

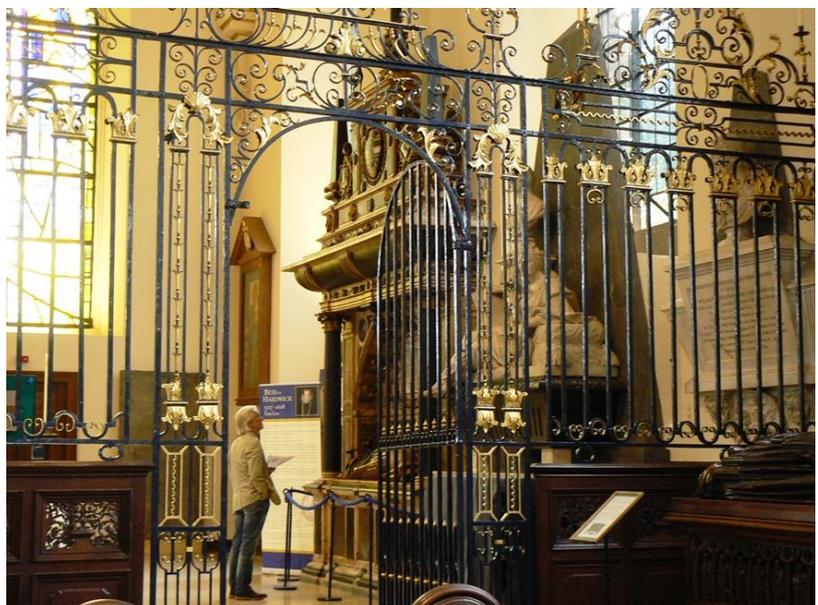
Exploring Heraldry Trip, 15th July 2016

END OF TERM TRIP TO DERBY CATHEDRAL

After a couple of May and June Feignies Room sessions of our Leader's winging it a bit via a mixed bag of topics, including very interesting offerings and suggestions by others in the group, fourteen members of our very merry band, including a couple of welcome regular guests, made the trip over to Derby. After exploratory travel experiences, we were all relieved to meet in a café opposite the Collegiate Cathedral of All Saints for a hot drink, as the weather had turned cold. What *did* we expect? It was, after all, the middle of July!



At this point in our day, Dave had gone missing from the chair between Jodi and Sue to your right in the picture above – had he just gone to the loo? or was he swotting up again on those monuments in the Hardwick/Devonshire chapel inside the Cathedral?



From our vantage point still inside Jack Rabbit's Café, though, we could admire the beautiful wrought iron gates in front of the Cathedral and start to puzzle over the coat of arms at the top. One of five tasks set by our Hon. Quizmaster to keep us moving round the Cathedral was to identify the coat of arms (Osborne) from a monument inside the Cathedral.



This fine piece of ironwork was moved in 1957 from St Mary's Gate, just down the road, and was restored, painted blue and gold, and named The Queen Elizabeth II Gates in honour of our Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Inside the porch, we were then asked to refresh our memories of an earlier session while "On Our Travels", when we had looked at the arms of a Bevy of Bishops. These included all the dioceses associated with that founded in Derby, here reflected in this wonderful light over the outside porch door:



In the same porch we looked at a great set of *Hatchments* (the use of coats of arms set on a black or black-&-white lozenge back-board at the time of the death of an arms-bearing person). This one in particular was the stimulus to search for the family concerned in the monuments inside the Cathedral itself: -



... and eventually everyone found it:



The coat of arms is that of the Chambers family, using a method of Heraldry known as "*canting*", whereby an object on the shield, in this case the CHAMBER, the business part of a cannon, reflects by a kind of visual pun the name of the person remembered.

On entering All Saints itself, which became a Cathedral in 1927, you are struck by the simplicity, the lightness and the space, which many of our group loved. No over-bearing Gothic-ness here. The Cathedral was completely rebuilt in 1725 by James Gibbs in the Neo-Classical Style: there are no galleries and the only stained glass is in two modern windows beside the chancel, which let in such beautiful light even on such a dull day as we had.

To prevent the Cathedral looking too austere, the screen partly seen here was made by Robert Bakewell and placed wholly across the Cathedral. This, like the gates he made outside, has been painted blue and gold and form a delicate partition. Robert Bakewell (1682 – 1752) learnt his trade



in London, but was a local lad, and much of his work can still be seen in the area. (At Melbourne Hall there is a wrought iron arbour by him in the gardens, known as the Birdcage.) The Cathedral screen cost £157.10s 0d in the 1720s.

The magnificent alabaster memorial to Bess of Hardwick, who died in 1607 at 81 years old, can be found in the Cavendish chapel. She is buried in the family vault, along with other members of the family: many of whom have brass plaques in their memory along the south wall. There was one for Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, who found herself in a loveless marriage to the 5th Duke and who died aged 48 in 1806, leaving debts of over three million pounds in today's money!

Bess, Countess of Shrewsbury, had four husbands and we searched, on the shield surmounting the monument, for the coats of arms of all four: she was first married to Robert Barley and soon widowed at 16 years old; secondly to a Cavendish (*sable, three bucks' heads cabossed argent*); thirdly to Sir William St Loe (*argent, a bend sable*) and finally to a Talbot, the Earl of Shrewsbury (*gules, a lion rampant within a bordure engrailed or*). The Hardwick arms are: *argent, a saltire engrailed azure, on a chief of the second three cinquefoils of the first*.



The Quiz was negotiated well, even if some sought a default option of rushing or avoiding some tasks, in order to see more of a thoroughly enjoyable and beautiful setting that intrigued and fascinated, to the point where already group members have been making arrangements to re-visit, once the mysteries of travel into Derby City Centre had been overcome.

A very satisfying day out was completed by an excellent meal selected in advance from the previous month's Set Lunch at Lisa Jean's Bistro in Bennett's Department Store, just along the road from the Cathedral. Efficient and cheerful service, very acceptable choices, comfortable amounts, and delicious flavours seemed to go down agreeably, and the accompanying chat was such that one sub-group had to rush to avoid exceeding the nearby Assembly Rooms Car Park tariff these members had aimed at.

Text largely by Clare, slightly edited and supplemented by Vic, who also supplied the images