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Lent Term 2007

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A message from the President

We've had an extraordinarily exciting term, enriched with history, heraldry and genealogy. I'm pleased to say that this has been made possible largely by CUH&GS members through a great success of coordination: Dr Berthold Kress (Secretary 2003-2006) gave a talk about his adventurous PhD research, "Paul Lautensack and the Arms of God"; Operatic Tenor Mr Anando Mukerjee (President 2000-2002) gave a fascinating discourse on "The Chamber of Princes" in India, which was replete with entertaining stories. Indeed



The President's
speech at the
Annual Dinner

we couldn't have found a better person to present this genealogical history and accompanying heraldry. Mr Mukerjee has a personal interest in the subject along with an impressive pedigree that traces his lineage back to the Sen Dynasty on the maternal line and the Mukerjee Clan of Bengal (both circa 11th century A.D.) and is a member of several princely orders.

For our Commemorative Mountbatten Lecture, Mr Peter O'Donoghue, Bluemantle Pursuivant, (President 1993-1994) enlightened us with humorous stories and intrigue of the College of Arms in the 18th century. The timing of Peter's talk was superb since, shortly beforehand we had been given a tour of the College of Arms by the Somerset Herald, David White, (President 1982-1983). We explored places from newly decorated rooms to the old library that housed delicate books containing some of the most exquisite heraldry. The College of Arms was beautifully presented with Mr Somerset's articulate explanations of portraits and breathtaking heraldry.

Derek Palgrave, one of our most dedicated committee members, gave an informative talk on "Monuments, Memorials and Gravestones". He illustrated the ways in which we could investigate our ancestors through names and heraldry without referring to paper documents. I am pleased to say that all of the above mentioned speakers will be attending the 50th Anniversary celebration on 9th June.

Of course also present at the festivities will be our Society's sage - Dr Gordon Wright - a clever young gentleman who will soon reach the impressive age of 90 - he is, after all, younger than many academics at Cambridge. This term, my brothers and sister had the pleasure of meeting Gordon before Anando Mukerjee's talk. Unbeknownst to my siblings, Gordon was on a reconnaissance mission to collect as much information as possible about their eldest sister, AKA "the bossy one", which he found "very hard to believe" (Dr Berthold Kress however, calls me the Sergeant Major). Overall it mustn't be that bad, since the committee has asked me to serve again as President, a responsibility I'm happy to continue during my last year at Cambridge. Of course, as you've probably observed from the speakers mentioned above, I will also have the responsibility of someday giving a talk at CUH&GS myself. Hence I might also take this opportunity to welcome any other former Presidents of CUH&GS to contact me should they wish to give a talk on the subject of heraldry and genealogy at any time they wish.

Sending all my best for a happy Spring,

Monica Lee Morrill

THE GOLD DOUBLE LEOPARD OF EDWARD III

Martin Allen, Department of Coins and Medals, Fitzwilliam Museum

The coin in the Fitzwilliam Museum

The Double Leopard is one of the rarest and most beautiful of English medieval gold coins, full of heraldic and religious symbolism. It was issued for a period of only six months between January and July 1344, and demonetised in August 1344. Until recently no examples of this coin had been found since 1857, when two of them were found by boys scavenging in the mud of the River Tyne. A new specimen of the Double Leopard was found in February 2006, and sold at auction in June 2006. It is now on loan to the Fitzwilliam Museum, where it can be seen in the Rothschild Gallery.



The Double Leopard and gold coinage in fourteenth-century England

England had no gold coinage of its own between 1257 and 1344, but by the early fourteenth century foreign gold coins such as the Florin of Florence were increasingly used for large payments by merchants and the aristocracy. King Edward III (1327-77) also needed large quantities of gold coins for his military and diplomatic expenditure in the early stages of the Hundred Years War, and in December 1343 he commissioned his own gold coinage from George Kirkyn and Lote Nicholyn of Florence. These Florentine mint-masters, who presumably had

experience of the production of gold coins in Italy, were to make three different denominations: the Double Leopard worth 6 shillings, the Leopard of 3 shillings (equivalent to the official valuation of the Italian Florin) and the Helm or Half Leopard of 1 shilling 6 pence. The new coins, which were first produced by the royal mint in the Tower of London in January 1344, were a commercial failure, because the official valuation of the Florin was too high. In July 1344 production of the new gold coinage was discontinued, and a royal proclamation decreed that people were no longer obliged to take it in payment. In August 1344 a further proclamation demonetised the new coins, reducing them to their bullion value, and most of them were quickly recycled into a new gold coinage based upon the Noble (worth 6 shillings 8 pence or one third of a pound). The three surviving Double Leopards were probably lost by their owners in 1344, before the failed coinage was completely removed from circulation.

