INTRODUCTION

WILLIAM BROWNE who died in 1489 was the dominant figure in Stamford for most of the fifteenth century. John Leland, Henry VIII’s antiquary who visited Stamford nearly fifty years after Browne died, wrote that Browne was “a marchaunt of a very wonderfull richenesse”.

Certainly he had wealth. We can see this from the fact that he and his brother John Browne rebuilt the church of All Saints including a new tower, and they left their merchant’s mark on the building. William founded Browne’s Hospital on Broad Street very close to where he lived and conducted his business. He endowed it with a very substantial series of estates in Stamford and in the countryside around. The building itself and its fittings such as the glass, worthy of some

1 Itinerary of John Leland, edited L Toulmin Smith; J C Wedgwood, History of Parliament 1422-1509: Biographies 1936 p says that Leland speaks of William Browne as a man of a wonderful “bignesse”, but this is a misreading.
substantial institution like a corporation, reveals the wealth as well as the inspiration of its builder. (A glass workshop in the town during the century, including one John Browne of Stamford glazier, is known to have produced some of the finest fifteenth century glass in the area (Gothic 2003:402)). William Browne left half of his large estate to his almshouse, although his daughter Elizabeth who married John Elmes of Henley on Thames also inherited.

William’s wealth was built on wool. He was a Calais stapler, indeed he was elected as mayor of the Calais staple. And that not only gave him trading wealth; it also brought influence. For the Calais staple was one of the chief engines of finance for successive governments. Loans were made to the king, in return for which the lenders were granted export licences, property which fell into the Crown, and general pardons. It also gained the lenders the ears of the king’s ministers and even the king himself. After all, the king often came through Stamford on his way north or south, and there were several places worthy of housing the king and his household in and around the town, especially the friaries (Stamford Castle was probably already in disrepair by this time although, as the Hall Book shows, courts continued to be held there).

Such prominence brought with it duties, of course. William served on the borough council for the whole period under review and was Alderman (i.e. chief officer, called ‘mayor’ in many other places) on several occasions. Part of his power base in the town came from the gilds of the town, including the gild of St Katherine (GCM 266/670); William Browne was its Alderman from at least 1480 until his death, when he was succeeded by his nephew Christopher Browne until 1495. He was also a prominent member of the Stamford Gild of Corpus Christi and served as its Alderman in 1484 and probably other years also (Rogers 1973:34). He was appointed JP in Rutland and was also sheriff in Rutland and Lincolnshire, offices which not only brought with them duties but also opportunities to increase his wealth and influence. He was a man worth cultivating.

And he was also a man of political shrewdness. He steered himself carefully through the difficulties of the years 1470-71 and again 1482 to 1485. Browne was sheriff of Rutland during the key year 1483; his appointment by Edward IV was renewed by the government of Edward V and then again by Richard III, so he was clearly acceptable to all regimes at this time. The licence to found the hospital seems to show this in some detail. He seems to have started his Hospital well before the death of Edward IV, but he did not obtain the licence to set up a trust and endow it with property (i.e. to alienate estates in mortmain) in this reign. Richard III granted the licence to Browne in January 1485. Henry VII renewed that licence, again no doubt for a fee (CPR 1476-85:505, 570; CFR 1471-85:245, 257, 268; Newton 1966).
But Browne seems to have avoided political commitment. He never served as MP for the borough. Although clearly called upon to help the town at times of political uncertainty, he did not become personally involved.

It was not of course William alone who had such influence in Stamford, as can be seen from the way in which John (William’s younger brother) and Christopher (John’s son) were treated. John Browne was listed as second in the list of the First Twelve every year until he died (1476) except for the two years when his brother William served as Alderman, in which case John’s name came first in the list. John did not serve as Alderman during the time of the Hall Book but he had been Alderman in 1462-3 after the new charter had been granted. He too was wealthy, helping to rebuild All Saints church in the market place, and the Book of Hours which he and his wife commissioned shows both the high art and international connections which the family had (RCHM 1977; Gothic 2003: 273-4). Christopher was admitted to the freedom in December 1481, and he was elected onto the First Twelve and immediately into the post of Alderman in the following September. After a short period of uncertainty, his name was always ranked first in the First Twelve list. The Browne family were clearly very eminent in Stamford in the late fifteenth century.

Stamford and power
Despite the fact that Stamford was a Yorkist property, it managed to stay clear of most of the troubles of the period (see Rogers 1965, 1973). It claimed it had received its charter in 1462 as a reward for having been sacked by the Lancastrian army in the previous year. But the sack of Stamford has been greatly exaggerated by later historians (in the seventeenth century, Richard Butcher the town clerk alleged that some town councillors were plundering the town of its records and then blaming the sack of Stamford for their destruction; and Huntingdon and other towns were sacked at the same time but did not make such a hullabaloo about it as did Stamford). It sent troops to both Henry VI and Edward IV when necessary and raised taxes to pay for them. There are times when some influence can be seen in the promotion of eminent persons directly onto the town council, by-passing the normal routes of climbing the council ladder, so that they could be chosen as Alderman. But at no time did the council fall under the long-term influence of any party at the time; the chief influence seems to have been William Browne. The town chose royal servants as its MPs (the charter of 1462 gave Stamford the right to elect MPs for the first time since the early fourteenth century) but I suggest that they did this for their own interest rather than simply to find a suitable place for a
royal supporter, and all of these MPs had local investment in the town. A new charter of 1481 came some time after the battle of Loosecoat Field nearby (1470). Despite its Yorkist credentials and loyalties, the chief interest of Stamford in the late fifteenth century was Stamford, not any of the warring parties in the country at this time.

And this implied more than anything else relations with its lord and his officials. The duke of York, lord of the manor, castle and town of Stamford during the reign of Henry VI, at times allowed the town to manage its own affairs, especially the market, simply enacting the manor court held in the Castle from time to time. His steward and his bailiff under the steward were responsible to collect what profits were due to the lord. Disputes occurred over sources of income such as the town pinfold. So that the charter of 1462 (and again in 1481) could be seen as much as granting freedom from the lord as from the royal administration. After his accession to the throne, Edward gave the town, manor and castle to his mother Lady Cecily duchess of York. When Henry VII came to the throne, he gave the reversion of the town to his wife Elizabeth to keep it under royal influence. However, royal officials such as William Hussey began to interfere more directly in the town’s affairs, enforcing once again measures of control over the town’s council which they claimed had come down from antiquity (i.e. from the times of William de Warenne who held the town in the fourteenth century). And by then there was no William Browne to defend the town’s privileges from such encroachments (Rogers 1973).

Real power then seems to have lain within the town and especially with William Browne. There are hints in the Hall Book of William’s dominance in the town. The chief one is that his name was always first in the list of town councillors (the First Twelve); apart from the years when he was Alderman, he was never dislodged from that position. There was a marked change after his death. The first name in that list was frequently changed, often being the name of the immediate past Alderman. But from 1465 when we have the first list to 1490 when it was reported that William Browne had died, for 25 years William Browne headed the list. He gave the town instruments for the gaol immediately after one of his terms of office as Alderman, no doubt finding during his year that the gaol lacked adequate chains and padlocks. Such a gift can be seen as both symbolic as well as philanthropic. On one occasion (1481) when it appears that some factionalism broke out in the town council, it was Browne who took the lead, locking up the town seal so that no-one could use it without the knowledge of himself and a small group of other citizens. And there is one clear hint of his identification with the town of Stamford. During his year of office, he alone of all the Aldermen used the personal pronoun: “William Cunwey came before me”; “he gave his pledge to me” etc. No-one else used this kind of language. It may also be
significant that William Browne seems to have had relatively few interests in other towns such as Boston, King’s Lynn etc, as did many other Stamford merchants of the day. He was a member and indeed Alderman on occasion of the celebrated Gild of Corpus Christi in Boston, but that apart, his links outside Stamford seem to have been few. He acquired country estates, for example Lilford in Northants, but he does not seem to have spent time on these estates. He left Lilford to his daughter Elizabeth the wife of John Elmes; their son William was one of the executors of William Browne in setting up his Hospital after his death in 1489 (HofP).

Beyond this is speculation. But he seems to have been a defender of the privileges of the town to a quite remarkable degree. Having himself served as sheriff of two counties, he knew at first hand how important it was to keep the sheriff out of the town as the charter allowed them to do. The only occasions this was broken were some of the parliamentary elections in the town when it would seem that the Alderman conducted the elections but made his returns to Chancery through the sheriff of Lincoln. And the ‘lord’ of Stamford (Lady Cecily duchess of York, mother of Edward IV) and her steward who conducted the manorial court (view of frank pledge) from the Castle were also to be kept at bay. It may have been useful to give an occasional present to her representative such as Humphrey Bourchchier Lord Cromwell (a present made when William Browne was Alderman), but the freedom to run its own affairs - its streets and dunghills, its trading hours and market locations, its apprenticeships and sureties, its magistrates’ courts (as JPs) and disputes over debts - must at all costs be preserved.

There is little evidence of William’s direct involvement in such matters. The chief signs of his defence of the town’s privileges may be seen from what happened immediately after his death. Once during the life of William Browne it is recorded that the lawyer who (according to the charter of 1462) was supposed to attend all sittings of the JPs was actually present at some council meetings. But immediately after the death of William Browne, a number of significant changes took place. The Alderman was elected (as ever) on 30 September (whatever day of the week that date fell on), but instead of entering at once on his duties, some time later (normally as much as one month), he and the other councillors were summoned to the Castle where they took their oaths before Lady Cecily’s steward or his deputy and began their year of office. In order to overcome any objection to such innovation, the Hall Book records this as being “according to ancient custom” (secundum antiquam consuetudinem) - i.e. it is alleged to date from before the charters. In fact, it was a revival of the custom under the Earls of Warenne when the town had to present their newly elected chief officer to the earl for his approval. I want to suggest - but no more than suggest - that it was the death of William Browne which allowed the steward of the Castle once again to enforce his veto over the town councillors and their election of the Alderman. It could of
course have been part of a more general reform of administration which Henry VII brought in and which was designed to strengthen royal power at the expense of the local lords. But the change of tone in the Hall Book after 1490 is so strong that something local seems to have enabled it to take place. And the town went along with this new or revived practice - there is a later declaration by the Alderman and council about searching the market “on behalf of the king”.

