

Pype's Pipes

Azure, two pipes between ten crosses crosslet or

In the arcane world of heraldry, the various elements of a coat of arms consists of several parts: the shield, the mantling, the helm, the wreath, charges, and the crest (if any).

A 'charge' refers to anything borne on a coat of arms, whether upon the field, as was more usually the case in ancient arms, or upon an ordinary, or indeed upon another charge. Amongst the wide variety of charges that have been adopted in coats of arms musical instruments occur rarely: most commonly perhaps are the harp and trumpet, but organ pipes and other duct-flutes are not unknown. Parker (1894/ 2004) notes several examples of the latter, amongst them:

Azure, two pipes between ten crosses crosslet or — PYPE

This **blazon** describes a coat of arms of the following general design:



- **Azure:** the background field of the shield is **blue**.
- **two pipes:** there are two pipe-shaped charges placed on the field.
- **ten crosses crosslet:** crosses which have smaller crosslets at the ends of each limb.
- **or:** gold/yellow.
- **Pype:** the bearer's family name.

Coats of arms of this kind are so-called 'canting arms', heraldic bearings that represent the owner's name (or, less often, an attribute or function) in a visual pun or rebus.

The arms of a husband and wife can be combined in a side-by-side display, termed **impalement**. Multiple coats of arms can be combined on a single shield, a process termed **quatering** which expresses inheritance through **heraldic heiresses**—women who have no brothers or whose brothers have died without issue—allowing their descendants to display ancestral arms alongside their paternal lineage.

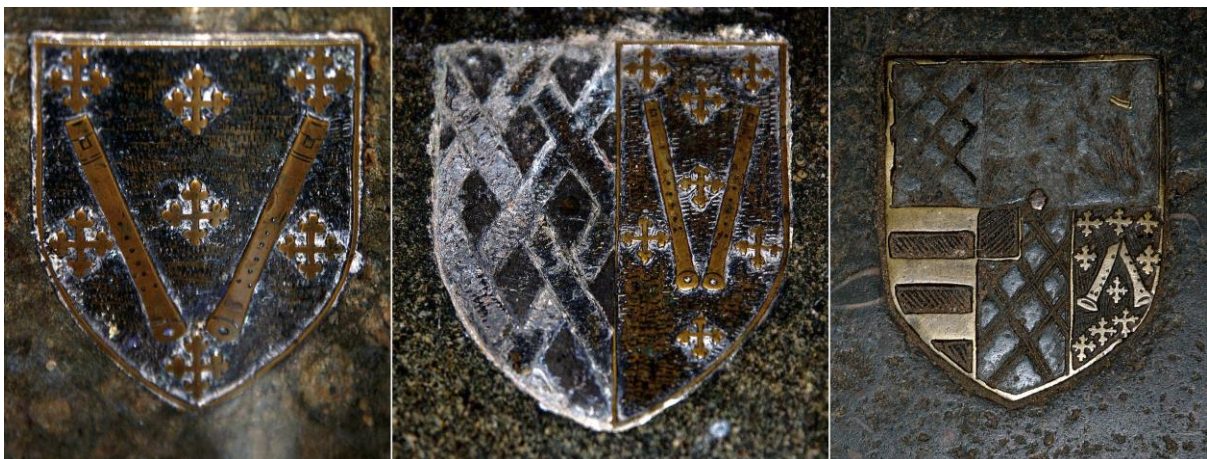
15th century

Church of St Bartholomew the Apostle at Tong

Amongst the tombs and monuments in the Church of St Bartholomew the Apostle at Tong in Shropshire are eight tombs commemorating members of the English Vernon family. Amongst them is the tomb of Sir William III Vernon of Haddon and his wife Margaret.

Sir William III Vernon of Haddon (1416–1467) was an English landowner, politician, and soldier who held the posts of Treasurer of Calais and Knight-Constable of England. In 1435 he married **Margaret Swinfen** (1418–1471), daughter of William Swynfen, Lord of Pype/Pipe Ridware, in the Lichfield district of Staffordshire (1390–1421). Margaret's identity has been often confused, with various sources noting her as "daughter and heiress of Sir Robert Pype"; however, whilst she was cousin and heiress to Sir Robert Pype, she was not his daughter, and her relation to the Pypes was through her paternal grandmother, Joan de Pype (1355–1411). It is possible that her father adopted the name Pype upon his succession to the Pype inheritance. Vernon and Margaret had seven sons and five daughters. Their eldest son, Henry Vernon (1445–1515), was to become a powerful figure in his own right, as we shall see. Margaret succeeded to her father's estates in 1445. Sir William died in 1467, Margaret in 1471.

