

HISTORY IN BEDFORDSHIRE

VOLUME 6, NO 6

WINTER 2013/2014

www.bedfordshire-lha.org.uk

In this issue

Dr James Dyer: KEVAN FADDEN; **The Muster at the King's Manor of Ampthill in 1536:** MIKE TURNER
Book Notices

Dr James Dyer (1934–2013)

Bedfordshire archaeologist, lecturer, historian and author who readily shared his expertise

While at Luton Grammar School James began what was to become an obsession with archaeology. His inspiration came from meeting Professor Richard Atkinson and local worthies such as Dr John Dony and Mr Fredrick Kuhliche. Having formed the school's archaeology society, he led excavations at Galley Hill, Streatley. From the beginning James took expert advice and studied the subject diligently. He considered himself to be very fortunate to continue his research during his free time, whilst doing his National Service in the RAF near Cambridge.

Following his training at St John's College, York, he taught in local primary schools before taking up the post of Principal Lecturer in Archaeology at Putteridge Bury College of Education in Luton. Later returning to teaching, he set up an archaeological department at Harlington Upper School where his students achieved excellent results, some went on to follow archaeology as a career. He was a great friend and a Governor of Stopsley Primary School where he himself had been a pupil. He also had a lengthy and much appreciated connection with Farley Hill Junior School, Luton, going with pupils on a number of residential visits. His knowledge, enthusiasm and communication skills were invaluable on those occasions.

School boys
on Galley
Hill (James
Dyer Collec-
tion).



James was passionate about the history of his home town of Luton, and is credited with saving some of Luton's important historic buildings by campaigning against plans for their demolition in the 1960s and 1970s. In the late 1960s he led the successful fight to save the town's oldest building, the Moat House at Limbury, which dates back to 1370.

Plans to pull it down were scrapped and it was converted into a pub-restaurant.

John Buckledee, former editor of the *Luton News and Dunstable Gazette*, and now chairman of Dunstable and District Local History Society, said: 'James Dyer gave a huge amount of his time to help the *News/Gazette* whenever we had queries about local history. His depth of knowledge was extraordinary, whether we were asking about prehistoric hill forts or the name of a retired Luton schoolmaster. His book *The Story of Luton* was a constant source of information for the paper's 'Yesteryear' page. He was an expert on the life of that pioneering Dunstable historian Worthington G Smith and contributed an authoritative article about him for the *Dunstable Gazette's* Centenary Souvenir way back in 1965.'

Dr Elizabeth Adey, local history curator at Luton's Wardown Museum for many years, said: 'James Dyer was always a fount of knowledge and very supportive as I learnt about the history of Luton. Always willing to answer queries and to share his knowledge about Luton's history and archaeology, he did a tremendous amount to preserve the history of the town and will be missed by many people.'

James was an accomplished author, known for his fluid style and accuracy. He wrote over 20 books on archaeology and local history. *The Story of Luton* co-written with Dony and Stygall remains the definitive work on the town. In 1965 he was appointed editor of the much lamented *Bedfordshire Magazine*. Founder member of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council in 1959 he followed Bill (later Professor) Manning as editor of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal*, a post he held for seven years. He touched the lives of many through his books. Francis Pryor, well known to the general public for his many appearances on Channel 4's 'Time Team', has cited James as one of the reasons he became enthused with the subject. Mike Pitts, editor of *British Archaeology* wrote: 'I imagine many like me remember reading his guides from childhood.' Indeed, *Your Book of Prehistoric Britain* and *The Ravens* were written especially for children. However it is The Shire series which probably had the most impact. James became General Editor of the archaeology section in 1969 which now numbers nearly 100 titles, many of them masterpieces of condensed information on subjects as wide as *The Neolithic* by Dr Josh Pollard (past pupil of Harlington School) to *Aviation Archaeology* by Guy de la Bédoyère.