Stamford and the charters
Such control by an outside authority seems to have contravened the 1462 charter. Not that Stamford paid much attention to their charter. The charter was used by the town councillors to promote the town’s interests, not to bind it. Its provisions were ignored when custom pointed to this. For example, there were two Twelves, a First Twelve which should have included all previous Aldermen and from whom the new Alderman was chosen and a Second Twelve for the community (very soon after the death of Browne, a Third Twelve was chosen by the common freemen of the borough who on that occasion felt that the Second Twelve no longer represented their interests, but that quickly vanished). The charter said there should be a council of thirteen, of whom one should be chosen as Alderman; it says nothing about the Second Twelve. Again the charter said the Alderman and his fellow JPs should hold their court every Thursday; but the court was held more occasionally than this and on any day of the week they chose, including Sundays. I suggest (although there is no firm evidence for it) that these were customs which had appertained before the 1462 charter and they continued after the charter; the townsmen of Stamford saw the charter as enabling them to do some things but it must not stop them from doing other things, especially what they had done earlier.

The grant of the charter indeed (although it conferred some new privileges such as the power to elect MPs) was probably in the interest as much of the king as of the town. It has been suggested that it was a reward to the town for their loyalty to the Yorkist cause, but it was just as likely to be a pledge for future support to the Crown. For Stamford was still a wealthy town and through it the king had access to relatively easily raised money. In 1481, Edward IV renewed the charter and gave some extra privileges (a second, i.e. Monday, market and two new annual fairs, the profits of which came to the town council, not to the lord of the manor). But again this can be seen as being in the king’s interest as well as the town’s interest.
Some issues for further research
Much more work needs to be done on the history of Stamford at this period. This book is not a full history. This is clear from two further points at which Stamford’s history and national history intersect on a regular basis. The election of MPs, a privilege which was granted by Edward IV’s charter in 1462 (actually a revival, for Stamford had returned MPs on two occasions during the early fourteenth centuries), is reported in the Hall Book on several occasions, but there are other occasions when it is not so reported. And the collection of royal taxes on the town is again mentioned several times in detail but there is no record on several other occasions (Jurkowski et al 1998). The keeping of records was not Stamford’s strong point in the late fifteenth century. The Hall Book thus needs to be supplemented by the royal records and the church records of the period.

Some suggestive lines of enquiry
Apart from more research into the town’s national roles at this period, I am led to ask other questions concerning the council and its relations with the residents of borough. For example, there are some signs of internal conflict such as is known in Kings Lynn and other towns at this time (Dimmock 2001; Dyer 1992) which need to be explored further. There may have been some growing reluctance to serve as Alderman. Towards the end of the period, at least one person was brought onto the First Twelve with a specific proviso that he be not elected as Alderman without his consent. And on four occasions, a person was brought onto the First Twelve (two of them from the Second Twelve) and elected as Alderman immediately. Much more needs to be looked at in this respect.

The influence that the Alderman had is not clear. One thing is strange. The Alderman was ex officio the patron of the gild of St Clement, appointing the priest to that chantry (Hartley and Rogers 1974: 23-24). On at least one occasion that appointment was made “with the consent of the comburgesses”; but there is no sign of this kind of business in the Hall Book. We do not have a full record of all the business transacted by the Alderman and his council here.

Then there are the town’s Corpus Christi plays - ‘pagentes’ as they are called here, probably floats provided by each of the thirteen craft groupings on which were staged not static displays but some dramatic interludes. The town on
one occasion suggested these should be divided into two sets, seven one year and six the following year, but this practice was almost immediately abandoned. Why was the change proposed and then given up so quickly?

The lists of **occupations** which can be drawn from the admission of freemen to the borough may be very revealing. We do not of course have a full list, for the names of those who had already been admitted to the freedom before the 1462 charter was given are not known; but over the twenty-five years covered in this volume, there may be significant changes in the make up of the town’s economy.

Perhaps the most significant thing about the **admissions** to the town’s freedom is again what happened after the death of William Browne. As the table of admissions shows, the only Alderman who did not admit anyone during his year of office was William Browne; and during his lifetime, on no occasion were more than nine persons admitted at one sitting. But only a few months after his death, no less than 23 freemen were admitted in one long list, and a few months later another nineteen tradesmen were admitted again at one council meeting. It almost looks as if Browne was exercising some restraining influence limiting the number of freemen who could be admitted, and that as soon as he died, the flood gates were opened. But some Aldermen admitted many freemen, especially Robert Hans and some of those who came up from the Second Twelve, others very few.

It would be good to see if the kinds of **trades and crafts** being used changed over this period as seen in these admissions. A number of apprenticeships are enrolled and throw light on the development of trades and manufactures. There is more which can be discovered in this respect. For example, we can see here the inns of the George, the Moon and Stars, and the Antelope, and there are several references to lodging houses which between them provided not only hospitality for visitors but also trading centres, travel terminuses and meeting places for the transaction of all kinds of business.

And this raises the issue of the **wealth** of Stamford at this time. Some historians have seen towns as in a state of decline in the later fifteenth century, while others have noted areas of considerable prosperity. The Hall Book does not at first sight throw much light on this. But we can note the building work going on in Stamford at this time which forms a backdrop to the debates in the council chamber. A number of substantial town houses were built in the later fifteenth century, notably the large courtyard house south of (and now part of) the George Hotel. Stukeley’s drawings show several large fifteenth century houses which have now gone. St George’s church had just received extensive building, thanks in part to Sir William Bruges Garter King of Arms, and a new nave roof was going up while the Hall Book was being written. William Browne and his brother John were rebuilding All Saints church on a grand scale as well as Browne’s Hospital, one of the grandest hospitals of the later medieval period. All Saints Vicarage was also
rebuilt in this century. St John’s church had just finished its rebuilding and St Martin’s church tower was rebuilt at the same time, while the rest of the church was being reconstructed in the 1480s. St Mary’s church also was being extensively rebuilt, and William Hikeham paid for restorations to the north aisle which seems to have been used by the Gild of Corpus Christi for its chapel; the carved and painted ceiling was given by Hikeham and his wife Agnes (Harris 1965; RCHM 1977).

Which raises the issue of the role which **women** played in the town. Women ran businesses - but appear very rarely and then primarily in court cases. Never on the council or in any other public role such as assessors or collectors of taxes; never even as sureties or pledges. William Browne’s town was not in fact a man’s town, but the representation of it in the Hall Book was as a man’s town. Women are almost always seen in negative terms in this record - those who are mentioned here are parties in law suits, causes of trouble, vagabonds and lodging house servants, although elsewhere we see them playing a part as full members of the parish gilds. I hope others will follow up such lines of enquiry.

And finally there is the question of the **town council chamber**. Where was ‘the common hall’ in which the First and Second Twelves met and where the sessions of the peace were held? On one occasion, the Hall Book says the council met in the hall of the gild of Corpus Christi. In the sixteenth century, while the town’s Gyldehall seems to have been a chamber over the south gate of the town over the bridge, there was also a Gildehalle in St Mary’s Place which the Cecil family held and which appears to have been close to the site of the present Town Hall (Hartley and Rogers 1974:34). Was this where the meetings of the common hall were held during the later fifteenth century as recorded in the Hall Book?

And talking of council meetings and their minutes, I found myself becoming interested in the **book itself**. Why in 1465, three years after the new charter made a new beginning necessary, did the council feel it necessary to start a new Hall Book, copying up some but not all of the previous three year records (they even left out the elections of the Aldermen for these years)? Did they start with a bound book or did they start writing on separate sheets and only later bind them into a very large volume? The existing size of the book would make it very difficult to write in. Where did the paper come from? - examination of the watermark may help to reveal this. And who wrote up the entries? - as with so many other medieval texts, we do not know who wrote the Hall Book; the town clerk cannot now be identified. A great pity - although he was often careless and slack in his work. And what happened to the other town records, such as the finance account books and lists of freemen and other papers mentioned in the text?

But so long as we remember that in the Hall Book we are seeing only one part of late medieval Stamford, a picture which men drew and in which they actually
did not see the women and their achievements, we shall look at this record as one
of great value - a town council trying to regulate its own affairs, settle its own
disputes, promote its own interests, tidy its own streets, develop its own recreations
- all activities and ambitions which Stamford’s residents today have largely lost
despite successive governments which have pledged themselves to more
decentralisation. Medieval Stamford citizens were in greater control of their own
lives and environment than their twenty-first century successors are.

Acknowledgements:  I am grateful to the Borough Council of Stamford for all
their help over many years in my study of the history of their town and for help
with this transcription; and to the staff of the History of Parliament Trust for help
with aspects of parliamentary history and other material.

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### TABLE OF ADMISSIONS TO FREEDOM TO TRADE IN STAMFORD 1462-1490

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aldermanry year starts</th>
<th>name of Alderman</th>
<th>admissions by separate sessions</th>
<th>total admissions</th>
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Editorial conventions used in the text

All Latin text has been translated with editorial comments inserted as necessary. All English language text has been retained but again explanatory terms have been inserted to make the sense plain. All editorial insertions are in square brackets.

Text in round brackets indicates material which has been inserted or deleted in the original document (in brackets followed by *ins*, for inserted, or *del*, for deleted).

The layout of each page has been followed as far as possible. Material in **bold** is text which has a large scale formal script on the page; underlining indicates text in the margins.

The spelling of all surnames is as in the original but first names have been standardised in most cases, as they are usually highly abbreviated in the original text.

The foliation is as in the original with *r* = recto, and *v* = verso.

Commentary by the editor is in italics. Additional matter from other sources is indicated by being placed in text boxes at an appropriate point in the narrative.
The first entry was written in 1465 and summarises in English under a number of separate points the charter given to the Alderman (George Chapman) and the town in March 1461/2. The charter of 1462 has been seen by historians as a recompense to Yorkist Stamford for the damage done by the ‘sack’ of the town in the previous year 1461 by the Lancastrian forces before Edward duke of York defeated them at Towton Moor, Yorkshire in March 1461. But it may also have been something of a bribe, for the town was still rich, and a number of its merchants were Calais staplers. The Staple bankrolled Edward IV, and in return for ‘loans’, the merchants (including the two Browne brothers) received licences to export wool and general pardons. Stamford was also seen as a source of rewards for royal officers.

