



POSSE NOLLE NOBILE

Wingfield

FAMILY SOCIETY

*Wynkefelde the Saxon held honour
and fee, ere William the Norman
came over the sea.*

ANCIENT SUFFOLK ENGLAND RHYME

SPRING 2018 ISSUE
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2017 Wingfield Sculls: British Amateur Sculling Championship and Championship of the Thames

By IAN WINGFIELD, WFS INTERNATIONAL VP
PHOTOS BY TIM KOCH

It was a glorious sunny day on 16 November 2017 and near perfect conditions for the 177th annual Wingfield Sculls and 11th Women's Wingfield Sculls.

The race is open to all scullers of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, registered to race with British Rowing. The course runs from Putney Bridge along the River Thames in a westerly direction to Chiswick Bridge for 4 and one quarter miles in London, England.



Shortly after the start, left to right; Rawlins, Hodgkins-Byrne, Perry

The single sculls race was first held in 1830 at the suggestion of **Henry Colsell Wingfield** (1805-1861) of Westminster, as part of a wager with some friends. Henry presented a pair of miniature silver sculls to the race winner on the basis that the race 'to be held by the best' as long as they agreed to race in single sculls on his birthday, 10th August, 'for ever'.

Unfortunately, due to the timings of the competitive racing season this has not been possible and the race now takes place in November. Since then, the Wingfield Sculls has been organized by a committee of former winners who also appoint an umpire from

their number. The Women's Wingfields is a revival of the Women's Amateur Rowing Championship, first raced in 1927 and re-activated under the Wingfield's banner in 2007.

This year on behalf of the Wingfield Family Society (WFS) International Vice-President, **Ian Wingfield** attended, as did **Edward Mervyn Wingfield** from London who many WFS members met while in Ireland when having dinner at his parents' beautiful house Salterbridge, Co. Waterford, as part of the 2017 WFS Tour of England & Ireland.

The Women's race commenced at 10:15am, but unfortunately the world's silver medal sculler **Vicky Thornley**

had to withdraw on the morning of the race due to illness. This reduced the number of rowers to 3, but indirectly made the event more competitive.

Charlotte Hodgkins-Byrne (University of London Boat Club) got away first, but by Hammersmith Bridge **Francesca Rawlins** (Tideway Scullers) started to pull away and eventually won in a time of 22 minutes and 54 seconds. Charlotte Hodgkins-Byrne finished with a time of 23 minutes and 9 seconds and **Suzi**



A Wingfield Sculls medal

Perry (Thames) with a time of 27 minutes and 24 seconds.

The men's race started at 11:30am and proved equally eventful. There were 5 entrants in a strong field led by **Jamie Kirkwood** (Leander Club) last year's winner.

Kirkwood pulled away strongly from the start and by the Milepost was up 10 seconds from the previous year. The race appeared over, but by the Harrods Depository building Kirkwood began to falter. It transpired that his boat had hit driftwood which dislodged half his fin and eventually stopped his boat dead in the water.

This left the race wide open and emerging from the competing pack **Richard Clarke** (University of London Boat Club) established a lead that took him all the way

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By Hammersmith Bridge,
Rawlins had taken the lead over
Hodgkins-Byrne





Off the start, left to right; Nathan O'Reilly, Jamie Kirkwood, Laurence Joss, Sean Blake, Richard Clarke



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to the finish with a time of 22 minutes and 3 seconds. **Nathan O'Reilly** (Tideway Scullers) finished with a time of 22 minutes and 13 seconds, **Sean Blake** (Tideway Scullers) with a time of 22 minutes and 15 seconds, **Laurence Joss** (Tideway Scullers) with a time of 23 minutes and 1 second and **Jamie Kirkwood**.

The presentation ceremony was held at the Tideway Scullers Club at Chiswick Bridge and the Secretary of the Wingfield Sculls Committee, **Wade Hall-Craggs** (Champion 1993) thanked the participants,

the Tideway community, the Port of London Authority and the WFS for their support.

The race Umpire **Graeme Mulcahy**, presented the medals and trophies to both Francesca Rawlins and Richard Clarke who also collect the titles of 'British Amateur Sculling Champion' and 'Champion of the Thames'. On behalf of the WFS Ian and Edward also congratulated the new Champions. The Wingfield Sculls flag flew proudly from the flag post adjacent to the Tideway Scullers Club.

In later discussions, Wade mentioned plans for the forthcoming 180th anniversary

coming up in 2020. This will include a thoroughly researched published history book of the Wingfield Sculls, with references to the generous support and activities of the WFS; a permanent memorial alongside of the River Thames, possibly at Chiswick Steps to commemorate the Wingfield Sculls, and the introduction of two Junior races for young men and women.