Scandinavia, Demark in particular, was always a huge magnet for James. Excavating there in the '70s he befriended the Nielson family and remained in close contact throughout his life. In fact Lars (second generation) made a special trip to England and spoke of their friendship at his funeral. Amongst his publications James wrote *Discovering Archaeology in Denmark*.

Hill forts have always attracted archaeologists and James was no exception. It was somewhat poignant the morning after his death to find an article in *British Archaeology* landing on the doorstep, with a photograph of him on a recent visit to Burrough Hill earthworks in Leicestershire. He had been the Director of Excavations there in 1960, so it was pleasing to see his initial findings used and extended using the latest techniques. It was appropriate that Michael Copper (Lecturer at Lancaster University and ex-pupil) wrote a moving poem on prehistoric earthworks as a eulogy.

Essentially, he was always a 'Stopsley boy', with a real interest in the locality as testified in his books. While researching in the village he got to know many residents. Their respect for him was evident by the overflowing church at his funeral. Here was a man of so many accomplishments, artist, photographer, cartographer, broadcaster and collector.

James Dyer born 23 February 1934 and died 8 October 2013, aged 79. KEVAN FADDEN

The Muster at the King's Manor of Ampthill in 1536*

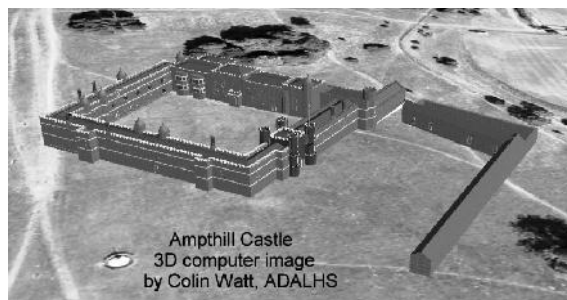
Rumours that the King intended to strip the churches of their valuables and impose an unprecedented tax upon the common people had contributed to an uprising in Lincolnshire in early October.

The rebellion needed putting down and King Henry VIII announced from Windsor his intention to advance against them in person or send some great personage against them. The Duke of Suffolk and other earls and lords with interests in that area, including Sir Francis Bryan were sent to face the rebels whilst a larger army was to be raised to ensure quiet in the rest of the country.

Letters were sent out under the Privy Signet from Windsor Castle on 7 October to various supporters of the King requiring them to prepare a number of men and horses fit for war, of whom so many were to be archers and to 'lead or send them to — by the — day of this month'. The details would be filled in according to where they were being sent. Letters were to be written to the ports and all the sea coasts, from Kent to Cornwall to search ships coming along the coast.

About 9 October the Duke of Norfolk was ordered to go to Ampthill as High Marshal to set the army ready for the King to arrive to 'view them and dismiss them from time to time with thanks and good entertainment'. Also to be sent were money and a treasurer, 6 guns, 8 or 10 feet long, powder, gunners, bows, etc, and possibly coats for the gentlemen's servants.

The army was appointed to assemble on 16 October at Ampthill. Some of the ordnance was heading for Stamford but could be diverted to Ampthill if requested.



Norfolk started rustling up all the gentlemen, abbots and priors who had been commanded to send men. He asked Thomas Cromwell send him at least 400 bows and 500 sheaves of arrows because he was having trouble getting them.

On 10 October the Lord Chamberlain was sent to Ampthill to prepare food and lodging for the 'King and his train and such as shall repair thither to attend on his Grace's person'. He had a commission to command 'by his billet'. A number of local gentry were appointed to help him. The King was hoping to assemble 40,000 men at Ampthill within the six days.

On 11 October the Duke of Norfolk made arrangements to protect his own house and the sea coast and asked Cromwell to send the bows and arrows to Cambridge where his company would be passing through. He still needed more money for harness and coats for the men and asked for a licence for his men to take carts to carry his bills (weapons) from London. He also queried whether it might not be better for him to take his company to Huntingdon which would be nearer to the enemy.

On 12 October 77 letters were sent out countermanding the order for the King's supporters to report to Ampthill as the rebels in Lincolnshire had been overthrown. The persons addressed were to return home but keep an eye out for scattered rebels.

