1881 and spent two years at Lincoln’s Inn before serious illness forced him to warmer climes to recover. He spent two years with his sister in Australia and New Zealand where he compiled two pamphlets classifying the countries’ libraries. He returned to England in July 1885, coincidentally the same month that John Wordsworth was installed as Bishop of Salisbury. Needing a legal secretary, Wordsworth invited Holgate to take up the position. So Holgate studied ecclesiastical law, was called to the Bar and moved to Salisbury in 1886, living in the Bishop’s Palace for the next 16 years, never marrying. Whilst continuing to act as the Bishop’s legal secretary, Holgate was a cornerstone of the various organisations representing Wykehamists, writing numerous articles for their magazines, corresponding regularly with fellow old boys and attending all their gatherings. But his biggest

contribution was to research and publish the Winchester Long Rolls (two volumes covering the years 1653-1721 and 1723-1812), a listing of all the boys who attended the school, with their personal details and family connections. All this research he assiduously carried out in his study in the Bishop's Palace, and some of the correspondence is still extant.



He was promoted to Diocesan Chancellor in 1902 and also appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the position of Actuary to the Lower House of Convocation. This necessitated a move to London. But serious illness struck again, leading to his premature death in 1903 at the age of just forty-four. Throughout his short career, he was recognised for his sincerity and unswerving loyalty; the Bishop felt he had lost both a son and a brother.

One of his other interests was Winchester Castle, birthplace of King Henry III, and particularly the Great Hall where the Arthurian Round Table is housed. William Longespee was arguably King John's most loyal baron and it may well be that Holgate modelled himself on Longespee, in his relationship with Bishop Wordsworth. Holgate left numerous books, paintings and other memorabilia to the school and the castle, and a substantial legacy to Salisbury Cathedral. In 1950, the stained glass artist Christopher Webb, who was working on the window commemorating George Herbert, was also invited to design a Cathedral window to commemorate Holgate, to be installed behind the Hertford monument at the East end of the South quire aisle. Appropriately, Webb modelled the window on those in the Winchester Great Hall, with armorials of key people and places associated with Holgate's life. At the top there are

the arms of King Henry III and Longespee, below that, those of Winchester College and of Brasenose College and below that, those of the Holgate and Wordsworth families. Tucked away behind a monument of great significance, unobtrusive but an essential part of the fabric, the window reflects Holgate's own life. It is also close to Wordsworth's cenotaph in the Trinity Chapel, reflecting the closeness which existed for most of Holgate's life.



Reverting to the very first photo above, it's interesting to wonder about any other famous connections. I'm sure there are many, but one that I spotted is the pupil Lothian Bonham Carter, great-great-grand-uncle of the actress Helena Bonham Carter!

I'm grateful for the advice of Suzanne Foster, archivist of Winchester College, in writing this article.

CORRESPONDENCE

First let me thank all those of you who have kindly joined the mailing list - 120 to date - and for the kind comments that accompanied them.

Tuesday PM Team Leader Caroline Waldman writes: *A query has sometimes been raised with me when taking tours when the questioner asks when the Trinity Chapel was named as such, rather than as Lady Chapel of earlier times. I have always answered that the different name was used because the whole Cathedral is dedicated to the BVM but the date is unclear.*

I went to the Chancellor for a definitive answer, if that was possible.

Edward Probert writes: *In short: no, I can't give a definitive answer, I'm afraid. If you look at the respectable plans (e.g. in *Sumptuous and Richly Adorn'd*, p2) it is described as 'Holy Trinity and All Saints', so I take this to be a long-standing and well-attested title. 'Lady Chapel' strikes me as one of common usage, arising from the facts that the daily Lady Mass was held there in medieval times (I believe), and that in most ordinary parish churches this was the name of the most prominent (usually only) interior chapel. I suspect both names co-existed until quite recently, with 'Trinity Chapel' surging ahead from the point when (sometime in the last 40 years) we began producing free leaflets with plans, and training guides: both processes would serve to standardise usage.*



I'm confident that this wouldn't have been the kind of thing that would have impinged on Chapter business. Edward made this last point as I had noted that, at least up to 1906, the Chapter minutes always referred to the Lady Chapel. Above, Turner's view of the Lady Chapel, courtesy of Salisbury Museum.

WIMBORNE ST GILES

Well, the church was amazing but extraordinarily there was no information provided whatsoever. So my research has looked at three aspects, the church, the Earls of Shaftesbury and Sir John Ninian Comper.

The village (and hundred) of St Giles was recorded in the Domesday Book and the first rector is recorded as 1207. It

was combined with the parish of All Hallows in 1733 at the request of the Earl and became Wimborne St Giles. The name comes from the stream in Old English *winn* and *burna* but is now called the Allen. Two odd facts: Eros (properly Anteros) in Piccadilly, originally



Wimborne St Giles, and a plaque in the church commemorates robins that nested in the altar in 1887 and 1908.