Three stones inlaid with brass let into the floor of the Golden Chapel in the Church of St Bartholomew the Apostle, Tong, display the arms of Sir William and Margaret which feature recorders as heraldic charges. Pype's pipes have clearly depicted beaks, windows, and double holes for the little finger of the lowermost hand, features characteristic of the recorder rather than six-holed pipes or other wind duct flutes.



Arms of Margaret Vernon (1418–1471), wife of Sir William Vernon of Haddon (m.1467), three stones let into the floor, inlaid with brass.

Tong (Shropshire): Church of St Bartholomew the Apostle, Golden Chapel.

The first shield contains two recorders, an allusion to the Pype family. The recorders are placed with mouthpieces pointing towards the upper left and right corners of shield, almost meeting at its lowest point. Around the recorders are seven small crosses of the type known in heraldry as crosses crosslet.

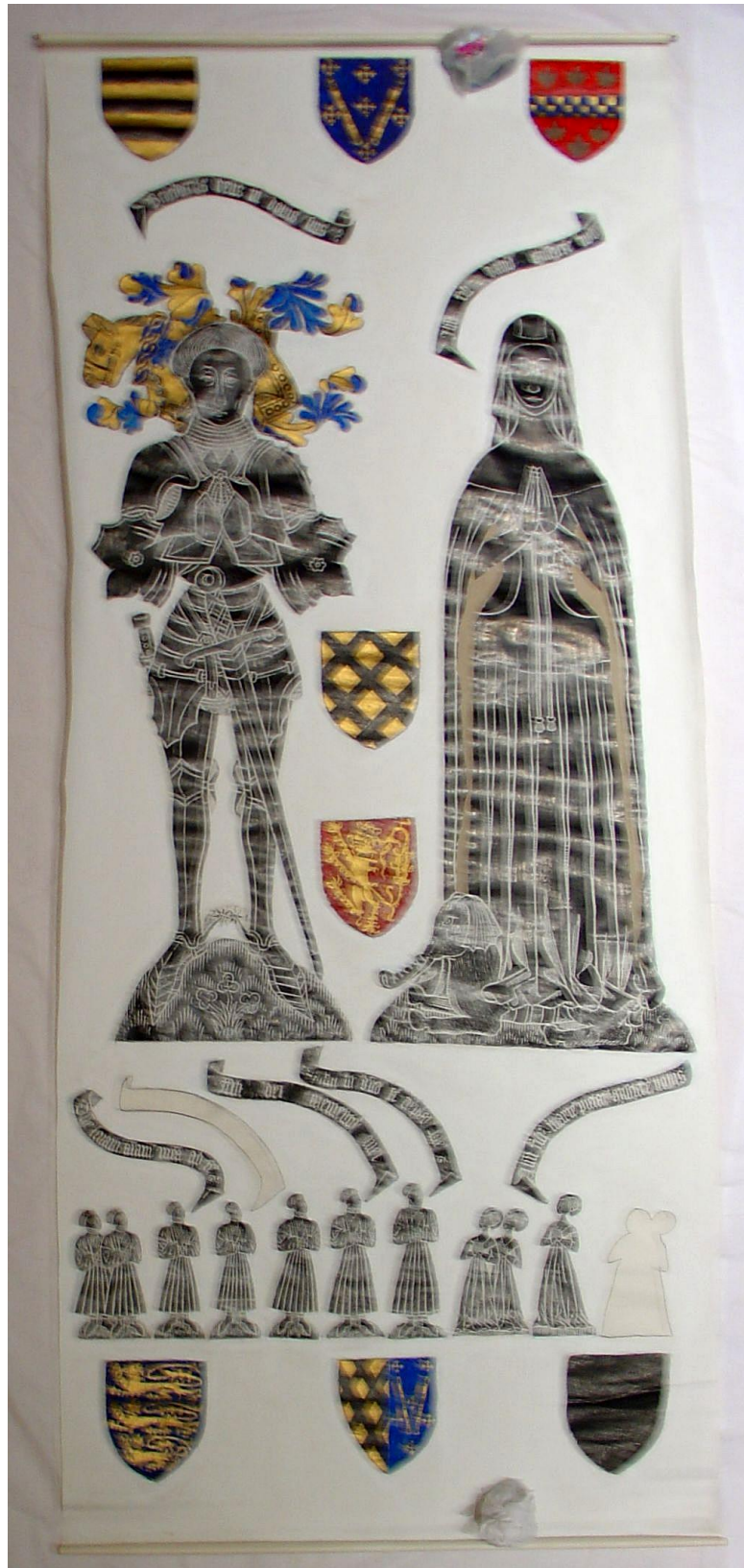
The second shield contains the coats of arms of husband and wife impaled: the coat of arms showing recorders appears here as the right half of the shield, indicating that it was the coat of arms of the wife, Margaret.