The charter is in standard form; indeed in 1488 Pontefract took the ‘privileges’ of Stamford as the basis of their own charter. But in fact it did not exactly reflect existing practice or establish new practice.

Staunfford

Register of all the ordinances, statutes and constitutions by virtue and authority of a certain charter of our most illustrious lord king Edward the fourth in the year 1461², and in the first year of the reign of the same king, delivered and franchised, given and confirmed, begun and renewed, to George Chapman then Alderman of the town or borough of Staunfford and to his successors Aldermen and burgesses of the same. As abstracted in the common hall there in the time of Robert Hans³ Alderman of the same town or borough in the year 1465, and in the fifth year of the said lord king in English as follows:

Concerning the corporation:

² i.e. February 1461/2.
³ It is impossible to be certain whether this is Hans or Haus; various other transcribers have used both forms; I am suggesting Hans throughout.
First that the said towne frome the xij dey of February in the fy rst yeer of owr sayd soveraygne lord the kyng for ever after shalbe corporate in dede and in name of an Alderman and burgesses and that they use suche customes and usages lawfull as they affortyme used.

Concerning the possession of lands and a common seal:
Item that the Alderman and burgesses now byeing or in tyme to cum shalbe persones able to purches landds and tenements to the wellfare of the towne and to pleett [plead] and to be enpletyd and to have a commen seall.

Concerning the election of the Alderman:
Item that the said commynalte by thes presentes hav e power att a dey of eleccyon to chuys an Alderman so he be one of the fy rst xij and the fy rst xij to contyne we duryng ther lyves naturall, but reysonable excuse be leyd to the contrarye.

Concerning elections:
Item that the sayd Alderman and commynaltye have power yeerlye to chuse one or two sergeaunts to attend one the Alderman and observe the commaundements as he or they ben commaundid by the said Alderman.

Concerning the power of justices:
Item that the said Alderman and the fy rst xij be Justyces of the peace within the said towne and have as large power within the said towne as any Justyces of the peace have in any shire in Inglond.

Item that no Justyce of the peace of Kesteven have anythyng to do within the said towne ne intermytt [interfere] them of any thyng done within the said towne.

Item that no burges ne resident within the said towne shall be compelled to apper before any Justyce of the peace of Kestevyn but onlye before the Alderman and his comburgesses within the said towne.

Item yf any constable or burges be empanelled to appear before any Justyce owt of the (said ins) towne, that then the said impanellyng be for nowght and the mercyment [court fine] voyd.

Item that all fynes [i.e. entry fines] and amercyme nts forfitt before the said Alderman and burgesses reymayne to the welfare of the said towne withowt any accomptes had in the hygher cowrte.

Outlawed goods to the use of the corporacion:
Item that the Alderman burgesses and commonialtye shall have and enjoye the goodds of owtlawde men whiche they can sease [seize] or do [cause] to be seasid within the said towne.
Item that the steward or the marshall of the marshalsye shall make no warrant ne entermytt [interfere] them of any maner resydent in the said towne ne any maner wyse have to do in the said towne.

Item that the said Alderman and commonialyte have power to chuse a crowner within themself and that non other coronour have to do within the said towne.

Free from the paynes [payment] of toll: Item that the said Alderman and burgesses be tolefree of toll, pannage, murage and suche other thorowghe all Inglond as well be land as by water.

The significance of the next provision is that the county sheriff and the bailiff of the lord of the manor (in 1465 Lady Cecily duchess of York) were to be excluded (but in practice both officers still had some responsibilities for the return of some writs and for manorial matters).

Item that the said Alderman and burgesses have reyt orne of all manner of wrytts or warrants and precepts by ther owne baylyff of fraunches and none oder [other].

Item that no [taker of the kyng’s howshold] sheryff ne eschetour entermytt them of any persone reysydent or nott reysydent within the said towne ne do no manner execucyon within the said towne.

Item that no taker of the kyng’s howshold ne of non e oder [other] estate take any manner of vycuals ne horse ne corne ne cart within the said towne without the agreement and satysfacyon contynent.

Item that no burges of the said towne shalbe compell yd to appear before any Justyce owt of the said towne but onely before the Alderman and his comburgesses within the said towne.

The assises were of course mainly concerned with the markets. The market was managed by the bailiff and supervised by the steward of the dukes of York. Now the Alderman took control. In 1481, the town obtained an additional market, but it does not seem to have flourished.

Item that the said Alderman shall have the oversyght punycyon and correccyon of all manner of assisez within the said towne.

Item that the said commynalte shall nott be compellyd to appear before any commyssyonors as for musters but onely before the Alderman and his comburgesses within the said towne.

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4 This deletion comes from the following entry.
1462-1465

There follows the first Aldermanry election recorded in this Hall Book. According to Butcher’s History and Antiquities of the Town of Stamford (1646, reprinted 1727, p81), the Aldermen between George Chapman in 1461-2 and Robert Hance were

John Brown 1462-3
John Gregory 1463-4
William Hickman 1464-5.

During these years, several royal servants including Husee, Trunk, Forster and Murdok, king’s officers, obtained grants of property in the town from the king (CPR). The king stopped in the town in August 1464 on his return south after fighting the Lancastrians twice in Northumberland. Sporadic fighting continued during 1465-6, Henry VI being captured and placed in the Tower of London in July.

The Hall Book always speaks of a First Twelve and a Second Twelve although there is no sign in the charter of the Second Twelve. Almost certainly the two Twelves were a part of town administration prior to the charter of 1462. There were twelve ‘lawmen’ in Stamford from very early days; these seem to have continued into the fifteenth century, but who they were, how they were chosen and what they did are all very obscure.

Robert Hance

[30 September 1465]
Concerning the election of the Alderman and the xij associated with him and - Sworn.

According to this foresaid chartor, the holl [whole] commons of the said towne and borough in the feast of sent Jerom in the fyfte yeer of the reigne of kyng Edward the fourth aforesaid have elec’ and chosen the beforesaid Roberd Hans for the yeer next followyng Alderman of the same towne and borough and for the fyrst xj [sic] to the Aldermans councell and bredern elect whos names followe:

**William Browne**
**John Gregorye**
**John Gybbes**
**George Chapman**
**Alex Tyard**
**Robert Neour**
**John Trunke**

Concerning the election of the second xij

Item the foresayd dey and yeer the said commons have chosen for them these names followyng

William Sutton  Henry Coke  William Marchaunt
John Capron  sworn  Thomas Holton  sworn  David Hovye  sworn
Thomas Moreton  Thomas Middleton  Robert Cuffe
John Neele  Robert Skenner  John Barr

5 Those marked with an asterisk had served as Aldermen already; those with two asterisks more than once.
The charter said the town could choose one or two sergeants and have their own bailiff; they appointed one sergeant and a bailiff.

Concerning the election of the clavigers, viz sergeaunts
Item the said dey and yeer the same commons have chosen for the sergeants the twoo followyng, that is to sey William Taverner for the Alderman aforesayd
And John Busshe for the offyce of the baylyshippe of the said fraunchese.

There follows a summary of existing borough regulations relating to the crafts in Stamford, i.e. entry into freedom of the borough, apprentices, entry fines and borough officers. It reads like a summary of current practice entered into a new book.

It is not clear if there were formal craft gilds or not. The various crafts were grouped together into ‘pagentes’; entry fines for different crafts were set; and wardens for the crafts were appointed on the basis of the ‘pagentes’.

Concerning fines for all the crafts [artum],
Item itt is ordenyd statud[ed] and by the said Alderman and his bredern the fyrst xij and all the hoole commyns of the said towne and borouge stablysshed that frome this dey afterward that all manner of men of crafts vyttelers, husbondmen and laborers that wyll sett upe and occupye for hymeself shall pay to common hall for ther fynes as itt apperyth in wrytyng nowe followyng:

Drapers and mercers:
Fyrst that every foryner of this said crafts [of] draperye and mercerye that neyther was borne ne apprentyce in this towne and broughe and wyll sett upe crafte for hymself and occupye a shoppe, he beyng nott fraunchessed, shall pey yeerly to the common hall tyll suche tyme as he be fraunchessed and sworn vjs viijd.
Item yff any suche persone of the said crafts of draperye and mercery desire to be fraunchessed, he shall pey att ons [i.e. on the one occasion] for his fraunchessing for ever after xxs

Taylors and hosyers:
Item that every taylour and hosyer that neyther was borne ne a pprentyce in this sayd towne and wyll sett upe craft and occupye a shoppe for hymself, he beyng nott fraunchasid shall pey yeerlye to the said hall tyll suche tyme as he be fraunchessed and sworn iis iijd.
Item yff any persone of the said crafts desire to be fraunchessid, he shall pey for his fraunchessing for ever after vjs viijd

Shomakers:
Item that every shomaker that neyder was borne ne apprentice in this sayd towne and wyll sett upe craffe and occupye a shoppe for hymself, he beyng nott fraunchasid, shall pey yeerlye to the said hall tyll suche tyme as he be fraunchessed and sworn vs.
Item yff any suche persone of that same crafte desire to be fraunchessid, he shall pey for hys fynn att onys for ever for his said fraunchessyng xiijs iiiijd
Glovers and tynkers:
Item that every glover that neyder was borne ne apprentices in this said towne and wyll sett uppe craft and occupye a shoppe or whittewyng for hymself, he beyng nott fraunchessed shall pey yeerlye to the said hall tyll he be fraunchessid and sworn iijs iiijd
Item yff any suche persone of that same crafte desire to be fraunchessid, he shall pey for hys fyne att once for ever for his said fraunchessyng vjs viijd

Bakers, brewers and inkeepers:
Item that every baker that neyder was born ne apprenntyce in this sayd towne and wyll sett uppe and occupye a shoppe and craft for hymeself, he beyng nott fraunchessid, shall pey yeerly to the said hall tyll he be fraunchessid and sworn iijs iiijd.
Item yf any suche persone of that same crafts desire to be fraunchessid, he shall pey for hys fyne for ever att once for his fraunchessing vjs viijd

Fysshers:
Item that every fyssher that neyder was borne ne apprentices in this towne and wyll sett upe and occupye shoppe and crafte for hym, he beyng nott fraunchessid, shall pey yeerly to the said hall tyll he be fraunchessid and sworn xxd.
Item that yf any suche persone of that same crafte desire to be fraunchessed he shall pey for hys fyne for ever for his fraunchessyng iijs iiijd

Bochers:
Item that every bocher that neyder was borne ne apprenntyce in this said towne and wyll sett upe and occupye shoppe and crafte for hym self, he beyn g nott fraunchessid shall pey yeerlye to the said hall tyll he be fraunchessid and sworn iijs iiijd.
Item yf any suche person of that same crafte desire to be fraunchessid he shall pey for hys fyne att once for his said fraunchessyng vjs viijd

All manner handecrafts:
Item that every ironmonger, hamerman, weyver, walker, Slater or any other handyecraft that neyther was borne ne apprentices in this sayd towne and wyll sett upe and occupye for hym self, he beyng nott fraunchessid, shall pey yeerlye to the said hall tyll he be fraunchessid and sworn ijs.
Item yf any suche persone of the same crafts desire to be fraunchessid, he shall pey for his fyne att once for ever iij.