The design of the Double Leopard

The royal proclamation authorizing the issue of the new gold coins in January 1344 specified 'one coin of two leopards, the piece current for six shillings', and these two leopards (or, more correctly, two heraldic lions of England) gave the Double Leopard its name. These two leopards or lions are shown crouched at each side of King Edward III's throne, deliberately recalling the throne of King Solomon described in the Old Testament, which had 'pillars on each side of the sitting place and two lions standing by the pillars' (2 Chron. ix.v.18). Many inhabitants of fourteenth-century England, versed in Biblical imagery, may have understood the implied connection between Edward III and the wise King Solomon. The magnificent depiction of Edward III on his throne, under an elaborate Gothic canopy, resembles the gold Masse d'or of King Philip IV of France (1285-1314), issued in 1296 as a double Florin, but it also has similarities to Edward III's sixth Great Seal, made in 1340. This design was an unmistakable symbol of royal authority. The many small fleurs-de-lis in the background of the enthroned image are taken from the royal arms of France, in a clear reference to Edward III's claim to the French throne.

On the reverse side of the coin is a cross, representing the paramount importance of Christianity in medieval England, combined with crowns and English 'leopards', symbolising royal power. The Latin inscription around the cross is taken from the Vulgate version of the Bible (Luke iv.v.30), and it can be translated as 'Jesus, passing through the midst of them, went on his way'. In the Bible this refers to Jesus passing through a hostile crowd of pharisees, and it was widely used in medieval England as a charm against thieves or the other perils of travel. Superstitious medieval travellers may have felt slightly safer on the roads of medieval England with this inscription on their coins, although it did not save the owner of this Double Leopard from its loss.

CUHAGS QUIRINALIAN QUEST AT THE COLLEGE OF ARMS

Lester Hillman

CUHAGS Quirinalian foray to the College of Arms, Saturday 17th February 2007, coincided with the fourth anniversary of the introduction of the Congestion Charge and the eve of its spectacular encirclement of lands westwards. Gathered at the College on the frontier of the City's 'Ring of Steel' our President paid tribute to the heroic journeys of those assembled. Our hardy Honorary Vice President Gordon Wright led those from Cambridge and others journeyed from further afield including Nottingham.



The hardy CUHAGS souls can be seen draped across the steps of the College of Arms, effortlessly juggling the visit with commemorations for the Feast of Quirinus honouring Romulus and St Fintan of Clonenagh Day.

The quorum assembled at the rail of the newly grained and repainted Court of the Earl Marshal, works of restoration that had given rise to a rescheduling of our visit but the wait had been worthwhile. Here we paused briefly to reflect on Manchester. Fresh from spectacular triumph in the recent Super Casino war and now lauded with rights to dispense viagra we were reminded that it was Manchester's heraldic sensibilities that had tested and upheld the status of this Court, an achievement remaining unchallenged since 1954.

Echoes of transport whispered to us down the years in the unfolding imagery. Those of us who had passed through Euston on the London Underground saw again in the documented grants of Charles II the distinctive Fitzroy Coat of Arms. The heraldic images proudly proclaim colourful lineage in the station motifs and platform decorations. Our visual journey also included insights into present day

grants within the Royal Family including that of HRH Duchess of Cornwall and the ciphers of Princes William and Harry. There was time to view recent refinements to Royal Mail and Colleges of Education grants.

We gazed upon the arms of Captain Cook, his quests traced around a globe, in a design drawn up under the eye of his widow.

