

K&D U3A EXPLORING HERALDRY GROUP

Autumn and Winter 2014-5

After our usual “live” outing to Lincoln Cathedral to end our third year as a group, at the request of the members we put our minds to four sessions, from October to January, on revisiting, recapping and revising the “basics” we’d covered since 2011.

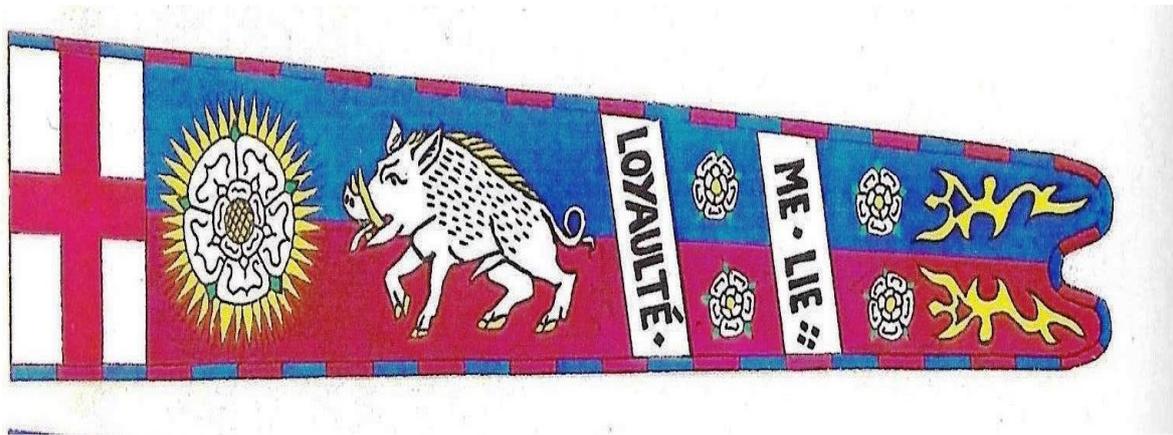
These sessions covered a wide range of topics, such as what a shield is composed of, how these contents are presented, the rules by which this is all (usually) achieved, the settings or decorative presentation of coats of arms, and even how wit or humour can be included, with a big wander through how heraldry is searched or researched, and a minor diversion into flags.



The arms of Dr Gavin Hardy, a phycologist (scientific seaweed expert), with a crest of his pet dog holding some bladderwrack, the inspiration for the design



The Bowes-Lyon *canting* (i/e. punning) arms as part of the Queen Mother’s Royal coat



The banner of Richard Duke of Gloucester, before he became King Richard III, and including the badge of a broom-seed (end right), giving its name (*genesta*) to the Plantagenet Dynasty of which he was the last royal member

We are now in a programme, for our monthly Feignies Room sessions, of each group member's Mini-Presentation of heraldry related, however loosely, to a place they know, so we have so far been to New Zealand, Devon, Shropshire, Middlesex, and the Baltic.



An excursion into the family home-territory of one member ...



... and Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, where another member's son lives

In our March meeting, we will travel to Durham, Brittany, Dover, Crich, Colchester and Wilmslow, with a mystery trip to the choice of our newest member, who joined in February.

We are working now on presenting these imaginative researches by our members in the form of a rollover slide-show for the Creative Keyworth K&D U3A show on 18th April in the Village Hall. From there we make a PowerPoint return to Thrumpton Hall (the location of our first outing, October 2011). Then we'll actually visit Thrumpton and Plumtree Churches, finishing the year with a Feignies Room session in July on Newstead Abbey, before a hoped-for visit that same weekend to the actual house.

And then it's on to 2015-6, for which we already have several exciting suggestions of things for the group to look at and work on, and of places to go.

Vic Taylor, Group Leader