Bakers:
Item that every baker that neyther was borne ne apprenntyce in this towne and wyll sett upe and occupye for hym self, he beyng nott fraunchessid, shall pey yeerlye to the said hall tyll he be fraunchessid and sworn iij.
Item yf any suche persone of that crafte desire to be fraunchessid he shall pey for his fyne for ever att once for his said fraunchessyng vjs viijd

6 written over an erasure
Husbandmen:
Item that every husbandman that neither was born nor servant in this town and will occupy husbandry with plough and cart or either of them he [having del] being not Frenched, shall pay yearly till he be Frenched and sworn ijs.

Item if any such husbandman will be Frenched, he shall pay for ever at once for his fine for his Frenching iiijs.

Laborers:
Item that every common laborer before not servisid servant, wright, mason or any other handycraft that was nott borne in this towne that will Occupy and labour for his deylye wage, he being not Frenched, shall pay yearly till he be Frenched and sworn xijd.

Item if any such laborer desire and will be Frenched he shall pay for his fine att once for ever for his said Frenchessyng ijs.

Flaxechapmen or other chapmen:
Item that every flax chapman that neither was borne ne apprentice in this town and will occupy for hym self, he being not Frenched, shall pay yearly till he be Frenched and sworn ijs vjd.

Item if any suche persone desire and will be Frenched he shall pay for his fine att once for ever for his said Frenchessyng vs.

Proviso for the said crafts
Providid all waye that yff any foreyner of any thes occupacyones afforsaid cum to this towne and sett upe crafte, that then he be examynyd by the Alderman or his deputyes att the half yeers end next after his cummyng wheyther he entend to contyn ewe and abide or no, and yf he continewe that then he shall fynd sewertye to pay the fine afforsaid accordyng to his occupacyon the whiche he then occupyyth or els to pey the annuell rent and chardge accordyng to the same. And yf he entend nott to abide and occupy, that then he shall pey after the rate of his tyme contynewyng.

Concerning apprentices in all the above-mentioned crafts
Item every man that takyth any apprentice to his cr afte of what crafte so ever he be, he shall within the fyrst yeer after he is bounden bryng hym in to the hall before the Alderman and ther se his name and terme enrolled and the said apprentice ther to be sworn to do his master dewe servyce accordyng to his convenants.

Enrollment
And att that tyme he shall pey for the enrollyng of his said prentyce and terme viijd, that is to sey to hall iiijd and to the clerk iiijd. And that no master feall [fail] hereof uppon peyn of forfature of half the fyne of his crafte of what crafte so ever he be.

Apprentyces occupying for their self and vs not fraudchessed.
Item that every such apprentice that seteth up and occupieth his said craft after his apprentishood is cum out for himself and is not frauncheised, he shall pay yearly till he be frauncheised xxd

Prentices desyreing to be frauncheessed
Item if any such apprentice att his cummyng out of his prentishood or any tyme after that will sett up a craft and occupy for himself desiring to be frauncheised shall bring before the Alderman his master who he was apprentice with, and that he will affirm the good gydyng and rule of the same prentyce, then shall the said apprentice pay for his hoole fyne for ever ijs.

Concerning those who have been born in the town
Item that every man and child that is borne within the said towne or broughe that will sett up and occupye for himself of what craft or occupacyon that he be of, he shall have his frauncheysyng free without any fyne payyn, Except that he shall pay to the Alderman’s serjeaunt jd and to the common clerke ijd.

Concerning fees of the common clerk
Item the said common clerke shall have for every mannes name that he entryth and wryttyth in to his boke wheyther itt be for hys fyne or burgessye or any other entrey ijd
Item the said common clerke shall have for every warrant that he wrytyth iiiijd

The name of the town clerk is not known except in 1450.

Concerning fees of the bailiff of the liberty for the taking of any warranty
In primis itt is ordenyd statutyd and by a holl assent stablysshed that the baylyf of the fraunches of the sayd towne and boroughhe shall take of every sworn man of the same towne arestyd by hym by a wrytt xxd, wherof the said baylyff shall have viijd and answer to the said hall * xijd - xxd
Item he shall take of every straunger arrestyd by wrytt ijs wherof he shall answer to the said hall xvd - ijs
Item he shall take of every sworn man arrestyd by warrant viijd wherof he shall answer to the said hall iiiijd - viijd
Item he shall take of every straunger arrestyd by hym for for [sic] suertye of peax ijs wherof he shall answer to the hall xvjd - ijs
Item yf any man nott sworn or a straunger trespace in any offence done agayn the lawe, he shall paye to the said hall viijd and to the baylyff iiiijd - xvjd
Item yf any suche man or straunger make any affrey or sute uppon any sworn man of the said towne, he shall paye ijs iiiijd, wherof the said baylyf shall answer to the said hall ijs viijd - ijs iiiijd

Item yf any suche man or straunger make any sawt [assault] or affrey uppon any of the fyrst xij, he shall pay vjs viijd wherof the said baylyff shall answer to the said hall vs iiiijd - vjs viijd
The bailiff of the liberty shall have livery cloth. Item itt is ordeynyd statutyd and by a hole assent stablysshed that the baylf stand and occupye in the office of a sergeaunt, and when he is commaundid he shall bear [deleted word] his mase before the Alderman and waytt upon hym and do his commaundements, and the said serjeaunt shall [have ins] one lyverye gowne uppon the towne cost.

Concerning the fees of the common claviger [sergeant]. Item itt is ordenyd statutyd and that the common serjeaunt shall have for his stypond for his said offyce doyng in the yeer xxvjs viijd and one gowne after the awnscyent [ancient] custome of the said towne - xxvjs viijd and one gowne. Item he shall take of every correcyon [i.e. fine for misdoing imposed] by the said Alderman of every towneseman that is sworne to the hall vjd, wherof he shall answer to the said hall iiijd - vjd.

Constitution concerning butchers and [text torn] Item itt is ordeynyd etc that no bocher nor fyssher put any Intrales of flesshe or fysche or bowells in any place within the towne but make them to be carried into the delves [ditches] without the towne uppon peyn of forfatyng to the hall att every tyme contrayre to this provysyon - ijd each time he makes nuisance [tociens quociens]

[21 October 1465]
The names of those sworn to the freedom, beginning [in principio] in the abovesaid year. Thes byn the names of the sworn men res[ived?] and admyttyd att the fyrst session holden in the yeer of Roberd Hance beyng Alderman, that is to sey the Monday next after the feast of Sent Luke the Evangeliste in the yeer before said.
William Tuffe made fine [fecit finem] for the freedom of the town or borough aforesaid by pledge of John Tuff xxd
John Tuffe made fine as above by pledge of William Cobbe xijd
John Robson made fine as above by pledge of Robert Tuffe xxd
William Cobbe weyver made fine as above by pledge of John Robson ijs
Robert Tuffe lokesmyth (made fine ins) as above by pledge of William Tuff xvjd
William Wood glasier made fine as above by pledge of William Taverner ijs
William Olyver taylour made fine as above by pledge of John Barr iijs iiijd
William Knyght made fine as above by pledge of John Barr xxd

The names of those sworn to the freedom since [extroque] the constitutions were ordained [i.e. since 1462?].

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7 This sub-heading refers to the second entry rather than the one which immediately follows it. The scribe appears to have made an error at this point.
8 After this entry, I have translated ‘claviger’ as ‘sergeant’ except where the two words come together.
9 This is I think the year of George Chapman Alderman; see above page 4.
10 Cuff and Tuff are interchangeable.
These byn the names of the men that be sworne and admyttyd in to the sayd libertye sythens the constitucyons wer made and agreedd etc
William Smyth skyynner made fine with the Alderman aforesaid for having his freedom by pledge of John Maye and John Stede iiijs
John Stede made fine as above by pledge of William Smyth vjs viijd
Thomas Laughtwaytt made fine as above by pledge of the Alderman vjs viijd
Thomas Peryman made fine as above by pledge of William Browne xs
Thomas Dyckons made fine as above by pledge of Thomas Gregoriey iiiijs
John Bower made fine as above by pledge of David Hovye iiiijs
Thomas Strangylon made fine as above by pledge of Thomas Middleton ijs
Thomas Happe made fine as above by pledge of David Hovye iiiijs
Nicholas Beste made fine as above by pledge of [blank]\(^{11}\) ijs
Richard Chapman made fine as above by pledge of [blank] iijs iiijd
John Kylyngworth made fine as above by pledge of William Hekeham iiijd
John Andrewe laborer made fine as above by pledge of Henry Byllyng ijs
Richard Walker taylor made fine as above by pledge of John Busshe vjs viijd
John Dyckons made fine as above by pledge of John May vjs viijd
Thomas Basham made fine as above by pledge of John Gregory xs
John Canon made fine as above by pledge of John May ijs
Thomas Parnell made fine as above by pledge of John Gregoriey xs

The 'pagents' were groupings of crafts to perform the Corpus Christi plays in Stamford. These groupings however also appointed wardens to supervise trade activities. This would suggest there were no formal craft gilds in the town.