Naturally, the Wingfield Sculls Committee is keen for WFS support for all these proposals, if not immediately but nearer the time, which the WFS Board of Directors will be discussing with them in due course. ♥



ABOVE: Umpire Graeme Mulcahy (Champion, 1976) presents Clarke with his medal, tie and trophy.

LEFT: Fran Rawlins shows her medal.



Why the Welsh name ‘Rhys’ has been used as a Christian name by Wingfields of the Barrington branch of the family

By **GEORGE ANTHONY RHYS WINGFIELD, WFS DIRECTOR**

Rhys is a popular first name for boys in Wales and can also be found as a surname. As a surname it is more common to hear the anglicised versions of the name such as Rees, Reece or even Rice.

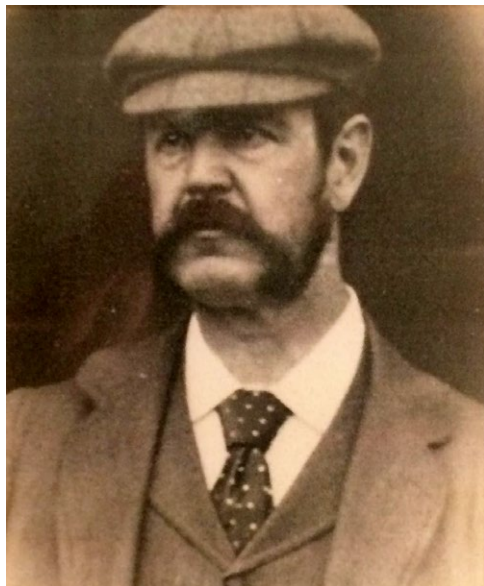
Most Wingfields pronounce the name as “rice”—as in “rice pudding”. Most of today’s Welshmen would probably pronounce the name “rees”—however spelt—to rhyme with “grease”.

It has been reported that the name Rhys means “enthusiasm”. It is a name that has strong historical roots in Wales. **Rhys ap Gruffydd** was a man who ruled most of South Wales in the 12th Century. His grandfather, **Rhys ap Iedwr**, was also a powerful man, the king of Deheubarth in the 11th Century.

The way the name came to be used by the Barrington branch of the Wingfield family dates from the time of the marriage of **Captain Edward Ffolliott Wingfield** (1823–1865).

He married the **Hon. Frances Emily Rice-Trevor**, daughter of **George Rice-Trevor**, the 4th Baron Dynevor, in 1848. Their son and heir was **Edward Rhys Wingfield** (1849–1901)—who was my great grandfather (and, of course, my brother Jocelyn’s).

Edward Rhys Wingfield



It is evident that Frances Emily strongly wished to preserve the Welsh heritage of her family, the Rice-Trevors, by giving her son Edward the additional Christian name of “Rhys” corresponding to the first part of her surname. Her father, Lord Dynevor, whose original family name was Rice (before the “Trevor” was added in 1824) lived at Dynevor Castle, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, Wales.

Lord Dynevor also owned Barrington Park, near Burford, the great house and estate in Gloucestershire later owned by the Wingfields. His daughter Frances Emily died at just 36 in 1863 and son-in-law, Edward Ffolliott Wingfield, two years later. So when Dynevor himself died in 1869, without any male heirs, he left Barrington to his young grandson Edward Rhys Wingfield, my great grandfather.

Two years later my great grandfather Edward Rhys Wingfield married **Edith Caroline Wood** (1850–1935) in 1871. Edward and Edith had seven children. Their five sons each bore the name Rhys like their father. Their seven children born and raised at Barrington were:

1. **Lt-Col Mervyn Edward George Rhys Wingfield** (1872–1952)



Captain Edward Ffolliott Wingfield

2. **Major William Jocelyn Rhys Wingfield** (1873–1942) *my grandfather*
3. **Sir Charles John FitzRoy Rhys Wingfield** (1877–1960)
4. **Muriel Frances Caroline Wingfield** (1878–1933)
5. **Captain Maurice Ffolliott (“Tolly”) Rhys Wingfield** (1879–1941)
6. **Captain Cecil John Talbot Rhys Wingfield** (1881–1915)

Continued on page 4

Barrington Park, Gloucestershire, England





Major William Jocelyn Rhys Wingfield

Continued from page 3

7. Gwennllian Edith Emily Wingfield (1882–1963)

The children of all those Barrington Wingfield men who bore the name Rhys were also given the name Rhys among their Christian names.