The current church was built in 1514 by Sir Anthony Ashley and then rebuilt in 1732 adjoining the 17th century almshouses. The architects were the Bastard brothers who rebuilt Blandford Forum. The Victorian architect, GF Bodley, Gothicised the church but it was destroyed in a fire

in 1908. Sir Ninian Comper restored the church in a classical style reflecting the Oxford Movement but with his trade-mark, and seminal, elaborate decoration. The 9th Earl gave Comper carte blanche, and Sir Ninian complemented the design by bringing in four fine windows from the hall of Oriel College, Oxford. As with Little Petherick, the chancel is completely cut off by the rood screen. This area incorporates the magnificent Shaftesbury tomb and rather comfortable L-shaped family pew. The church has memorials to various members of the Ashley Family and tombs of the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 7th and 9th Earls.



Now we come to the mystery! The symbol (above left) has various explanations:

1. Representing a globe as Ashley was credited with translating Wagenaer's sea charts.
2. Representing a jewel which Sir Anthony kept from the Spanish Armada despite Queen Elizabeth pursuing him through the courts.
3. Representing a cabbage as the diarist John Evelyn credits Ashley with introducing the plant from Holland.
4. Representing, perfectly, Carbon 60 which had just been discovered.

As Steve Dunn pointed out though, it is reminiscent of the Gorges tomb.



The ornate 18th century font (bottom left) is a real feature, see right, as is the effigy of a 14th century Crusader (middle left), thought to be Sir John de Plecy.

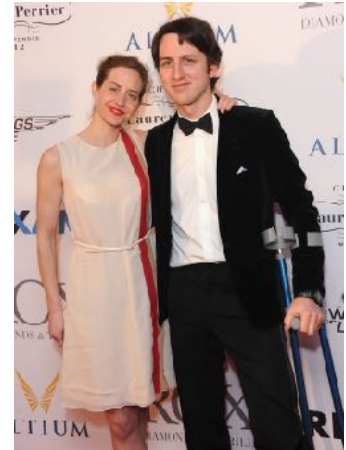


Matilda Malmayne, heiress of St Giles House married Edmund Plecy whose descendants included Egida Hamlyn married to Robert Ashley. The house has been in the Ashley family since 1460. Sir Anthony Ashley, who rebuilt the church and added the almshouses, married the widow of Thomas Cockayne of Ashbourne (where I was born) and when she died of smallpox he married 19-year old Philippa Sheldon. Now, Philippa was the sister of Elizabeth, the wife of Kit Villiers, brother of the 1st Duke of Buckingham and the most powerful person at Court - are you still with me? As a result Ashley became a baronet. He also had a daughter, not bad for someone who preferred boys! When Ashley died in 1628, Philippa married Carew Raleigh, the son of Sir Walter



Raleigh. Sir Anthony educated his grandson, Anthony Cooper, and arranged for his name to become Ashley-Cooper and inherit the estate which included land in Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset.

In 2004 the family achieved notoriety when the 10th Earl was murdered in France by his ex. prostitute third wife and his brother-in-law. His son died of a heart attack aged 27 and the estate was suddenly inherited by Nicholas Ashley-Cooper as 11th Earl in 2005. Not expecting to inherit, a tattooed Nick, had left Dorset for New York's East Village where he worked as a 'techno disk-jockey'. He is now married to Dr Dinah Streifeneder, a Munich born



veterinary surgeon and they have three children - but tragedy struck a third time when he was thrown from his horse resulting in a cracked vertebrae. This resulted in a long period in hospital and lots of physio. Then, against his doctors advice, after eight months' training he took himself to Chile to compete in a race across the Atacama Desert, carrying all his supplies. Despite a permanent limp he has now competed in races in Nepal, the Gobi desert, Iceland and even up Mont Blanc! He is now occupied rebuilding the semi-derelict family home and raising money for charity. The estate comprises 9,000 acres and there is a chateau in Versailles and Nicholas is supposedly worth over £11 million.



John Ninian Comper (1864 to 1960) was a Scottish-born architect famous for his concept of *Unity by inclusion* (mixing Classical and Gothic elements). Comper was articled to Charles Eamer Kempe and then George Frederick Bodley before going into partnership with William Bucknall, and marrying his daughter.

His ecclesiastical commissions include Westminster Abbey, Downside Abbey and the remarkable St Philips Church, Cosham. In the US he designed the Leslie Lindsey Chapel of Boston's Emmanuel Episcopal Church which was dedicated to Leslie and her husband Stewart Mason who perished aboard the Lusitania. in 1915.

He lived at the Priory, Beulah Hill, London, designed by Decimus Burton where he entertained friend including John Betjeman. Comper was knighted in 1960 and interred in Westminster Abbey. The painting above is by Annie Beatrice Bright and is *courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, given by Comper's son John Baptist Sebastian.*

Mike Deeming writes: Comper is perhaps better known as the last of the great Gothic revival stained glass designers and, indeed, his work in Westminster Abbey comprises the seven windows in the North aisle.