Theys be the names of all manner crafts sett together in pagents whiche shall within them selfs chuys them wardeyns for to serche and overse all manner poynts longyng to the same crafts that they be chosen of for the welfare and worshiphe of this sayd towne and boroughe; and yff any wardeyn so chosen fynd any manner of defalt within his craft or in the master or servant of the same that wyll not be amendid by hym, he shall then complayn to the Alderman that he and his bredern and counseyll may therin take a dewe correcycon and reformacyon.

| Drapers | under two wardens | Bowers the same as above |
| Hosyers | |
| Taylors | Flechers |
| |
| Stryngers |
| Turnours |
| Dyers |
| |
| Marcers in the same way | Scryveners as above |
| Grocers | Glasyers |
| Habbardasshers | Payntors |
| |
| Steynors |
| Barbors |

\(^{11}\) This may mean the same pledge as in the previous entry
It would seem that the searchers of the markets met some resistance. The following two constitutions kept the balance, the first proclaiming traditional freedom to trade, the second upholding the wardens’ right to search, although it seems to reduce the power of the searchers to fine on the spot but reserves amendment to the Alderman.

[Tuesday 22 July 1466]
Constitution concerning buying and selling by all crafts
Item itt is ordeynyd, statutyd and by the same Alderman, bredern, comburgesses and all the hooll commons in this session holden in the same hall in the feast of Sent Marye Magdelyn in the sext yeer of the reigne of kyng Edward the fourth stablysshed for evermor, that all manner men of crafts that ben burgesses and freemen of the said hall and sworn shall occupye in byyng and sellyng in lykewyse and forme as they have done beforetyme all manner of ware and chaffer suche as shall pleas them for to by or sell att any season within the said towne or broughe.

Constitution concerning the office of wardens [of the crafts]
Item itt is ordeynyd and by the said [Alderman etc] stablysshed that the said two wardens of every pagent of the crafts beforeysaid shall lefully serche or do serche without any interupcyon all manner ware chaffer or any other thyng that is ordeynyd to be sold within hys said pagent and wardeynrye and such as he fyndyth fawtye to bryng itt tofore the Alderman and his counsell as forfitt and itt to stond in hys grace.
Concerning fallow fields for the term of three years
Item itt is ordenyd and by the said hall agreedd th at ther shalbe a fallowe feld the next yeer so contynuyng three yeers, the fyrt feld to begyn in the middlefeld from Holgateway to the stye [lane] that goyth to Ryhall. And that no man sowe n o corne in any fallowe feld of the there felds duryng the said three yeers and so froth on longer yf the hall cane then hollye agree or els to stand and lyge as itt have done before tyme.

Concerning sheep stocked in the fields
Item itt is ordeynyd statutyd and by the same hall stablysshed that no manner man bryng in to the felds any shepe before martlemesdey [St Martin, 11 November], and that they be voydid agayn owt of the felds by lawe Sundey [the Sunday next after Easter Sunday] under payn of every shipe to pey to the hall jd.

Concerning the keeping of pigs
Item itt is ordeynyd and by the hall stablyshed that every man that holdyth any swyn after he is warnyd for to put them before the herd, yff they be after taken att home to pey for every swyne ob [one half penny] to the hall and another ob to the taker of the same swyne.

Concerning not holding a market on Sunday
Item itt is ordeynyd etc that no manner of man of a ny craft or vytyeylers or any other whatsoever he be shall frome this dey afterwards shewe or open any shope wyndowe one the Sondey to by and sell within the howse or withowt, and what soever persone doth the contrarye he shall pey to his owne parishe churche xijd and to the hall other xijd, as often as he is found byyng and sellyng after the said owr [hour], provydid all way that this present act extend nott ne stand in no effect duryng the moneth of August yeerly ne ayanst any travelyng people.

The town ordinances said that the Alderman’s court should be held on Thursdays but from the start it was not held only on that day of the week. The days of each court (except for the feast of St Jerome) have been inserted to demonstrate the range of weekdays used for the court.

Keeping court
Item itt is ordeynyd etc that the Alderman beyng for the tyme or his deputye shall kepe in the Thursedey weikelye yf nede be as itt shall please the said Alderman an cowrt for enrollyng of prentysses and all other thyngs necessaraye whiche the said chartour gyvyth power of …

Item itt is ordeynyd etc that every man that hath any tymber lyyng in the hygh way, ether blocks or any other thyng that is anoyans in the streytts [streets], and the bochers to have awey the ventrells and bowells of basts by j day assigned under peyn of xijd to the hall. And that every man ever after bryngyng any tymber or any other greatt woodd in to the towne shall be voydid owt of the streytts by … [illeg] mertylmes dey [11 November] uppon peyn of xijd and forfatyng of the same woodd to the hall. And that no man ley stone erth or tymber intraylls bowells nor dead carryon in the donghyll nor no other thyng but onely dong in payn of xijd for every tyme and xijd to the taker or fynder therof. And also that every man shall make cleyn the strey tts ayenst their owne grounds every moneth once uppon peyn of iiijd.
During the year 1466-7, the town elected their first MPs (May 1467). This is not recorded in the Hall Book. It is significant that the results of election were returned to the chancery by the sheriff of Lincolnshire (despite the charter which excluded the sheriff), and that the MPs elected were people with extensive outside interests who also had some property in Stamford: John Trunke of Kings Lynn grocer and Richard Forster king’s household official, who had together received from the king a grant of land in the town in 1465 (CFR). Trunke was already a member of the First Twelve but Forster was not; it would seem that he was not admitted to the freedom until 1480.\(^{12}\)

William Browne was also sheriff of Rutland 1466-7; he supervised the county election of MPs in May (HofP).

**William Browne**

[30 September 1466]

Memorandum, that on the day following the feast of St Michael, namely in the feast of St Jerome in the sixth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth since the conquest of England, William Browne merchant was elected Alderman for the next year and for the whole of the following\(^{13}\).

**Twelve for the Alderman aforesaid**

*First xii*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>John Browne</th>
<th>John Gregorye</th>
<th>John Gybbes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Hans</td>
<td>George Chapman</td>
<td>John Murdoke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Gregorye</td>
<td>Thomas Kestevyn</td>
<td>John Trunke</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Hykeham</td>
<td>Robert Neyvour</td>
<td>Alex Tyard</td>
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**Twelve for the community**

*Second xii*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>William Sutton</th>
<th>John Weiks</th>
<th>William Marchaunt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Colom</td>
<td>Thomas Holton</td>
<td>David Hayye Sworn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Neele</td>
<td>Thomas Middleton</td>
<td>John Dykon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Cokke</td>
<td>Robert Skynner</td>
<td>Robert Cuff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And then the whole community of the town in common session were sworn to maintain the said Alderman by raising their hands etc

And they elected William Taverner to the office of sergeant etc and he was sworn etc.
And John Busshe was elected bailiff of the franchise of the aforesaid town and borough etc and he was sworn etc

\(^{12}\) He is to be distinguished from Richard Forster ropemaker who was admitted in January 1479.

\(^{13}\) *pro anno proximo et integr. sequent*. This is an unusual provision.
[Thursday 20 November 1466]
Session of William Browne Alderman of Staunford and the xxiiij first and second burgesses in the common hall there on Thursday next after the feast of St Hugh bishop in the sixth year of the reign of king Edward fourth

Assignment of rubbish heaps [fimaria assign]

For Dunghylles
Att thys dey ytt is ordeynyd and stablysshed by the said Alderman and xxiiij of his sayd burgesses certen places assigned as itt declarith under wrytten for muckhylls and donghylls within the said towne and withowt in dyverse parishes, and so to contynewe under payn of amarcyment makyng to the hall of every persone doyng the contrarye.

The places appoynted for dunghylles
The parishes of Trynyte and Powles to carry and make ther muccke hylls withowt the towne wall.
The parisme of Sent George to make ther muckehyll without the towne wall att Saltby yate
The parisme [sic] of Sent Andrewe and Sent Michaell to ley ther muccke in the middwey from the merkett crosse and Cuffe place or in the Castell dyke.
The parisme of Sent Marye to carry and make ther muckehyll withowt the Water yate
The parisme of Sent Jones to make ther muckehyll in the castell dyke or withowt the towne wall att [illeg del] Skrowe myln
The parisme of All Hallowes [All Saints] to make their muckehyll in the castell dyke or in delf withowt Skofgate yate [the town ditch outside Scotgate].
The parisme of Sent Peter to ley ther muccke betwene Callys and the churche yard of Sent Peter or within the corner next the howse of Roberd Barker.
The parisme of Sent Cleyment to ley ther muccke in the delf withowt Skofgate yate.

Penalties
And what persone so ever ley or make any muckehylls within the towne but [except] att the places assigned shall pay as often as they or any of them so do to the hall iiijd

And yff any bocher or other persone ley any ventrells, bowells or carryon within the towne att any place but within his own place shall pey to the hall as often as they be found fawtye iiijd

[Tuesday 13 January 1467]
Session of William Browne Alderman and the xxiiiij on the Tuesday next after the feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord in the year of the reign of king Edward as above

Att this dey itt is taxed and layed by the said Alderman and xxiiiij of the fyrst xij and second to the reynuyng and makynge of the Westgates of the towne, and to the gyfte of my lord Cromewell as itt appearyth under wrytton

---

14 Humphrey Bourghchier Lord Cromwell was steward of Stamford for Lady Cecily duchess of York who held Stamford until her death in 1495.
First William Browne Alderman gave to the building of the west gate of the towne xls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Browne</td>
<td>for the same xxs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Gregorye</td>
<td>for the same vjs viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Gregorye</td>
<td>for the same vjs viijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Hyckeham</td>
<td>for the same xs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Hans</td>
<td>for the same xs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Kesten</td>
<td>for the same vs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Nevyour</td>
<td>for the same vs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Murdoke</td>
<td>for the same [blank]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Gybbes</td>
<td>for the same vs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Trunke</td>
<td>for the same [blank]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Tyard</td>
<td>for the same xiijs iiijd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Chapman</td>
<td>for the same xiijs iiijd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

John Caprone for the same [blank]
John Nele iijs iiijd
Henry Cokke iijs iiijd
Thomas Moreton [blank]
Thomas Holton iijs iiijd
Thomas Middleton for same iijs iiijd
Robert Skynner iijs iiijd
William Merchaunt iijs
David Hovye iijs iiijd
John Barre [blank]
Alex Tyard for the same xxd
William Sutton for the same [blank]
John Capron for the same [blank]
John Nele for the same xijd
Henry Cokke for the same [blank]
Thomas Moreton for the same [blank]
Thomas Holton for the same xijd
Thomas Middleton for the same nil
Robert Skynner for the same xijd
William Merchaunt for the same xijd
David Hovye for the same xijd
John Barre for the same [blank]
Robert Tuff for the same [blank]

Paid into the hands of lord le Cromewell

[Thursday 21 May 1467]

15 The names of the subscribers are not exactly the same as those of the Second Twelve of this year; Morton, Caprone and Barre were not yet on the council and three of the current councillors did not contribute.
David Hovy, Robert Skynner, Thomas Moreton, John Capron, John Wykys, John Molle, William Gaywode, William Article, John Toby, John Markeby, Robert Rypshawe, Richard Page, Robert Darley and Thomas Clerk, burgesses of the town, on the other part, witnessing that the said alderman and burgesses have elected John Trunke and Richard Foster burgesses for the said town to be at Parliament on 3 June next. 