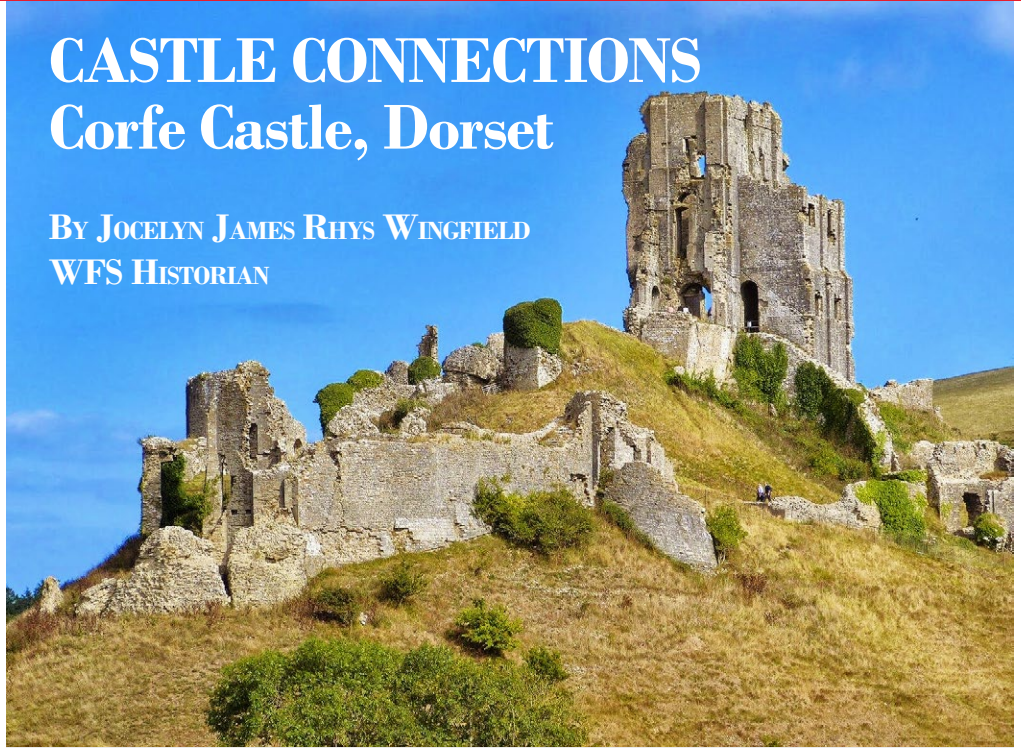
My father **William Thomas** (“Tim”) **Rhys Wingfield**, carried on the tradition by naming each of his three sons **Jocelyn**, **Robert** and **George**, “Rhys” in addition to their other Christian names. And my two sons, **Rupert Bolingbroke Rhys Wingfield** (b. 1972) and **Michael Somerset Rhys Wingfield** (b. 1975), each bear the name too.

The present owner of Barrington Park is **Richard Mervyn Rhys Wingfield** (b. 1967) who inherited the house and estate from his father **Charles Talbot Rhys Wingfield** (1924–2007). Like Jocelyn and myself, Edward Ffolliott Wingfield was Richard’s great grandfather. ♥

CASTLE CONNECTIONS

Corfe Castle, Dorset

By JOCELYN JAMES RHYS WINGFIELD
WFS HISTORIAN



As a royalist or “Cavalier”, Attorney General and Lord Chief Justice **Sir John Banks** (1589–1644) from 1635 was owner of Corfe Castle, Dorset.

He married **Mary Hawtry** (1603–1661), who in his absence with King Charles I in London in the English Civil War (1642–1651), with 80 soldiers defended Corfe Castle against the parliamentary forces (“Roundheads”) for nearly 4 years 1643–1646.

They had 4 sons and 6 daughters, “the youngest daughters remaining in Corfe Castle with their mother” during the civil war (including two very serious assaults).

The three youngest Banks daughters were: 4: **Joanna**, 5: **Elizabeth** and 6: **Arabella**. It is thought that Lady Banks and two daughters had been allowed on 16th July 1645 to go to London, so were not present when Corfe Castle fell.

The Castle was one of the last remaining royalist strongholds in southern England and fell on 27th February 1646 after the second siege of 48 days and the Parliamentarians took 140 prisoners and then spent several months blowing up the castle.

Lady Banks’ 8th child, **Joanna** (d.1687) (who was to inherit Corfe Castle in 1661), married **William Borlase, Esq.** of Great Marlow, Buckinghamshire (1620–1665) and had among others a daughter called **Anne** who married on 2 Oc-

tober 1679 **Thomas Wingfield, Esq.** of Preston Brockhurst, Shropshire (1644–1728), who was High Sheriff of Shropshire in 1692.