It was about this time that a rebellion was starting in Holderness and Yorkshire, later to be known as the Pilgrimage of Grace with Robert Aske as leader.

The Duke of Norfolk was on his way but still did not want to go to Ampthill but would rather meet up with the King at Huntingdon. It was important for him to stay with his company to ensure they kept coming.

The Duke of Suffolk writes to the King to ask whether he will pardon the Lincolnshire rebels and thus allow his forces to proceed north towards the rebels in the North. They would then be in between the two rebel areas in case the Lincolnshire one rose again.

On 15 October the King agreed to the pardon for all except the 'ringleading' gentlemen who would be questioned and released apart from some who for their offences should be sent to the King. Suffolk was instructed to go to Lincoln to hold that safe while the Earls of Shrewsbury, Rutland and Huntingdon with all the forces of Leicestershire and Nottingham were to proceed against the northern rebels.

On 17 October the Earl of Shrewsbury writes to the Duke of Norfolk stating that the rebels number 40,000 and increase daily while his force numbered only 7,000 and he needed more men sent to him from the mustering at Ampthill. The King requests the Duke of Norfolk and the Marquis of Exeter with the Gloucestershire men numbering 5,000 to advance towards the Earl of Shrewsbury. Sir Antony Browne having only 560 men readied was instructed to go with 10 pieces of ordnance to the Duke of Suffolk.

Money to pay the men was becoming an increasing problem. Wages of 8d a day were agreed for men on horseback but they must have different rates for those who fight on horseback, e.g., lancers and mounted archers, and those who merely use horses to get there and fight on foot.

On 18 October Norfolk's men numbering over 4,000 are at Cambridge, Exeter's were at Buckingham stayed by the countermand and the 5,000 Gloucestershire men were at Stony Stratford. Norfolk and the other lords were concerned that their men must be paid to avoid disorder. All complain that they cannot live on 8d a day. The Lord Steward (Shrewsbury) desired £20,000 and Norfolk needed at least £10,000 to avoid disruption among the men.

On 20 October Norfolk and Essex received orders from the Privy Council to join up with the Lord Steward (Shrewsbury) as soon as possible whilst 2,000 persons on horseback and on foot were to be assembled at Ampthill and sent to support Suffolk in Lincolnshire.

Norfolk, at Cambridge, was getting increasingly concerned about the orders being received from the Privy Council. He had sent some of his company home. All the army appointed to come to Ampthill had been sent home. He was not prepared to let Suffolk have any of his armaments (six falconets, 20 small iron pieces carried in two carts, 1,000 bows, 1,000 sheaves of arrows and 500 bills).

Sir William Poulet and Sir William Kyngston reported to the Privy Council that the number of the army at this time assembled was 19,394 of which 2,000 were added to Norfolk's own band along with 1,000 Gloucestershire men and, with Sir Antony Browne, 560; with Exeter, 2,000; the residue returned 'were able and well furnished'. Poulet and Kyngston had left Ampthill and were at Beaconsfield when they received letters asking them to retain 2,000 men at Ampthill. They said they would return to Ampthill and do their best, preferably to get horsemen but would reluctantly make up the numbers with footmen.

The King was concerned that with the number of rebels rising in Yorkshire there was a risk of a new uprising in Lincolnshire and hence Suffolk needed more support.

On 21 October the King sent out a circular letter thanking the persons for obeying the commission to muster and explaining that, on hearing that the rebellion in Lincolnshire had been appeased, he had deferred his journey to Ampthill and had sent many of his subjects home. He now understood there was an uprising in Yorkshire and although he had

already sent forces to repress the same he thought it necessary to have an 'army royal' in case he needed to advance in person. He requests the persons addressed to attend him 'with — men of whom — shall be archers and be ready to advance at an hours warning to such a place as shall be appointed'.