**To the perpetual
disgrace of
Public Justice
The Hon John Byng
Esq
Admiral of the Blue
Fell a martyr to
Political
Persecution
March 14 in the year
1757
When Bravery and
Loyalty
Were insufficient**

Poignant records of another 18th Century maritime drama and execution were revealed in respect of Admiral Byng for whom a 250th Anniversary loomed. We read coffin plate transcription pasted into a volume of such records.

The seafaring theme continued with Captain Baines and a family tree tracing a rocky course from the early nineteenth century to contemporary times. From coffin plates we went almost to skull and cross bones. Captain Baines had not quite adopted the Jolly Roger but imaginative word play

(Baines / bones) was at the heart of the imagery in the coat of arms.

The arms of “Gorbels Mick”, Speaker of the House of Commons Sir Michael Martin rejoiced in an eclectic mix of bagpipes, engineering and railways.

Queuing for our attention were the arms of pop stars and musicians Elton John, Cliff Richard and Sir Paul McCartney. Music and transport featured in the arms of another Martin, this time Sir George Martin. His badge manages to convey the 'Beatles' association by way of a zebra with crozier, this being an allusion to Abbey Road on the Beatles LP and the iconic image of the zebra crossing. Indeed the faint lights of the globe illuminations above us reminded of belisha beacons. On the day of our visit the beacons standing sentinel at the crossings on Queen Victoria Street were respectfully dark - perhaps as a mark of respect for the morrow of the 50th anniversary of the death in Rheims of Leslie Hore-Belisha and after whom they took their name. This stimulated discussion about the exotic origins of such a name and consultation of the documentary record of this oxonian politician and peer, created 1st Baron Hore-Belisha of Devonport in 1954.

We were able to continue discussion and express our appreciation over refreshments. We eschewed St Fintan's favoured and austere diet “barley bread and clayey water” and were indebted to our host for very kind and generous hospitality. Our thanks to David White for a transport of delight.

THE CHAMBER OF PRINCES

Anando Mukerjee

The first lecture of the Lent Term was given by former Society President, Anando Mukerjee. With his Indian background, he was well placed to describe the evolution of the Conciliar Body which came to represent the very large number of territorial rulers within British India.

Negotiations between successive Viceroys and the many Princes had started in the late 19th century but it was not until 1921 that the Chamber of Princes was inaugurated and its function defined by Royal Proclamation. Its role was slightly more limited than its members had anticipated but nevertheless it provided a firm framework for collective discussion on common concerns.

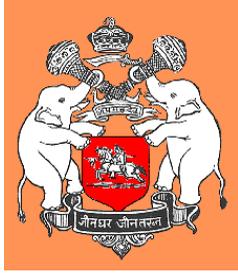
The Chamber comprised 120 Princes, 108 of whom were deemed to possess full internal sovereignty in their domains so they were granted full permanent hereditary membership: the remaining 12 were elected to represent Princes of 127 “lesser” rulers. Over 300 other territories in princely India especially in the East, including Bengal, were not represented.

It had been intended that meetings would be held annually but, in practice, every other year became the norm. There were small standing committees of five or six members meeting on a more frequent basis although in 1939 these numbers were increased to 30. In addition a number of ad hoc committees were established to liaise on constitutional and financial affairs.

Representatives of the Chamber were involved in some negotiations preceding independence in 1947 but were unable to secure any formal or legal recognition. Twenty years later in 1967 a major Conference inaugurated the “Consultation of Rulers of Indian States in Concord for India” known generally as “Concord” but this, unlike the Chamber, had no official Government sponsorship. However it developed a coherent organisation and became more representative and democratic and successfully achieved the active support of virtually all the most powerful of the princes.

In spite of this and within three years, the Indian Government had drafted legislation to derecognize the Princes but this was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. A year later a new Parliament reintroduced the legislation and, having appointed a new Supreme Court, was able to secure its objective.

The speaker concluded his presentation by projecting a sequence of slides illustrating some of the Armorial bearings used by the Princes, revealing heraldry with a unique Indian flavour.