I feel sure Joanna must have relayed to her 5 children what it was like being besieged in Corfe Castle. ♥

**The Castle was
one of the last
remaining royalist
strongholds in
southern England
and fell on 27th
February 1646.**





LT CDR Mervyn Robert George Wingfield

Submariner Wingfield Awarded Posthumous Medal

By RICHARD MERVYN WINGFIELD, WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES, READING

My father, **Mervyn Robert George Wingfield** (1911-2005), served as a submarine commander in various campaigns of World War Two. His career is fairly well documented, including a page on Wikipedia, and the WFS Newsletter mentioned the publication in 2013 of his memoirs *Wingfield at War*.

Until his death at the age of 94, he was able to wear an impressive set of medals on formal occasions. As well as three decorations (Distinguished Service Order; Distinguished Service Cross twice), there were five campaign medals: the 1939-45 Star, the Atlantic Star, the Africa Star, the Burma Star and the Italy Star.

But now he has one more.

In 2012 the British government announced that awards would be made to two groups of people whose war service had not

previously been recognised with a campaign medal. Veterans of Arctic Convoys would receive a Campaign Star and veterans of Bomber Command would receive a Clasp to their 1939-45 Star.

It was some time before I heard about this but I then filled in the forms to apply for the Arctic Campaign Star on his behalf, citing his patrols in HM Submarine Sturgeon from Polyarnoe near Murmansk (Russia) in 1941-42, including escort service to Arctic Convoy PQ15 in April 1942.

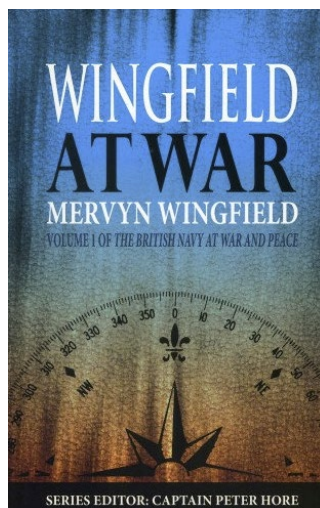
In due course a small package arrived in the post from the Under-Secretary for Defense (Armed Forces) and inside was a shiny medal with a colourful ribbon.

I am told that to have as many as six campaign medals is uncommon. Britain has only nine such medals for service in the different theatres of World War Two, one of which is restricted to aircrew.

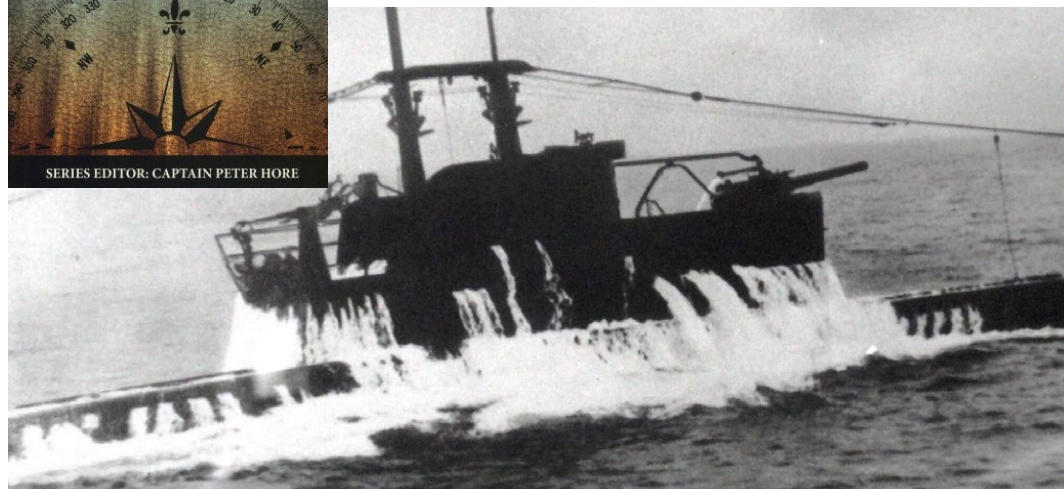
For a flavour of life on a submarine in the Arctic, *Wingfield at War* is available from Amazon and my father's icy adventures are related on pages 78 to 83. Later pages cover his posting to Washington after the war, accompanied by his wife and three children. ♥



Arctic Campaign Star

LEFT: *Wingfield at War* book by Mervyn Wingfield

BELOW: British submarine Taurus surfacing, 1943





Priory Church of St. Mary, Letheringham In Critical Need of Funding for Repairs

Copyright Terry Wingfield 2017

BY STEPHEN CHANKO
WFS VICE PRESIDENT

The Priory Church of St. Mary Letheringham in Suffolk, England is a Grade I listed building. The present church was formerly the nave of the Priory Church of Augustinian Canons founded by William de Bovile in 1194.