PRO C219/17/1 (i).58 (Writ was issued 26 April 1467, so election took place between 26 April and 21 May 1467).

[Thursday 24 September 1467]16.

Session of William Browne Alderman Thursday next after the feast of St Mathew apostle and evangelist in the seventh year of the reign of king Edward the fourth since the conquest

Outlawry
John Cokkyll came before the Alderman and acknowledged himself to be outlawed and agreed to give for his fine ij

Sworn [to freedom]
Thomas Franke husbandman came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for his fine by pledge of William Taverner iiijs
Henry Barker for the same by pledge of Henry Taylour vjs viijd
William Phillippe for the same and he will give nothing because he was born in the town
Not sworn.
Robert Garrard this day came before the Alderman and did not wish to be sworn wherfore he will give for his fine each year ij

Warrants taken this day for securing the peace.
In primis, one warrant against John Chapman of Edenham at the suit of Richard Browne of Staunford to keep the peace, fine to the common hall17.
Item one warrant against William Lancastre of Staunford at the suit of Thomas Bukke of the same [town] to keep the peace, fine to the hall as above.
Item one warrant against Peter Valaunt and Katherine his wife at the suit of William Ward curryer to keep the peace, fine to the hall as above.
Item one warrant against John Collyns hosteler of John Busche18 at the suit of John Chapman of Staunford to keep the peace, fine to the hall as above.
Item one warrant against Robert Brabroke alias Bottesford at the suit of Joan his wife for the safety of her life and breaking of her limbs, fine etc.
Item one warrant against William Cunwey servant of Robert Johnson at the suit of John Mores servant of John May to keep the peace, fine etc.

---

16 The dates of these sessions appear to be out of order.
17 no sums are listed
18 i.e. servant of Busch.
Item one warrant against Thomas Parnell of Staunford mercer at the suit of William Marchaunt of the same [town] for securing the peace, fine etc.

The odd thing about the next entry is that William Broune wrote in the first person - “he came before me” etc. No other similar entry occurs in the Hall Book. The items are out of date sequence.

[Tuesday 20 January 1467]
Surety for William Cunwey for the keeping of the peace
Memorandum that on xx day of the month of January in the sixth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth, William Cunwey servant of Robert Johnson came before me William Browne Alderman of Staunford and the Justices of the king’s peace in that place and found for me [invenit michi] sufficient security for the peace, viz Robert Rypeschawe, John Tovy, John Molle and Robert Johnson to be before me [coram me et sociis meis] and my fellow keepers of the peace in the aforesaid town until the next sessions to be held there and pledged himself to behave peaceably towards the whole people of the lord king and principally towards John Mores servant of John May, each of the aforesaid pledges on pain of c³ and the principal on pain of x li.

[Wednesday 21 January 1467]
Recognisance of Robert Braybroke with the condition attached to it.
Memorandum that on the xxj day of the month of January in the sixth year of the reign of the king Edward the fourth at Staunford namely in the common hall of that town before William Browne Alderman of the town or borough of Staunford and his fellow keepers of the peace in the foresaid town, Robert Braybroke alias Bottesford came and acknowledged himself to owe to the said Alderman and his successors keepers of the peace twenty pounds sterling to pay to the same Alderman and his successors aforesaid in the feast of Easter next following to the use of the repairs of the walls of the said town to be levied from his tenements or from his goods and chattels whatsoever etc.

The condition of this recognisance
The condition of this recognisance is such that if the aforesaid Robert Braybroke alias Bottesford from henceforth causes any hurt or harm to Joan his wife whether in drawing of blood or else in breaking [of limbs] as a result of which the same Joan shall despair of her life in any way, or if the same Robert from the day of this recognisance shall hold in favour a certain Margaret Borugh or shall have any carnal copulation with her in the aforesaid town or elsewhere or if he should exercise continual association with her which can be proved by trustworthy persons, that then this present recognisance shall remain in force and effect

fol 8v

Pleas entered this year.

19 the final words of this entry are obscure but the sense is plain.
In primis, John Estewyke on the complaint of Peter Bowlande of Northfolke for a plea of debt, fine to the common hall.
Item the same John Estwyke on the complaint of Joan Storke of Northfolke chopchurch for a plea of debt, fine as above.
Item Thomas Holton barbour on the complaint of Joan Loughtye for a plea of debt, fine as above.
Item Richard Parke at the suit of John Myller on the complaint of Joan Mynewryght for a plea of debt, fine to the hall as above.
Item William Sutton on the complaint of Robert Cowy? for a plea of debt, fine etc.
Item Thomas Kesteven on the complaint of the wife of Richard Barbour for a plea of debt, fine to the aforesaid hall as above.
Item Ralph Saddeler on the complaint of Robert Webster for a plea of debt, fine to the aforesaid hall as above.
Item William Colom on the complaint of Joan Brawall husbandman for a plea of debt, fine to the hall as above.

Correction\textsuperscript{20} for playing at dice illicitly by night\textsuperscript{21}
In primis, for the correction of Thomas Taylour of Ketton playing at dice illicitly in the night, fine to the hall.
Item from Robert Dauntre for the same, fine as above.

\textit{During 1467-68, Edward IV persuaded parliament to legislate against livery and maintenance and against dicing and other games. Both Acts were enforced in Stamford, livery in April 1481 and the law against dicing in Stamford had been enforced in the previous year.}

\textbf{William Hykham}

[30 September 1467]
\textbf{Memorandum that in the day after St Michael, namely the feast of St Jerome in the seventh year of the reign of king Edward the fourth since the conquest, William Hykeham was elected Alderman for the coming year.}

\textbf{Twelve for the Alderman aforesaid}

\textit{First xij}

\begin{tabular}{lll}
William Browne & Robert Hans & John Gybbes \\
John Browne & George Chapman & John Murdike \\
Thomas Gregorye & Thomas Kesten & John Trunke \\
John Gregorye & Robert Nevour & Alex Tyard \\
\end{tabular}

\textsuperscript{20} A correction is a penalty fine; I have retained the word here to distinguish it from the word fine (\textit{finis}) which is used in the same entry with the same meaning.
\textsuperscript{21} Edward IV renewed the law against dicing during the parliament of 1468.
Twelve for the community
Second xij
William Sutton    Thomas Middleton    Robert Cuffe
John Nele         Robert Skyner        John Dycon    Sworn
Henry Cokke       William Marchaunt    William Colom
Thomas Holton     David Hovye           John Wedes

And then the whole community in common session by raising hands [were sworn] to maintain the said Alderman.

And they elected William Taverner to the office of sergeant etc
And John Busshe was elected bailiff of the franchise of the aforesaid town and borough.

Certain instruments given by William Browne to the gaol there
Memorandum that William Browne of Staunford merchaunt late beyng Alderman the xvij dey of December in the year of the reigne of kyng Edward the fourth the viij yeer hat graunt and geven to the commonialtye of the said towne certen instruments and necessarye thyngs by hym made in the prison and gayle ther as itt appearyth and shewyth under wrytten.

In primis, iiij collers of yron with cheyns and staples festnyd to one pece of tymber.
Item one hamour of iren, one chysell, one pounch, on bolster, iiij payr of gyffes for leggs, one pair of long gyffes for hands, ij greatt lokks and one peyr of cheyns of the townes of xv lynkys etc.

fol 9v

[Thursday 11 February 1468]
Session of William Hykham Alderman Thursday next after the feast of St Agatha the Virgin in the common hall there in the seventh year of the reign of king Edward the fourth since the conquest.

Sworn [to the freedom]
Thomas Haines barbour came into the common hall and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for his fine by pledge of John May iiijs
Ralph Neavour for similar nothing because he is one of the people [unius gens est] and born in the town etc
John Wryght for similar by pledge of Robert Nevour iiijs

Constables
John Wykes
John Stede         were elected this day constables of the lord king.
John Dykons

Sworn
Edward Thorneholme mason came before the said Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for his fine by pledge of William Taverner iiijs - to be paid to the same Alderman before the feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist next coming [24 June].

Robert Garrard fremason the same day and year came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for his fine by pledge of John Busshe to be paid at Easter next iiijs.

[Tuesday 22 March 1468]

Session of the Alderman in the common hall on Tuesday next before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the eighth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth after the conquest of England

Sworn

William Hacksond? came into the common hall before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and will give for his fine by pledge of William Taverner to be paid before the feast of the Nativity of St John Baptist next coming [24 June] iiijs.

Warrants taken in the time of William Hykeham Alderman.

In primis, a (unum) warrant taken for (pro) Joan Frankelen at the suit of John Wykes for keeping the peace, fine to the hall

Item a warrant against Robert Braybroke taken at the suit of Peter Yngland for keeping the peace, fine to the hall

Item a warrant against Alexander Baron vicar of Lyddyngton at the suit of John Estwyke for keeping the peace, fine to the hall

Item a warrant against William Perysson baker at the suit of William Moberley for keeping the peace, fine to the hall.