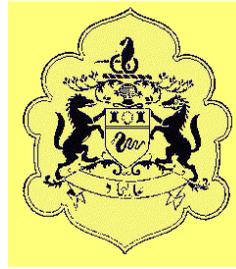
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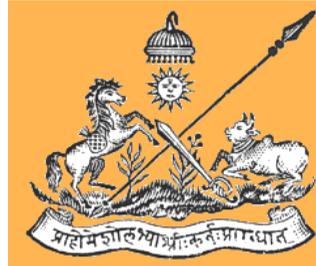
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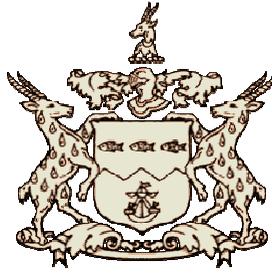
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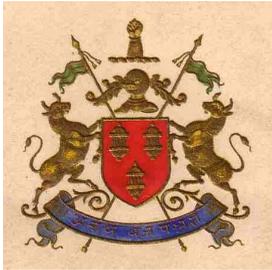
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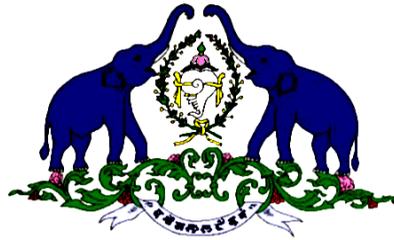
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|---------------|--------------------------|
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| B BHOPAL | K PATIALA |
| C BIKANER | L NAWANGARH |
| D GWALIOR | M DHRANGADHRA |
| E HYDER | N TRAVANCORE |
| F INDORE | |
| G JODH | |
| H KASHMIR | P The Chamber of Princes |
| I KUTCH | |

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR C.U.H.A.G.S. ARMORIAL BEARINGS

Following the publication of some preliminary designs in the Michaelmas issue of the Escutcheon, the Society has received a number of letters from members expressing not only their views on those options but also some new proposals. There was very widespread support for the idea of alluding to the structure of DNA in the mantling and the need to ensure that the fur, pean, was prominently featured in the achievement. The motto CONTINUATIONEM GENTIS FOVERE was proposed.

There was much support for the inclusion of a crane either on the shield or as a crest (3): one suggestion was “pean a crane proper” (1), but another was that the University Arms suitably differenced (4) should remain the inspiration for the shield. One correspondent favoured a lion’s head with a collar of light blue forget-me-nots for a crest (2).



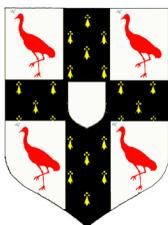
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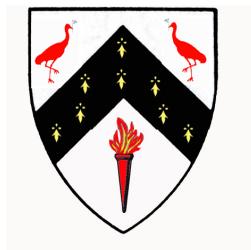
2



3



4



5

Illustration 5 is a very simple design featuring a torch alluding to education rather than the more orthodox book in the University Arms.

INTERPRETING THE ARMS OF MALCOLM HOWE



Above is an illustration of the Arms of Society member, Malcolme Howe, who spoke to us last term about “Portugal’s Perplexing Panels: A Genealogical Solution”.

Malcolm was so pleased with this splendid black and white interpretation by Michael Macarthy that he thought the Society would be interested in publishing it.

CURRENT AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

13-15 April, 2007

**GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES
Annual Conference**

28 April, 2007

**DONCASTER & DISTRICT F.H.S.
Spring Family History Fair**

21 April, 2007

**SCOTTISH ASSOC OF F H SOCIETIES
Culloden, Inv**

5-7 May, 2007

**SOC OF GENEALOGISTS F H SHOW
Olympia, London**

13 May, 2007

**KENT FAMILY HISTORY FAIR
Maidstone**

16-19 May, 2007

**NATIONAL GEN SOC CONF & FAIR
Richmond, Virginia, USA**

30 June, 2007

**YORK FAMILY HISTORY FAIR
York Racecourse**

8 September, 2007

**NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY FAIR
Gateshead**

6 October

**SUFFOLK F.H.S. FAIR & A.G.M.
Debenham, Suffolk**

For full details of the events listed above please visit <http://geneva.weald.org.uk>