Poulet and Kyngston were requested to raise 2,000 men and send them to the Duke of Suffolk, 1,000 marks being provided for their 'conduct money', and if the ordnance was still at Ampthill to send to Suffolk one cartload of bills, one cartload of bows and arrows, a third of javelins, with strings and 10 pieces of ordnance. All the rest of the ordnance at Ampthill was to be returned to Windsor.

Sir William Poulet and Sir William Kyngston, based at Ampthill, let the Lord Privy Seal, Thomas Cromwell, know that they had received news that the Duke of Suffolk and the Lord Admiral felt themselves strong enough with the help of local gentlemen in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire and had stopped Sir Antony Browne in Stamford. It looked likely that the rebels in Yorkshire would withdraw on the appearance of the Duke of Norfolk and the Lord Steward's forces. Poulet and Kyngston doubted they could easily raise the 2,000 men. They would hold still until they heard from the King:

'Every gentleman's band discharged upon the musters be sent home into their countries and so severed that they cannot be suddenly collected. The best horsed men went with Sir Francis Brian, and since with Sir Ant Brown, so that the rest will be footmen, and not more than 500 or 600 in all.'

On Sunday, 22 October, the King sends a letter to the Duke of Suffolk noting the latter's report of proceedings and his query regarding how much to pay in wages. He notes that, whilst he was entirely satisfied with the proceedings, yet 'the reports of the numbers of rebels sent at sundry times by you, Sir Francis Brian, John Wingfield, and others show some contrariety'. However, he had confidence in them. Each man on horseback was to have 8d a day, and the captains and petty captains their accustomed wages. He thanks them for not expending more than £2,284. He sends John Gostyke £3,000 to cover this. He wants Sir Antony Browne to go to them with 600 men raised by Sir William Poulet and Sir William Kyngston at Ampthill. He instructs Suffolk to remain at Lincoln with his men unless Norfolk and Shrewsbury request help.

Also on 22 October, Poulet and Kyngston reply to Cromwell that they had already sent the men home from Ampthill after the muster and they will not be able to raise 2,000 men again at short notice. They were hoping to raise 600 men in the county. The messenger, Greneway, from the Duke of Suffolk, declared Lincolnshire to be quiet and Sir Antony Browne stayed at Stamford to save money. The King wanted them to send to Suffolk the ordnance and artillery that Browne should have had but they answered that Norfolk took what he wanted for Browne and himself to Stamford. They have asked Browne to 'learn my Lord Suffolk's mind' and to go to him with the artillery and his company of 500 men

and that the 600 well-horsed able men be returned. It appears he had little need of able men.

The loads of bows, arrows, strings, bills and javelins and 10 pieces of ordnance that should have gone to Sir Antony Browne, the King now asks to be held at Ampthill and if possible sent to Windsor but this instruction came too late because 'the ordnance will be this Sunday in London and Windsor'.

The Privy Council noted the difficulty in raising 2,000 men and conveys the King's thanks for trying. Suffolk writes that he thinks he does not require more men, nevertheless, if Paulet and Kyngston can raise 500 or 600 men, they are to send them to him with 10 pieces of ordnance. Paulet and Kyngston reply noting that Suffolk needs no more men and ordnance, so they have asked Sir Antony Browne at Stamford to offer to go to Suffolk and the Lord Admiral. They also asked him to keep the number of men he has and send no more men back. Browne had already returned to them for money 120 tall men horsed and they were aware that he had returned 500 at several times because they were more than the 560 wanted by Norfolk. They confirmed that all the ordnance left by Norfolk and Browne at Ampthill had gone towards Windsor and London as requested on Friday, 20 October. If the King wanted them to continue to raise the 2,000 men they would send for Sir John Bruges, Sir John Russell, Mr Welsh and others who have great numbers but it would take some time. Norfolk had said when departing that he would have men in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire provided he had enough money. Paulet and Kyngston would prepare 500 or 600 men, and ask whether they should proceed or stay at Ampthill.

On Monday, 23 October Norfolk had received £5,000 and my Lord Marquis £500 for his movement from Ampthill to my Lord Steward. The Gloucestershire men had also been paid.