The third shield contains a number of elements, amongst them the arms of the Pype family with two foreshortened recorders with holes for four fingers surrounded by nine crosses crosslet, as well as those of Sir William Vernon and others of his family.

These shields are seen again in a memorial brass on the table of the altar tomb. In his will, Sir William III Vernon expressed the wish to be buried in the Church of St Bartholomew, Tong where “a tombe was to be made after his own devise’ and also that a priest should ‘sing thereat for three years’.



Tomb of Sir William Vernon of Haddon (m. 1467) and his wife Margaret (m.1471).
Tong (Shropshire): Church of St Bartholomew the Apostle, Golden Chapel.



Rubbing of brass monument to Sir William Vernon and his wife Margaret on the table of their altar tomb. Urbana-Champaign: Spurlock Museum: University of Illinois: College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Inv. 1982.05.0003

Sir William is shown in chain and plate armour of the late Yorkist style, sword, dagger and spurs. He has the Boar's Head crest at his head above which is a scroll with the motto 'Blessed be God for his Gifts.' The chamfered inscription around the tomb is omitted. His tilting casque bears his heraldic colours on the mantling¹. His wife has a hood and wimple, a mantle over her shoulders with cord and tassels and her feet rest on a strange dragon (looking more like an elephant!). At the feet of the two main figures are their twelve children (two are missing). The sons are all dressed alike in ankle length gowns and wearing pointed shoes, while the daughters have fretty head-dresses and full-length gowns. Around the figures are texts of short prayers for grace and pardon.

Haddon Hall, Bakewell (Derbyshire)



Coat of Arms of the Vernon Family (15th century), stone arch.
Bakewell (Derbyshire): Haddon Hall, doorway in the Curtain Wall.

This is a quartered shield showing pairs of recorders forming a chevron, with mouthpieces close together, an allusion to the Pype family.

Sir Henry Vernon (1441–1515), who built much of the present Haddon Hall, dutifully added his mother's family escutcheon to his own coat of arms, and these appear frequently in the older part of the house. One writer suggests that the frequency of display was to confirm the Vernon's interest in retaining the Pype properties in Staffordshire!

¹ Mantling or "lambrequin" (its name in French) is drapery tied to the helmet above the shield.



South front parapet, Haddon Hall, Bakewell (Derbyshire)



Coat of Arms of the Vernon Family (late 15th century), stone carving.
Bakewell (Derbyshire): Haddon Hall, South front parapet, above the windows.

The quartered shield of Sir Henry Vernon, the lower right-hand quarter showing the Pype arms, two recorders forming a chevron, with mouthpieces close together, surrounded by eight small crosses crosslet. Although the interior at this point is the Long Gallery, the external walls may have been part of the earlier building.

16th century

Bakewell (Derbyshire): Haddon Hall



Coat of arms of Margaret Swinfen (c.1500), wood panel.
Bakewell (Derbyshire): Haddon Hall, Parlour.

An unquartered shield, showing the arms of Margaret Swinfen (1418–1460), daughter of William Swynfen “Pipe” (1361–1421), father of Sir Henry Vernon (1441–1515): two recorders forming a chevron, surrounded by eight crosses crosslet.



Coat of Arms of Margaret Swinfen (early 16th century), stained glass.
Bakewell (Derbyshire): Haddon Hall, Dining Room, West-facing window.

An unquartered shield showing two recorders forming a chevron, with mouthpieces close together, surrounded by ten crosses crosslet.



Coat of Arms of the Vernon Family between two Boar's Heads, the Vernon Crest (16th century), wood panel.
Bakewell (Derbyshire): Haddon Hall, Dining Room.