Item a warrant against Thomas Parke foreigner at the suit of Robert Shaveloke for keeping the peace, fine to the hall.

Item a warrant against William Perysson laborer and John Perysson curryour at the suit of dom William Swan, fine to the hall.

Item a warrant against William Marchaunt and Elizabeth his wife at the suit of Robert Crane and Thomas Parnell for keeping the peace, fine to the hall.

Item a warrant against John Welles of Empyngham and John Stephens at the suit of Thomas Parnell and Robert Crane for keeping the peace, fine

Item a warrant against John osteler, Nicholas and Michael servants of John Stede at the suit of John Tovye, fine to the hall.

Item a warrant against John Tovye at the suit of John Stede, fine to the hall.

Item a warrant against John Plesyngton foreigner at the suit of Richard Wryght cowper, fine to the hall.

Item a warrant against Thomas Parnell at the suit of William Merchaunt, fine to the hall.
During this year, 1468-9, Edward IV rushed into Yorkshire to fight Robin of Redesdale supported by the Earl of Warwick; Stamford sent troops to the king at Nottingham and into northern parts. In July, Edward IV was captured by Warwick after the battle of Edgecote but in September he escaped after a Lancastrian rising in Yorkshire distracts his gaolers. This would have been an unsettling time for Yorkist Stamford.

George Chapman
[30 September 1468]
Memorandum that in the day after St Michael, viz in the feast of St Jerome in the eighth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth after the conquest of England, George Chapman was elected Alderman for the coming year.

Twelve for the aforesaid Alderman
First xii
William Browne   John Gregorye   John Gybbes
John Browne      Robert Hans     John Murdoke   Sworn
William Hykeham Thomas Kesten  John Trunke
Thomas Gregorye  Robert Nevour   Alexander Tyard

Second xii
Twelve for the community
William Sutton   Thomas Middleton John Dykon
John Neale       Robert Skynner   William Colom Sworn
Henry Cokke      William Marchaunt John Wykes
Thomas Holton    David Hovye     Robert Cuff

And then the whole community in common session by raising their hands were sworn to maintain the said Alderman etc.

And they elected William Taverner to the office of sergeant etc - sworn.
And John Busche was elected to the office of bailiff of the franchise of the aforesaid town [and] borough etc - sworn.

Chamberlains elected
John Gybbes were elected to the office of chamberlains of the aforesaid town
Thomas Holton   town for the coming year

There were parking penalties even in medieval Stamford.
Penalty for horses standing in the market place on market day
Item itt is ordeynyd att this dey and stablyshed by the Alderman, his burgesses and commonaltie that yt any horse herafter commyng to the towne one the markett dey be tyed in any place of the merkett or within the towne nott sett upe in howse that the baylyf of the fraunches shall take the said horse so founden and every horse so taken and found shall pey to the hall jd, wherof the said baylyf shall have ob [halfpenny] etc.
[Thursday 3 November 1468]

Session of the Alderman in the common hall on Thursday next after the feast of All Saints in the year of the reign of the king Edward the fourth as above

Taxes for half fifteenth
This day taxers were elected for the half fifteenth given to our lord king, namely two for each parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Parish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Markeby</td>
<td>parish of Holy</td>
<td>Edward Palmer</td>
<td>parish of St George</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Article</td>
<td>Trinity and St Paul</td>
<td>Robert Bolt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Held</td>
<td>parish of (All Saints del)</td>
<td>William Lee</td>
<td>parish of St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Ebbes</td>
<td>St Andrew</td>
<td>Roger Brykewell</td>
<td>Michael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Phillipe</td>
<td>parish of St</td>
<td>William Gaywood</td>
<td>parish of St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Johnson</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Ralph Holand</td>
<td>John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Page</td>
<td>parish of All</td>
<td>John Lambe</td>
<td>parish of St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Playster</td>
<td>Saints</td>
<td>Martin Werten</td>
<td>Peter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

John Borough of the parish of St Clement
Who shall tax for the half tax of the said lord king as appears by the original [writ] for all the parishes of the town, a total of xxv li xvjs

In expenses incurred about the tax vs

Sworn

Robert Coddyngeton shomaker came and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott before the Alderman in the above said day and hall and he will give for his fine to pay at the four annual terms by pledge of John Molle xiijs.

Thomas Brown taylour for the same by pledge of John Osteler vjs viijd

Sworn

Richard Bonner for the same by pledge of John Gregorye xxs
John Mores shomaker for the same by pledge of Robert Phillippe iiijs

---

22 taxers were in fact assessors to share out the community’s burden on the rate payers; collectors were appointed separately.
23 Parliament granted Edward IV two fifteenths and tenths on 17 May to be collected in four instalments. The king issued letters for collection on 6 June 1468; Jurkowski pp110-1. The first instalment was due on 11 November, so the town council left it until the last moment to appoint collectors. The town was of course taxed at a tenth, not a fifteenth; Stamford Baron was taxed at a fifteenth.
[Thursday 16 March 1469]

Session of the same Alderman in the common hall on Thursday next after the feast of St Gregory in the ninth year of the reign of King Edward the fourth after the conquest

Sworn [to freedom]
Christoferus Palfreyman came this day before the Alderman and the common hall of the aforesaid town and petitioned to [be admitted to] lott and scott and will give for fine by pledge of George Alderman iiijs
Dom John Elys Rector of the church of St Clements for the same nothing because he had been born in the borough - nil.
Nicholas Bryghton for the same by pledge of George Chapman Alderman iiijs

The following record of the taxation seems to indicate that the borough council was responsible for ensuring that the tax payable by St Martin’s suburb was collected, although the council did not appoint assessors and collectors for the two parishes in St Martin’s suburb. It also shows that Bredcrofte (the area just outside the West Gate) which lay in the county of Rutland was also included in the greater borough area.

The reduction of the tax of the fifteenth was a standard reduction throughout the country, but the council was keen that this reduction should be recorded.

Taxers elected for two fifteenths
Taxers were elected for the half fifteenth tax of the lord king as above for each parish; there were nominated with the counsel of Thomas Holton and John Gybbe chamberlains, taxers assigned to levy and pay the said tax before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary Virgin in the year of the reign of King Edward as above [25 March next], who shall assess the half tax as it is on this occasion [ad tunc] as appears more fully in the original to a total of xxij li ijs ix ob

Expenses about the tax
In expenses incurred about the assessment for the said half tax vjs

Tax of the lord king from Staunfford borough
The tax of the whole fifteenth from Staunfford with Bredcrofte xxxv li xvijs viijd
The sum deducted as given on this occasion [ad tunc] iiijs marks
Sum of the half tax of the same borough town xxij li xvs xd
Sum of deduction of the half tax for that concession on this occasion xvs viijd
Sum of the half tax to be paid on this occasion to the collectors of the lord king xvij li xjs ijd

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24 In this and in many later freedom entries, the words ‘to be admitted’ have been omitted. All such entries have been completed, whether those words are there or not.
25 Jurkowski p111.
26 See note 21 above; this was the second half of the two fifteenths granted in May 1468.
27 The figures which follow cannot be reconciled.
Tax of the lord king from Staunfford Barone
Sum of the whole fifteenth tax from Staunfford Baron beyond the bridge x li
Sum of deductions on this occasion conceded xvjs viijd
Sum of half tax of the same Staunfford Baron v li
Sum of deduction from that half tax viijd iiiijd
Sum of that half tax to be paid on this occasion to the collectors of the lord king iiij li xjs viijd
Sum total of half the fifteenth tax from Staunfford borough and Staunfford Baron to be paid to the collectors of the lord king on this occasion xxj li iijs xd

Oaths for officers

The oath for the common sergeant
I shall trewe sergeant be and deyly be attendant duryng my servyce, and all manner straungers commyng in to the towne to [be deleted] inhabyte I shall sertyfye ther names and ther occupacyones that they may make ther fynes accordyng to the constytucyon in the hall prefixed. And all suche fynes by me leyved with all other profitts that I may purvaye in the towne, (Item del) I shall in contynent [without delay] delyver to the hands of the chamberlens for the tyme beyng withowt any conceylment, So help me God etc.

Oath for the bailiff of the franchise
This here ye S[ir] Alderman that I shall trew baylyff be to yow, to yowr comburgesses and to the entere commoniaitye of this towne duryng the terme of my baylywike. All manner wrytts, warrants and precepts to me direct, I shall trewly execute and serve, and lawfull and suffycyent reytorn of them and yche of them do make. All manner escheytts fynes and amercyaments with other dutyes to the towne perteynyng I shall trewly by yowr commandement reyceyve and incontynent to the chamberlens for the tyme beyng shall content and delyver. All manner of prysoners commytt to my kepyng withowt any wyllfull eschape suerly I shall se to be kepte. All manner specyall favour by way of colour or of collusyon in executyng of myn offyce I shall ley appart. To all manner comaundements (of ins) yow and yowr bredern I shall be attendaunt and obedyent. And of all manner Recepts commyng to my hands duryng th e tyme of myn offyce, I shall trulye att suche tyme as I shall be commaundid make a true recknyng [reckoning] and accompt. And I shall [put deleted] deyly put me in devour to se the honour woorshipe and prosperitye of this towne savid and kepte, So helpe me God etc.

Oath for the office of chamberlains
This here ye S[ir] Alderman that we shalbe trewe chamberlens be to yow, yowr comburgesses and to the commoniaile of this towne frome this this dey [for deleted] unto the dey of a newe ellectyon. All manner escheytts fynes amercyaments rents and other dutyes to the towne perteynyng and to owr hands delyvered we shall savely and sevrely kepe to the behave of this towne. All manner charges ordinarey nowe beyng or in any tyme to come by yowr oversyght, with the revenewes of the said eschetz fynes amercyaments rents and other dutyes, we shall content and pey. All manner taxes, xv
[fifteenths], prestes, aydes or grauntz nowe of the towne charged or in owr tyme of offyce
to be chargid after owr recephte of collectors what more us hadd, we shall repay to the
collectors att large [which now ins] in the shyre and of the surpluse dulye to accompte;
and of all owr said recepts and payments by us hadd and done, we shall within one
moneth after the dyscharge of geld us to accompte yt the Alderman for the tyme beyng
with his bredern be therto agreed. And we shall deyly put us in devor to se the honour
worshipe and prosperitye of this towne savyd and kepte, so God us helpe etc.