This church is the ancestral mother church of the Wingfield family Letheringham, Suffolk branch for 3.5 centuries—from the 1358 until 1708. The church once housed magnificent memorials, brasses and painted tombs of the Wingfield family.

The Suffolk historian **Tom Martin**, wrote of the tombs and monuments found here in his visit on 23 February 1744:

"...I have neither seen nor read of any place (except Westminster Abbey) so fully adorned with such Noble Remains of Antiquity as are to be met with here."

Our ancestral church of the Wingfield family is at risk and is in critical need of repairs. The principal risks are the poor condition of the nave, porch and tower roofs, structural timbers and some areas of masonry.

This church is one of eight churches in the Mid-Loes Benefice, which is part of the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. Due to the church's location in a sparsely populated community, funding for these

critical repairs continues to be a challenge for this small community (on average 12 people attend monthly church services and only 31 people are presently on the Letheringham civil parish electoral roll).

The Letheringham PCC (Parochial

Church Council), started a campaign in 2017 to help raise £30,000 (approximately \$40,000), however, the overall repairs will require in excess of this amount, over £150,000 (approximately \$200,000).

In 2017, the PCC filed an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in hopes of obtaining funding for the major roof repairs, however learned in December that their application was unsuccessful. Apparently, there was an unprecedented number of applications.

The PCC has filed recently a new application with HLF under their new guidelines and are awaiting a formal response. Funding from the HL is not certain, as St. Mary Letheringham is one of many applications submitted annually and only a couple are accepted.

The PCC is desperately in need of help to preserve the heritage of St. Mary's, Letheringham for current and future generations. WFS and its members have been very generous in providing donations in the past and it is my hope we can help contribute towards the PCC campaign to raise the required funding.

If you choose to help, please make your donation by sending a check payable to the Wingfield Family Society, noting at the bot-



**"I have neither
seen nor read
of any place ...
so fully adorned
with such Noble
Remains of
Antiquity as are to
be met with here."**

—TOM MARTIN, 1744



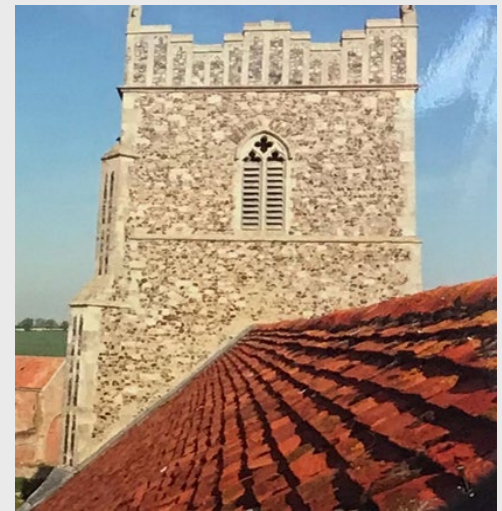
FIX LEAKING ROOF

The 50-year-old roof felt urgently needs replacing to prevent any further damage to the interior.



REPLACE BROKEN TILES

There are approximately 4,200 tiles on each side of this roof and every single one needs to be replaced.




REPAIR TOWER

There are splits in the tower lead roof covering. A new window is required on the West side of the church.

tom of check "St. Mary, Letheringham" and we will provide one combined donation directly to the church, with an attached listing of WFS member names that generously contributed towards this important fundraising campaign.

If you are a UK taxpayer, you will be able to reclaim the tax on the donation made under the UK Gift Aid scheme.

Any questions, please feel free to email Stephen Chanko at Stephen@wingfield.org or chankst@hotmail.com. 



How to Submit Articles, Obituaries, or Photos for the WFS Newsletter

Please send your article and photos to Stephen Chanko, WFS Vice-President at chankst@hotmail.com for review. Articles and obituaries are to be submitted copy-ready for publication and may be edited for content and space availability.

The DEADLINE submission for article submissions for the WFS Newsletter are: January 1; April 1; July 1, October 1, 2018.

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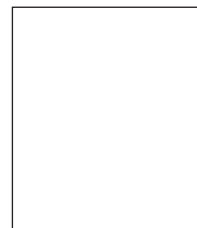
Stephen J. Riggan, *Genealogy*



Wingfield

FAMILY SOCIETY

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Please address checks to Wingfield
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Any questions, feel free to email Jim
Nowak at jnowak1014@aol.com.