The halved shield shows the arms of the Vernon family. To the left are two recorders forming a chevron, with mouthpieces close together, surrounded by ten small crosses crosslet, representing Margaret Swinfen, daughter of William Swynfen 'Pype' (1361–1421).



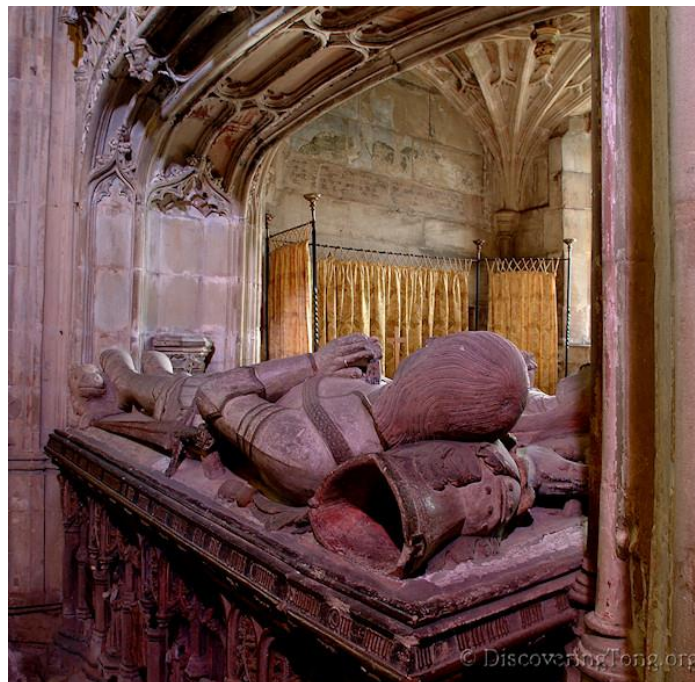
Stained glass shield (late 16th century). Bakewell (Derbyshire): Haddon Hall, Dining Room.

The left of two windows displaying shields is in seven quarterlings, one displaying the Pype coat of arms: two recorders forming a chevron, with mouthpieces close together, surrounded by eight crosses crosslet. The stained glass is said to be Venetian.

Sir Henry Vernon (c.1441–1515) served as guardian, treasurer, and chief counsellor to the eldest son of King Henry VII, Arthur, Prince of Wales, who lived at Ludlow Castle. Arthur was made Prince of Wales in 1499, and the Government of Wales was vested in him with Sir Henry Vernon as his chief Counsellor. At the age of sixteen, Prince Arthur married Katherine of Aragon and Sir Henry Vernon was a witness to their marriage contract. Arthur died soon afterwards, in 1502.

Tong (Shropshire): St Bartholomew's Church.

Sir Henry Vernon (c.1441–1515) is buried in St Bartholomew's Church, Tong, Shropshire, alongside his wife Anne Talbot (c.1445–1494). Their tomb is distinctively made of stone rather than the alabaster used for other effigies in the church, featuring statues of the couple to reflect Anne's noble lineage as the daughter of the Earl of Shrewsbury. Their monumental tomb, located in a wide Burgundian arch between the Golden Chapel and the south aisle, depicts Sir Henry wearing the Lancastrian SS collar to signify his loyalty.



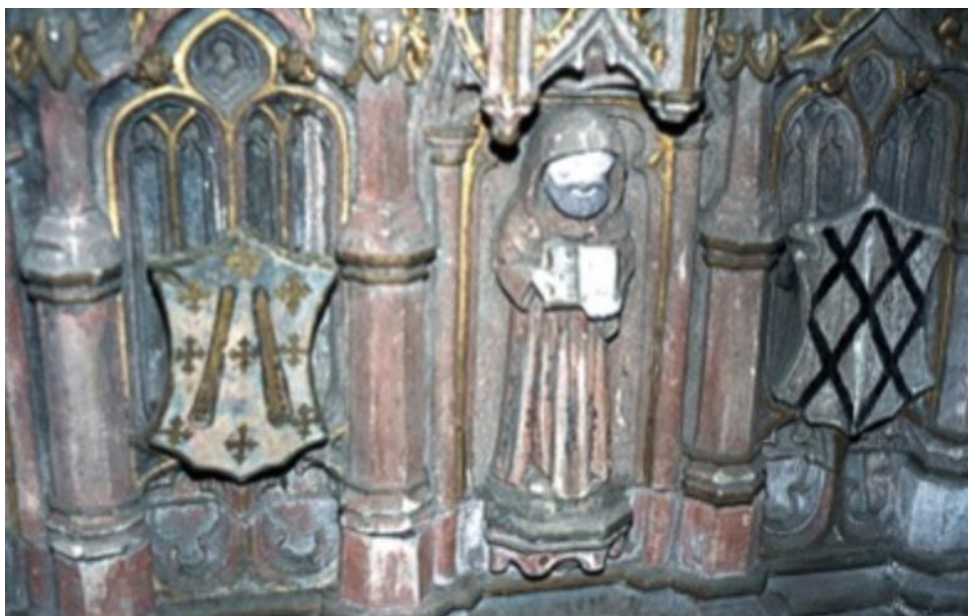
Sir Henry Vernon (c.1441–1515) and his wife Anne Talbot (m.1494).
Tong (Shropshire): St Bartholomew's Church.

