

Houses

Edward Lovekyn (1239-1310) who founded the Chapel, was from a well established Surrey family and born in Kingston. He was a caterer by trade and like other members of his family belonged to the Company of Butchers of Kingston upon Thames (which included bakers, confectioners and provision merchants as well as butchers). He was Bailiff of Kingston in 1277 and again in 1284. A citizen of London from 1292 he had houses in Billingsgate, and at Bridge-foot in Kingston.

In early 1299 King Edward I visited the town twice. He was entertained to meals provided by Edward Lovekyn. The King was so impressed with the hospitality that he asked Edward, with his son Robert, to provide the catering for the marriage feast at his forthcoming wedding to Princess Margaret of France. This was the sort of request it would have been most unwise to refuse, and so, on 16th September 1299, the Lovekyns laid on the wedding feast. Whilst the King expressed himself greatly pleased, he was in no hurry to pay the bill; and when he died in 1307, whilst some payments had been made on account, 1000 marks were still owed.

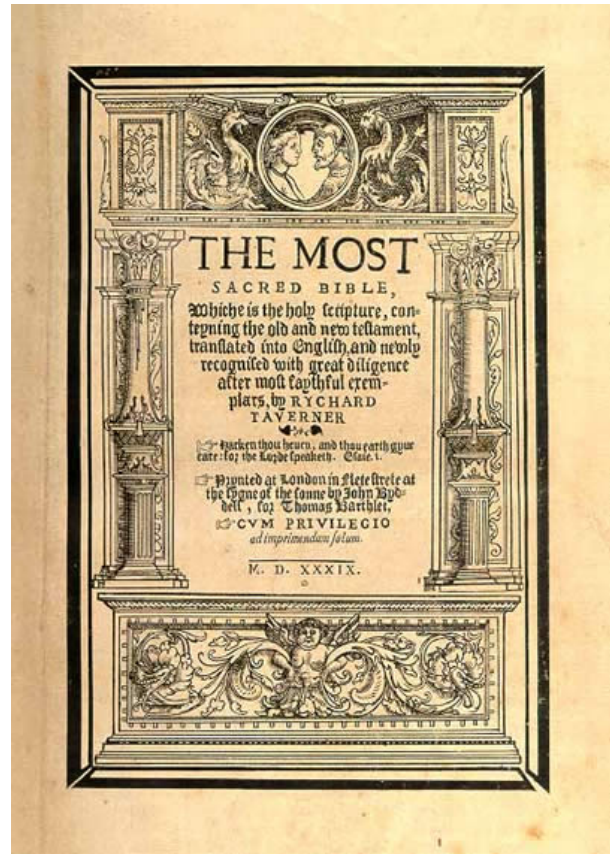
Edward approached the new King Edward II with the suggestion that he be granted a licence to found and endow a chantry chapel at Kingston in return for cancellation of the debt; the King agreed. The chapel was intended as a place where priests would say prayers for the souls of Lovekyn and his family, and would doubtless also have greatly enhanced the status of the Lovekyns in the area.

Edward Lovekyn died in July 1310, just four months after the first chaplain had been installed in the Chapel of the Blessed Mary Magdalene on London Road. He left two sons, the younger of whom, John, would go on to restore and further endow the Chapel his father had founded.

Source Ward, David and Evans, Gordon. Chantry Chapel to Royal Grammar School: the History of Kingston Grammar School 1299-1999. Oxford: Gresham Books, 2000.

Richard Taverner (1505-1575) was born in Norfolk and attended Corpus Christi College, Oxford and Cardinal College, Cambridge, where he gained his Master of Arts degree. He then went to work for Cardinal Wolsey; after Wolsey's fall he allied himself with Thomas Cromwell for whom he wrote and translated several works of in support of the Reformation.

The first of these, in 1532, was a translation of a work by Erasmus, which helped secure his reputation as a doctrinal scholar. He studied law and was admitted to the Inner Temple, and between 1534 and 1537 was much seen at court. In January 1539, now a married man, he was granted the lease of Alvingham Priory and two rectories in Lincolnshire. The same year he published his most important work, a translation of the Bible, the first complete version to be printed in England. Although soon replaced by more thorough revisions, his translation was nonetheless influential.



Front cover of Taverner's Bible, courtesy of the Department of Special Collections University of Glasgow.