Paulet and Kyngston received notification from the King to send 600 men to Suffolk immediately. They reply that the best men from Beds, Bucks and Northants had already been sent with Sir Francis Brian, Sir William Aparre and Sir John Seint John but they would do their best. Regarding the request for ordnance to be sent immediately, they reminded the Council that Norfolk had taken sufficient for himself and Sir Antony Browne which is now at Stamford. The rest had already left Ampthill for Windsor and London. They noted that

'this country is barren of men and victual, and we hear they are sore straited in Stamford for victual, as the whole army passes that way. Many of the army in going forward take men's horse and mares from the plough, without any agreement or restitution'.

They agreed to sort it out with justices of the peace so there would be as little hurt as possible. They managed to raise 640 men from which they would select the best.

An account is given of the moneys received at Ampthill for payment of wages £11,651 3s 0d. It was distributed as follows:

£2,500 to Duke of Norfolk; £500 to the Marquis of Exeter; £800 to Sir Nich Poyntz, Sir Ant Hungerforde, Sir Edm Thame; and
Mr Anth Kyngston: £5,118 8s for wages and coats for the residue of the army at Ampthill, £2,200 for the army going forward with Norfolk and for Mr Gostwike;
£500 to Norfolk by William Howard by command of Paulet and Kyngston;
Total £11,618 8s.

The muster at Ampthill was over.

On 7 November Francis Halle, on going to Ampthill, reported to Lord Lisle that the King and Queen are in good health, and all things are well pacified in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. The Duke of Suffolk, Sir Francis Bryan, Sir John Russell and Sir Anthony Browne were still at Lincoln. As is well recorded, the ringleaders and many of the gentlemen involved in the two rebellions were executed in the following months.

*This article was prepared by Mike Turner, of Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society, in March 2013, using information obtained from the *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII*, volume 11, October 1536. The picture is rather confused, illustrating the difficulties in communication in a time of near panic over the rebellions in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. The numbers of men involved varies from correspondent to correspondent but some idea can be obtained of the numbers and the difficulties of providing arms and payment of the men. For more detailed information try www.british-history.ac.uk which gives access to the Letters and Papers.

M J B TURNER

Book Notices

We have received the following titles which we have been unable to review in this issue because of pressure on space but hope to do so in the Spring issue of HIB, to be published in April:

Bedford Town Centre Statues: A Self-Guided Walk with Street Map, by Stuart Antrobus, price £5, all proceeds to the charity Hitchin British Schools Trust and obtainable from them by post (£5.60) at 41/42 Queen Street, Hitchin SG4 9TS (www.britishschoolmuseum.co.uk); in Bedford at the Tourist Information Centre, The Higgins Museum and the John Bunyan Museum.

A well printed guide to the statues (in colour) with notes on the sculptures and the artists who created them.

The Hat Industry of Luton and its Buildings, by Katie Carmichael, David McOmish and David Grech, highlights the significance of the surviving buildings of the industry and proposes a strategy for future conservation. English Heritage offers members of BLHA a **15% discount** and **free p and p** (rrp £9.99). Tel 01235 465577 or e-mail:

direct.orders@marston.co.uk

quoting reference No: 7220140002. Offer expires 1 June 2014.

Books by Bernard O'Connor: *The Bedfordshire Fossil Diggings* (£12), *The Bedford Spy School* (£7), and *Bedford School's Secret Old Boys* (£10), see the www.lulu.com website

History in Bedfordshire is published by the
BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION
For HIB: Editor: Ted Martin, 2A The Leys, Langford, Beds SG18 9RS.
Telephone: 01462 701096

For BLHA: Secretary: Clive Makin, 32 Grange Road, Barton Le Clay, Bedford MK45 4RE. Telephone: 01582 655785

Contributions are very welcome **and needed**: please telephone the editor before sending any material. Copyright © 2013 Bedfordshire Local History Association and contributors. ISSN 0968-9761. Printed in Great Britain by Streets Process Colour Print, Baldock, Herts.