Above the tomb on the aisle side are four elaborately carved tabernacles, bereaved of their statues. When this work was richly gilt, and images filled the niches, as no doubt was the case when the tomb was completed, the general effect must have been striking.



Tomb of Sir Henry Vernon (c.1441–1515) and his wife Anne Talbot (c.1445–1494), side view.
Tong (Shropshire): St Bartholomew's Church.

The side faces of the casque are carved with the various arms of Henry Vernon and Anne Talbot. A small shield in stone stands between the two brackets, the arms being Azure, two pipes between nine cross crosslets or.



Arms of Henry Vernon and Anne Talbot (1515).
Tong (Shropshire): St Bartholomew's Church, Golden Chapel.

Sir William Vernon's grandson, **Sir George Vernon** (c.1503–1565), who inherited Haddon Hall at the age of 9, was the last of the Haddon Vernons. He owned a huge estate and was styled 'King of the Peak'. He was knighted at King Edward VI's coronation and was renowned for his love of entertaining and his heavy-handed discipline. In 1564 Bishop Bentham, an ardent reformer, recalled him as 'a great justice [in] religion as in all other things', renowned 'for his magnificence ... for his kind reception of all good men, and his hospitality'.



Tomb of Sir George Vernon (c.1503–1565) and his two (non-concurrent) wives, Margaret and Mawde. Bakewell (Derbyshire: All Saints Church, Vernon Chapel).

On the North side of the sarcophagus are three shields, the central one showing two recorders forming a chevron between 9 cross crosslets.



