

## **Boddington the brewer makes name**

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THE life of Henry Boddington, a native of Thame who became the celebrated proprietor of Manchesters Strangeways brewery, is recorded in the latest online update to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, published this month.

He joins several hundred other historic figures connected with Oxfordshire, and is one of 56,214 lives described in the dictionary, which is updated every year.

Although Boddington's ale is associated with Manchester, his family were originally from Middle Barton in Oxfordshire.

He was born in Thame in 1813, where his father was the miller. Times were hard in agriculture and the corn-milling business suffered.

The family decided to escape the poverty of rural Oxfordshire for the booming Manchester of the industrial revolution.

Henry began as a salesman for a brewery, and through a wise marriage he gained a foothold in the Strangeways brewery, which he went on to control. Under his leadership it became one of the biggest brewers in the north of England.

Other brewers included for the first time are John Smith (1824-1879) of Tadcaster and Joshua Tetley (1778-1859) of Leeds; the Simonds family of Reading and the Meux of London; Samuel Brain (1850-1903) in Cardiff; and the Tennent family of Glasgow.

Other new entries include the Steamboat Ladies (1904-1907), a group of over 700 women from the Oxford and Cambridge women's colleges who travelled by steamboat to Dublin to obtain BA and MA degrees from Trinity College, Dublin, at a time when their own universities barred women students from graduating.

Another new group entry is The Movement (1954-1959), the name given to a group of poets and novelists - Philip Larkin, Kingsley Amis, Donald Davie, D. J. Enright, John Wain, Thom Gunn and Robert Conquest - in postwar Britain, who shared an interest in jazz and mimicry. It started when Amis and Larkin met at St John's College, Oxford; Wain arrived at the same college two years later, and went on to live in Wolvercote.

The Next Five Years group (1934-1938) was founded to foster broad political agreement around a progressive agenda of social and economic reforms, including economic planning, the mixed economy, and Keynesian economics. It was created at All Souls College, Oxford.

Then there is the Great Tew circle (1633-1639) - the scholarly friends of Lucius Cary, second Viscount Falkland, who conversed and studied together at his house in the village

of Great Tew in Oxfordshire, considered "a model for conversation and friendship among men of letters", says the dictionary.

The biography is an illustrated collection of more than 50,000 specially written biographies of the men and women from around the world who shaped Britain's past, plus joint biographies of notable groups.

Oxfordshire libraries service earlier this year signed a deal with the dictionary's publishers, Oxford University Press, so that library subscribers can now log on at home to search or browse the enormous database.

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