BOOK REVIEWS

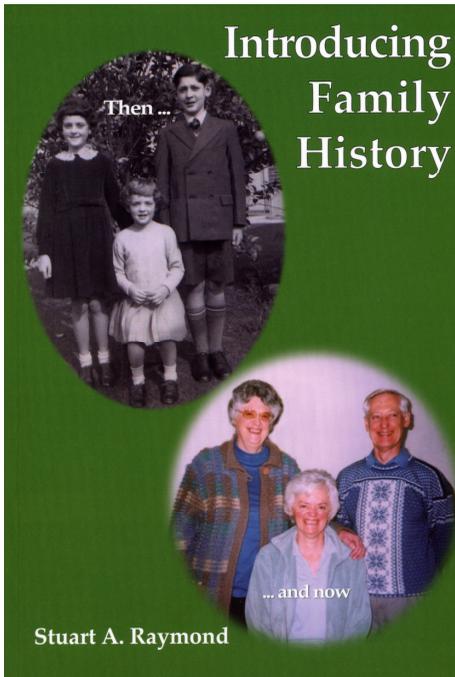
New Publications from the Federation of Family History Societies

INTRODUCING FAMILY HISTORY, Stuart A Raymond, 2006, 146pp, 148 x 210 mm, paperback, ISBN 1-86006-196-6, £8-95

It is becoming progressively more and more difficult to write a worthwhile primer for family historians because the methodology is changing so rapidly. In 1980, when the Federation published the late George Pelling's "*Beginning Your Family History*", researchers were still relying on original records or films which they usually had to consult in a suitable archive repository. Although many newly formed family history societies had begun several major projects to transcribe and index

Local Census Returns and the corresponding Parish Records, it was still necessary to devote a significant proportion of one's time in record offices.

At that time very little relevant advice was available apart from lectures and workshops organised by local family history societies. Nowadays there is a bewildering array of publications, CD-ROMs, websites, broadcasts, family history fairs, commercial initiatives and formal courses on offer. Whilst Pelling gave practical advice on what to do and where to go in order to concentrate on a relatively narrow range of basic sources, Raymond, in "*Introducing Family History*", gives us broad overview of instructional manuals, a wide range of primary sources and secondary material together with a very useful glossary of abbreviations and acronyms.



Furthermore the reader can benefit from Raymond's experience as a librarian which shines through the copious references to pamphlets, books and websites.

For the novice, with little or no experience of family history research, this is an ideal publication to whet the appetite.

FINDING OUT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY HISTORY, Kathy Chater and Simon Fowler, 2006, 30pp, 148 x 210 mm, paperback, ISBN 1-86006-202-4, £2-99.

Compared with Stuart Raymond's publication mentioned above this is a very superficial treatment of the subject. It is little more than a pamphlet of the sort that is often given away at fairs and exhibitions. It does list a number of websites but omits one of the most useful, namely www.genuki.org.uk.

BASIC FACTS ABOUT QUARTER SESSION RECORDS, Richard Ratcliffe, 16pp, 148 x 210 mm, paperback, ISBN 1-86006-206-3, £2-50.

The author has been lecturing on this topic for well over twenty years and he has distilled into this slim booklet much of his experience not only as a teacher but also as a researcher in this field. He covers all the major types of document within this category and spells out the value of each to the family historian. In spite of the limited number of pages, this work is a first class reference work. Read in conjunction with Jeremy Gibson's "*Quarter Sessions Records*", which lists the whereabouts of these archives on a county by county basis, the reader should be well prepared to explore this cornucopia of fascinating evidence.

NELSON'S NAVY 1793-1815, Keith Gregson, 32pp, 148 x 210 mm, paperback, ISBN 1-86006-200-8, £3-95.

This is a no-nonsense booklet which explains the classes and nature of the records held by the National Archives at Kew and at the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich. It includes references to documents and films at the Society of Genealogists, the Royal Naval Museum Library and the Royal Marines Museum. It has a useful bibliography and lists key websites and addresses.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1939-1945, Phil Tomaselli, 48pp, 148 x 210 mm, paperback, ISBN 1-86006-201-6, £4-95.