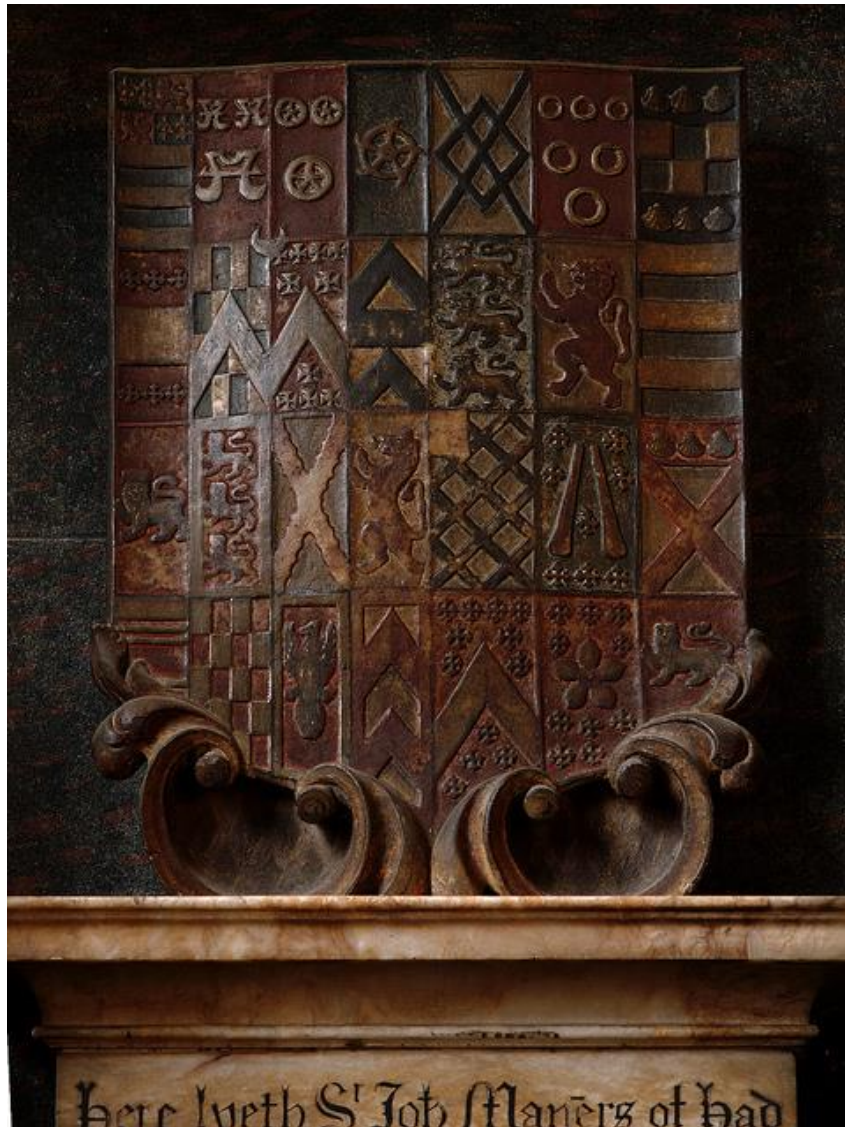
Sir George Vernon died in 1565 without a male heir and his estates passed to his daughters, Margaret and Dorothy. **Dorothy Vernon** (c.1611–1612) married John Manners, the second son of Thomas Manners, 1st Earl of Rutland in 1563. John's father disapproved of the union on religious grounds (the Manners were Protestants, while the Vernons were Roman Catholics) and wished his daughter to marry her cousin, John Vernon, to ensure the Haddon lands remained in the Vernon name. Sir George ordered John Manners to cease courting the beautiful Dorothy and forbade his daughter from seeing him. Legend has it that subsequently, during a ball at Haddon Hall, given to celebrate the marriage of her elder sister in 1563, Dorothy Vernon slipped away and fled through the gardens to meet John by a footbridge, and the couple then eloped. Novels, dramatisations and other works of fiction have been based on this story. In the event, Dorothy was in time forgiven, and two years later she and John Manners, now married, inherited the Haddon estate following the death of her father.

The Manners family preferred to live at their main seat, Belvoir Castle (Leicestershire) and Haddon Hall was neglected until restorations were made in the 20th century and again commencing in 2021.

17th century



Tomb of Sir John Manners and his wife Dorothy Vernon (ca 1611–1612).
Bakewell (Derbyshire): All Saints Church, Vernon Chapel.



Tomb of Sir John Manners and his wife Dorothy Vernon (1545-84).
Detail: Manners Coat of Arms, stone carving.

This elaborate coat of arms comprises a shield in which one of twelve quarterings for Vernon on a larger shield, with recorders forming a chevron, with the mouthpieces close together (the reverse of those at Tong) surrounded by eight crosses crosslet as described above in the Pype family coat of arms, also on the larger shield which contains 16 quarterlings for Sir John Manners, Dorothy Vernon's husband.

Having produced four children, Dorothy died in 1584 and her effigy lies beside her husband's, who died at a good age in 1611. The coat of arms harking back to Dorothy's Pype ancestors is on the side of the tomb, which would have been made around 1611 to 1612. The Vernon Chapel is now used as a vestry and is no longer open to the public.

Their grandson, also John Manners of Haddon, inherited the Earldom of Rutland in 1641, on the death of his distant cousin, George, the 7th Earl. Haddon remains in the Manners family to this day and is currently home to Lord and Lady Edward Manners.

20th century



Coat of Arms of the Vernon Family, woven altar frontal.
Bakewell (Derbyshire): Haddon Hall, Chapel.
Walter Bergmann's Slide Collection, photographic slide (1965).

Two recorders in the shape of a chevron, in a dark colour on an azure field containing eight 'crosses crosslet' in gold, beside other armorial bearings of the Rutland and Vernon families. The recorders are an allusion to the Pype family and appear in heraldic devices associated with the Vernon family as early as 1467, in Tong (Shropshire) and Bakewell (Derbyshire) – see above. The recorders, seen in side-profile, have unusual campanulate feet, and the characteristic beaks of both and the window/labium of one are clearly depicted. This clearly modern work has a decidedly "Women's Institute" character about it.

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