Following Cromwell's fall from favour and execution, Taverner briefly was sent to the Tower of London. However he made his peace with Henry VIII and became a great favourite with the young Edward VI. He served in the army in France and was rewarded by the king with extensive lands in Oxfordshire, Northampton and Norfolk. He was elected as Member of Parliament for Liverpool in 1547, and subsequently granted a licence in 1552 to preach in any place in the King's dominions – even though he was a layman. Following the accession of Mary in 1553 he retired to Norbiton Hall in Surrey where he continued to translate Erasmus. He declined the offer of a knighthood from Elizabeth I, but served as a Justice of the Peace for Oxfordshire, and High Sherriff of Oxfordshire and Kingston.

As Sherriff of Kingston he received a large part of the Chapel endowments, which he surrendered early so that they could be given over to the new school in 1561. Though there is no more concrete evidence of his link to Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, it is thought likely that he used his influence at the court of Queen Elizabeth I to support the petition for the establishment of a grammar school in the town.

Sources

Ward, David and Evans, Gordon. Chantry Chapel to Royal Grammar School: the History of Kingston Grammar School 1299-1999. Oxford: Gresham Books, 2000.

Taylor, Andrew W. Taverner, Richard. Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online www.oxforddnb.com



Sir William Walworth, courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery

Sir William Walworth (d.1386?) was born in County Durham, but moved to London where he worked as an apprentice to John Lovekyn, the second son of Edward Lovekyn. Lovekyn was one of London's biggest wool exporters in the 1360s, and Walworth also dealt in corn and fish. Walworth came to act as Lovekyn's partner, succeeding him as alderman of the fishmongers' ward of Bridge, and he quickly became prominent in London politics.

After Lovekyn's death in 1368 he took over his flourishing business, as well as marrying his widow, Margaret. He was elected mayor of the Westminster staple in 1369, a position he held until his death. This gave him an intimate knowledge of London's money markets – he was himself a major lender of money to the crown. He was elected as Sheriff in 1370, a Member of Parliament in 1371, and Lord Mayor for the first time in 1374-75. He was elected as MP again in 1377 and given responsibility for overseeing the receipt and spending of war taxes. His political influence grew, and he found himself serving a second term as Mayor

of London. In June 1381 rebels from Essex and Kent, part of what is now known as the Peasants' Revolt, marched on London to protest at the poll taxes imposed by Richard II to finance the war against France. Their leader, Wat Tyler, was killed by Walworth and his entourage at Smithfield. Walworth was knighted by Richard II and granted a substantial pension; he subsequently helped restore order in London, Kent and Middlesex.

Walworth was a close friend of the Bishop of Winchester, with whom he shared a love of books and art; he assisted in the endowment of his college of Winchester. He acquired extensive property in London, and went on to make substantial grants to the Lovekyn Chapel, including (in 1371) a mill, a dovecote, 150 acres of land and the rents of various properties. He also specified that there should be a third chaplain. In his will he left bequests for masses and the foundation of a chantry for the soul of the rich fishmonger and four times Mayor of London, John Lovekyn, who was the founder of his fortune.

A wooden statue of Walworth was erected in 1685 at the Fishmongers' Hall, the site of Walworth's house in Thames Street. It can still be seen today.

Sources

Ward, David and Evans, Gordon. Chantry Chapel to Royal Grammar School: the History of Kingston Grammar School 1299-1999. Oxford: Gresham Books, 2000.

Nightingale, Pamela. Walworth, Sir William. Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online www.oxforddnb.com

Stanley Shoveller (1881-1959) is generally regarded by sports historians as the W G Grace of hockey. Born in 1881, he joined the School at a time when hockey was first being established as a sport. According to his profile in the Dictionary of National Biography, “he played as a forward for the school eleven aged only fourteen. He went on to play centre forward and captained a school team that regularly beat club sides from the London area. In his last school term, in November 1898, he scored eight of the goals in a 9–1 victory over club opponents.”

Between 1902 and 1931 Shoveller played hockey for England 35 times, winning gold medals in the 1908 London Olympics alongside his fellow Old Kingstonian Gerald Logan, and again in 1920 in Antwerp, when he captained the English side. His final game was played in March 1921 against Ireland, a match attended by George V. His meeting with the King was captured in what has become an iconic photograph of this great player.



Source

M. C. Curthoys, 'Shoveller, Stanley Howard (1881–1959)', Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, May 2012