



Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1701 onwards
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HUMOUR

I was tickled by the following from February 1861: *On the anniversary of Her Majesty's coronation the Chapter House be thrown open to the Fisherton Anger Temperance Society.* It reminded me very much of Bruce the shark in the film Finding Nemo. Fisherton Anger was the name for the Fisherton parish for centuries. Its name of course has nothing to do with temperament but is a corruption of the Aucher family name who were *tenants in demesne* in the 13th century. Their landlord being the Earl of Salisbury. If you would like to know more go to [British History Online](http://BritishHistoryOnline.com) which takes its information from *A History of the County of Wiltshire: Volume 6.*

Apparently, when our Cathedral was first built, locals joked that they had a rich Chancellor and a poor Bishop. The Bishop was of course Richard Poore and the Chancellor, Edmund Rich later St.Edmund and Archbishop of Canterbury.

EXPANSION

Victorian times were a great period for church building and rationalisation. As an example, in July 1861 the Chapter received a petition to take down the churches of Chitterne All Saints and Chitterne St.Mary and erect a new church for the united benefice.



The chancels of the old churches (right) were to be kept as Mortuary Chapels within their churchyards and all funerary tablets were to be relocated. The cost was £1,850 - say £185,000 in today's money. It is always difficult to compare costs but if you take into account the relative economies (wages etc.) the price could theoretically be as high as £4,600,000. The new parish comprised 800 souls and they had already raised £1,100.

CIVIL WAR

It wasn't always the poor who failed to pay their rent: *The Chapter Clerk was directed to take the necessary steps to compel payment of the arrears of reserved rent due from Mr Drax the lessee of Maddington* (October 1843). For those who have not come across this large Dorset estate, *The Journal* wrote an obituary in July 2017 for Henry Walter Plunkett-

Ernle-Erle-Drax, the father of the South Dorset MP and the former High Sheriff of Dorset. With so many surnames you wonder if he knew who his father was (Cockney saying).

When I first moved to this area I came across two Dorset villages that did not speak to each other! On enquiring why this should be I was told "they wuz on the other side during the War". It turned out that one village was part of the Bankes Estate and the other part of the Drax estate. During the Civil War (1642 - 1651) the Parliamentarians seized Corfe Castle, heroically defended by the wife of Sir John Bankes. The Roundheads succeeded by treachery and when the castle was 'sighted' Drax pinched the beams to build his stately home, Charborough Park (see below). After the Restoration when Bankes came back he decided it wasn't practical to rebuild Corfe so built Kingston Lacy instead.

For the lovers of useless information, Admiral The Hon. Sir Reginald Aylmer Ranfurly Plunkett-Erle Drax (1880-1967) was a friend of Ian Fleming and appears in Moonraker as 007's villain, Hugo Drax.

A more tenuous connection is that according to the National Trust, Corfe Castle was refortified in 1202 - 1204 and the bailey resembled that of Richard Coeur de Lion's Chateau Gaillard. There is a wonderful story that when Richard quarrelled with his father (Henry II) he chased him across France. Richard as usual was way ahead of his men when he sees a knight leave Henry II's rearguard and spur towards him with his lance lowered for attack. As he gets closer he recognises William the Marshall and calls out "William its me Richard". William does not stop and promptly kills Richard's horse. He then tells Richard that "this was to show that I could have killed you". Richard is so impressed with William that when Henry dies he straight away takes William into his court. What is the connection with Salisbury: well for a start Elias of Dereham was executor to William the Marshall. A personal connection is that Elias built Titchfield Abbey in Hampshire, Titchfield being my parents' home.

LEAD

In the 18th and 19th centuries materials were recycled as a matter of course and lead was particularly valuable. Apart from the obvious roof, gutters and glazing, there is the tower: *the external portions of the iron bands should be examined and if any of the lead that covers them is unsound it should be removed and the bars again covered in new lead* (J.R.Fisher report 1848).

January 1832: Corpse buried in Cathedral must be in lead coffin.

In December 1737 William Naish Clerk of the Fabrick receives £47-18-2 for lead claimed to be a perquisite but ordered to repay. September 1741 William Naish, taken to court as he unlawfully took lead ashes.

In November 1789 Henry Penruddock Wyndham Esquire be at liberty to remove and take away the little north porch of the Cathedral for his own use / leaving the lead.

DATES

There are events we all know about but sometimes it is nice to put a date to them:

Master of the Fabric direct a plan to be formed for the Great West Window in order that a new one be made from the painted glass of the different windows of the Church - March 1819.

That the southern part of the Library be taken down as far as the partition supported by the cloysters which were never designed originally to bear so great a weight - November 1758.

Room over north porch appropriated for records - February 1812.

Giles Gilbert Scott's specification for the restoration of the Cathedral approved by Ecclesiastical Commissioners - 1863.

Clayton and Bell's restoration of the Quire - 1871.

Scott's design for an Episcopal Throne (Cathedra) agreed - 1877.

Church Commissioners appointed to enquire into revenues of the Cathedral - November 1832.

Earl Radnor's offer of £200 (say £28,000 today) towards improvements in the Choir (Quire) and to *ornament the eastern three windows* plus transfer the Hungerford chantry accepted - August 1778.

Graves agreed to be removed from churchyard - August 1789.



Charborough Park in the Nineteenth Century.