The author points out that although the service records, of those who served in the Second World War, have not been released, a great deal of material is available to the next-of-kin of those who served. Details of medals and promotions, which will have been announced in the London Gazette, can be consulted on line.

Casualties and Prisoners-of-War can be identified in one case via the Commonwealth War Graves website and in the other by consulting the lists in Record Class WO 392 at the National Archives. Unit records exist in the form of War Diaries, Ships logs, Operation Record Books, Combat Reports, etc. Naval and Military museums hold some records and are worth visiting.

Newspapers are also a valid source, whilst, in Leeds, the Second World War Experience Centre has a growing collection of material donated by servicemen and their relatives. The book concludes with a short bibliography

NOTICES AND GENERAL NEWS

Congratulations to our President

It is with much pleasure that we announce that our President, Monica Morrill, and Gratian Yatsevitch are engaged to be married. We wish them every happiness.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will take place in the Thirkill Room at 3-00 p.m. on Saturday, 12th May, 2007. In addition dealing with the normal business of reporting on the Society's activities and solvency, plus electing Officers and Committee for the next academic year, the Executive Committee will be suggesting some minor changes to the Society's Constitution (see below).

Further Changes to the Society's Constitution

In the **Escutcheon**, Volume 11 No 3 (Easter 2006), we published a list of proposed amendments to the Constitution to provide an opportunity for members to decide if they wished to see them adopted at the next A.G.M. Since then the committee has received some further suggestions which are set out below.

Further suggestions for amendments to the Constitution

4.1 - Membership of the Society shall be open to members of Cambridge University. *Non-members of the University*, showing an interest in the objects of the Society, *may*, by invitation of the Executive Committee, *become members of the Society*.

Add to clause 4.2: *A Vice-President of the Society may, from time to time, be elected at a General Meeting and shall not be subject to annual re-election.*

4.3 Subscriptions shall be payable at the rate determined by the Executive Committee of the Society *subject to the approval of the Society's A. G. M.*

5.2 A General Meeting shall have the power to remove any officer or Committee member from office and, *if it so choses*, to elect a replacement to serve until the next Annual General Meeting

5.6 With the exception of the Senior Treasurer, no officer or member of the Executive Committee shall serve for more than three consecutive years without a Special Resolution of the Members in General Meeting *permitting a longer period*

5.7 *An individual to scrutinise the Society's annual accounts shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting*

6.2.1 Add to the final sub-clause “*for the Officers and Committee under Rule 5*”

6.3 The business to be transacted at an Annual General Meeting shall be:

- In the absence of the President, to elect a Chairman of the Meeting
- To record apologies for absence
- To confirm the Minutes of the previous General Meeting(s)
- To elect a Member to scrutinise the Society's Accounts
- To consider Matters submitted in advance in accordance with Clause 6.6 of the Society's Constitution

6.8 *Additional clause*

Members unable to be present at a General Meeting may apply to the Secretary for a proxy form to authorise another member to vote on his/her behalf. No member may hold more than two proxies at any one meeting

6.7 A quorum for General Meetings shall be twenty members, present in person *or by proxy*, or 25% of the membership, whichever is the *fewer*

6.9.1 not necessary - see 6.7.

8.1 add "in each year"

11. omit completely or reword “The Secretary shall furnish new members on joining with a copy of the Constitution of the Society”

GRANT OF ARMS APPEAL

Although the amount Pledged is still a few pounds short of the target of £8,000 the Committee has decided to proceed with the application for a Grant of Arms so if anyone who has not yet got around to making a Pledge or is moved to add to his/her original Pledge, THERE IS STILL TIME! Please contact the Appeal Treasurer (d'Arcy Orders) – address below

The Committee greatly appreciates the support which Members and Past Presidents have given the Appeal. To date, provisional reservations for 84 places at the Accession Banquet on 9th June have been received. The absolute capacity of Clare Great Hall is 120 so, if you haven't yet made a reservation, contact d'Arcy Orders. A formal application for places will be mailed in mid-May; those with provisional reservations will be given priority.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please note that d'Arcy Orders has moved to 21, Gretton Court, High Street, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0QN [Tel: 01223 279159; Email: darcy.orders@yahoo.co.uk]