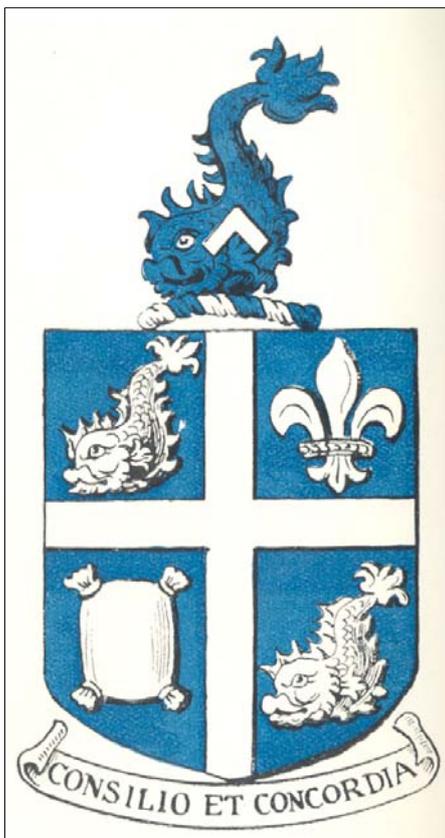


THE BOCKING 'DOLPHIN'



The heraldic 'Dolphin' motif will be a familiar site to many residents of the Bocking area, and has an interesting story behind it. This information sheet explores the heraldic roots of the 'Bocking Dolphin' and places it alongside the other symbols associated with the parish's present day arms.

ARMS: *Azure a Cross between, in the first and fourth quarters a Dolphin naiant, in the second a Fleur-de-Lis, and in the third a Woolpack, all Argent.*

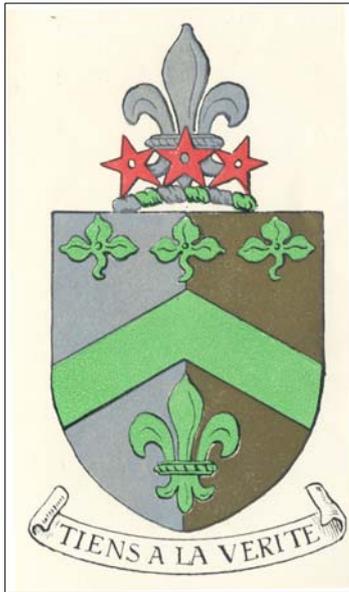
CREST: *On a Wreath of the colours a Dolphin naiant Azure, charged with a Chevron couped Argent.*

MOTTO: *Consilio et Concordia ('By Counsel and Good Fellowship')*

The **white cross on blue** is an allusion to the arms of the Priory of the Holy Saviour at Canterbury (still in use by the Dean and Chapter), which was given authority over the church at Bocking by the Saxon Atheric Worthfulman and his wife Leofwin in the year 1006. Bocking is therefore referred to as a 'peculiar' of Canterbury - directly administered by the Archbishop rather than what is now the Diocese of Chelmsford.

The **dolphins** (which look more like fish in their stylized heraldic form!) are from the crest of William Courtnay, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1381 to 1396. The original seal of Bocking Deanery, which dates from this time, took a cross between four such dolphins; it was in relatively recent times that the second and third quarters were filled with other symbols connected with the parish. The Courtnays (Earls of Devon) adopted a dolphin, the symbol of Byzantium (the lands of the eastern Roman Empire), to broadcast their connection with that maritime power, a descendant of the Courtnay family having once been emperor. The Bocking Dolphin can now be spotted adorning many areas of the parish, including the lamp-posts on Bradford Street Bridge (*illustrated right*).





The **silver fleur-de-lis** in the second quarter is a reference to the arms of the Courtaulds (*illustrated left*), a prominent merchant family who made Bocking parish their home for four generations.

The **woolpack** in the third quarter refers to weaving and spinning, which has been practiced in Bocking since Saxon times. In 1304 Flemish craftsmen were introduced into the town, and under their guidance Bocking grew to be one of the greatest weaving towns in the country.

The **chevron** (placed on the blue dolphin of the crest) commemorates the Doreward family. William Doreward in 1362 created the town's first school by endowing a chantry chaplain, and in 1392 his son John added to the endowment. Another John Doreward was speaker of the House of Commons and Sheriff of Essex and

Hertfordshire in 1425. He gave the town the "Maison Dieu", or hospital, now called the almshouses, which are beside the river south of the church. The chevron is a very common heraldic device, and also occurs in the heraldry of many other families connected with the village.

Bocking Parish Council has the distinction of being the first such body to be granted heraldic bearings, following an unprecedented application to the College of Arms in 1926. This was short-lived however, as the parish was amalgamated with Braintree Urban District Council in 1934.

Dolphin Appearances



45 Church Lane, Bocking



Bradford Street Bridge

Where have you spotted the Bocking Dolphin?