Oath for those who shall tax [assess] the fifteenth tax of the lord king
We shall dulye and truly sesse and ley everyman in this towne accordyng to his habyltye
as far forth as owr conscynce cane us lede and we shall nott lett for favour or any
syngler affecyon for any manner of hate or for any drede but to performe the premysse,
and when we shalbe sessid owr selves we shall departe from owr fellosheipe and they shall
do as they and we did to others havyng regard to owr habyltye. And we shall nott styre
them nor move them to the contrarye, So helpe us God etc.

[Fol 11a is an inserted folio in a 16th century hand; it contains the oath of the first and
second twelve; also a constitution that no freeman shall sue another freeman without the
licence of the Alderman; fine will be x li. The oath is a copy of the oath which appears on
folio 12v with some later modernisations. This has been omitted here as not relevant to
the period under discussion.]

fol 12r

Rents of the aforesaid borough or town
Rents of the town or borough
In primis for one garden that Rychard Rankell holdyth, rent per annum xxd
Item for one garden that Robert Barber holdyth, rent p.a. iiijd
Item for one garden in Pynnfold that Robert Furbysher holdyth, rent p.a. viijd
Item for one garden in pynfold that Robert Taylour holdyth, rent p.a. viijd
Item for one garden in Powll [St Paul’s] parishe that Thomas Gregory holdyth, rent p.a.
  xijd
Item for two acres of land without Skofegate [Scotgate] gate that John Tovy holdyth,
  rent p.a. xxd
Item for four acres of land that Robert Hans holdyth, rent p.a. ijs
Item for one garden without Cornestall gates that Robert Crane holdyth, rent p.a. iijs
Item for one place in Sent Mary Bynwarke that Robert Darley holdyth, rent p.a. viijd
Item for one place in the parishe of Sent Clemens that John Weyver holdyth, rent p.a.
  [blank]
Item John Parceley holds one garden outside the south gate [extra portam australen] in
  the parish of St Mary, rent p.a. xijd
William Gaywod and Thomas Phillipe chamberlains in the xijj year of the reign of king
  Edward iiij [1474-5] gave and leased at farm to Robert Hans one vacant site (unum
vacuum solum) outside the boundary walls [muros claustrum] of the town, viz on the north side of his tenement built on Cleymount, rent p.a. xvjd
Item John Dycon and Robert Crane chamberlains in the xv year of the said king [1475-6] gave to John Tuffe one vacant place in the parish of St Peter between the mill and le Cokestole [the cucking stool], rent p.a. iiijd
Total xivs iiijd

fol 12v

Warrants taken this year
First one warrant against John Pyper at the suit of John Sampson of Lowthyke, fine to the hall
Item one warrant against John Paselowe and John Toysdale at the suit of John Massey fyssher, fine to the hall
Item one warrant against John Barbour servant of Thomas Middleton at the suit of John Skryvener, fine to the hall
Item one warrant against Miles Achewe, John Lyttester and Edward servant of Robert Johnson at the suit of Thomas Wyng for keeping the peace, fine
Item one warrant against David Hovye marcer at the suit of Alain Browne taylour, fine to the hall
Item one warrant against [blank] Butler servant of Henry Chaterton at the suit of Nicholas Bryghton

Oath for the making of Alderman etc

Oath for the community

Thys here ye Sir Alderman I shalbe trewe and fayth bere to yow Alderman and to yowr successors Aldermen, and trewlye stand by yow and meynteyn yow to my power in all manner of poyns that longeth to the Aldermanry and be redy att scott and lott and trulye pay itt and come to the common hall when I here the common bell knyll and all tymes when I have warneyng to the Alderman and nott absent myself without a true excuzacyon, the whiche excuzacyon may be found reasonable afore yow Alderman, yowr pears and the commyns, and ther I shall appear and attend, here and see and true councell gyve and shewe to my connyng, and I shall nott take clothynge, liverye nor tokyn of any gentleman for mayntenance nor seke mayntenaunce, nor compleyn me for any reymedye to any manner of persone but onely to yow, yowr successours and to yowr bredern, and be obedyent under yowr rule, and the counceyll of this towne well and trulye kepe and leyn(?). So helpe me God. [And hallydome del] And by this Boke + And then kysse the boke etc.

And this othe to be trulye kepte uppon payn of every of the fyrst xij xiijs iiijd and every of the second xij vjs viijd, and every of the commons iijs iiijd and corporale imprysonment totiens quotiens.

28 It could be ‘loft’ but more likely to mean ‘site’.
Constitution
It was ordained and constituted by the Alderman and comburgesses and the whole community of the town or borough of Staunford that none of the sworn into liberty [freemen] of the aforesaid town or borough from now shall be prosecuted for any matter or cause spiritual or temporal causes by any comburgess or inhabitant in the aforesaid borough whatsoever without having previously sought and obtained the licence of the Alderman for the time being on pain for everyone doing to the contrary xls forfeited to the use of the common hall totiens quotiens etc.

During the year 1469-70 relations between Warwick and Edward became even more tense. In March 1470 Edward IV fought the battle of Loosecoat Field in Empingham and the Earl of Warwick fled abroad. Edward IV stopped in Stamford in March. William Browne obtained a general pardon as merchant of the Calais staple. There was another Thomas Kesteven in Calais at this time. The Alderman/draper had interests in Calais, served as MP, and held Thorney Abbey estates in Stamford.

Thomas Kesten [Kesteven]

[30 September 1469]
Memorandum that in the day after St Michael, namely the feast of St Jerome in the ninth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth since the conquest, Thomas Kesten was elected Alderman for the coming year.

Twelve for the Alderman
First xij
William Browne  Thomas Gregorye  John Gybbes
John Browne sworn  John Gregory sworn  Alexander Tyard sworn
George Chapman  Robert Hans  John Neall
William Hykeham  Robert Neyvour  John Dyccon

xij for the community
Second xij
William Sutton  Thomas Middleton  William Colome
Henry Cokke  Robert Skynner  John Wykes Sworn
Thomas Holton  David Hovye  William Lee
William Artikell  John Edenham  William Gaywood

And then the whole community in common session by raising their hands were sworn to maintain the said Alderman.

And they elected William Taverner to the office of sergeant for the coming year
And John Busche was elected bailiff of the franchise of the aforesaid town etc. Sworn

[Monday 23 October 1469]
Session of the aforesaid Alderman in the common hall on Monday next after the feast of St Luke the Evangelist in the year of the reign of the king Edward the fourth after the conquest as above.

Names of those sworn to the freedom

Sworn
John Heyn came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for his fine by pledge of John Gybbes - ijs
John Swaffeld for the same by pledge of Robert Johnson - iiijs
William Cort for the same [by pledge of del] nothing because he was born in the town and borough etc - nil.
Robert Clokemaker for the same by pledge of John Wykes - iiijs

[Thursday 7 December 1469]
Session of the aforesaid Thomas Kesten Alderman in the common hall on Thursday next after the feast of St Nicholas in the year of the reign of king Edward the fourth after the conquest as above

Sworn
Nicholas Edward pewterer came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for his fine by pledge of John Gibbes - iiijs
John Elyott for the same by pledge of John Tovye - iiijs

An act made for a fallow field with penalties
Item itt is ordeynyd and agreed att this dey of session by the Alderman, his comburgesses and by all the holl hall, that frome this dey herafter is agreed and affirmyd that ther shall be yeerlye a fallowe feld kepte in lyke wyse as hitt hath byne done in the three yeers afore passyd ande as itt is henacte made and specyfied in the fyrst yeer of the said three yeers and who so withstandyth brekyng or sayth agay[n]st this said acte statute or this said ordynance made shall lese and pay to the hall xls. And also all the corn by any person sowen in the said fallowefeld to be forfitt to the said hall - xls.

Act concerning the condition of tapsters [pincernarum] and of evil women with penalties
Also itt is by the said Alderman and his comburges ordeynyd for as myche as the grett pleasure of God is any persone or persones suspect in lyvyng to be putt in correccyon and the greatt occasyon of synn and mysruell to avoyd and perfittlye to redresse and amend, Therfore itt is ordenyd by the said Alderman of this towne by the advyse of his bredern and the enteyr comonaltye of the same stablysshed affirmyd and inact that every tapester in this towne nowe beyng, every woman sogerrant\(^{30}\) who guduyng and rule hath nott ben known goodd, every woman vacabound, every woman inhabyte gyven to idylnes, unto whom the said tapesters and the other woman hath ben coadherent, that they and iche of them deporte and avoyd owyt of the towne by Sundey in senytt [i.e.Sunday week] uppon payn [of del] followyng, that is to sey, to be ledde abought the towne with hoodds of [sey del] sey\(^{31}\) upon [peyn of del] ther heds unto the cukestole and ther to be sowсид, and so shamefullye to be dryven owyt of this towne withowt any specyall grace or pardon. And that non of the said tapesters, women sogerrantz, women vacabunds and other afforenamyd after the said Sundey nor non other of lyke dysposycion no more resort to this towne here to abyde or to inhabytt past one dey and one nyght. As for ther thorowefair onelesse, then they [of del] or any of them cum beforn the said Alderman and his bredern with trewe testymonye and wyttnesses th at they be amendyd of ther lyvyng, and to fynd suffycyent suertye for ther abydyng, to be of vertuos disposycion.

**Penalty of innkeepers [hospiciorum]**

Also itt is ordenyd, stablysshed, inact that every inholder, every burges and every commyner shall by the said dey avoyd and put from all the said tapesters and women affore specyfied uppon the payn of forfatur to the hall vjs viijd. And that non inholder nor burgess nor non commyner from the said Sondey take none of the said tapesters and women byfore specyfied nor non other lyke condycyons in to ther howses but suche as ben knoen of gud rule and gud conversacyon uppon payn of forfature to the said hall xijs iijd as often as they or any of them do the contrarye. And that every tapster that shalbe reytseynd after the Sondey go nott inordynallye areyed but lyke a servant. And do ther contynuall servyce and ley all idylnes apart uppon payn that wyll fall therof.

fol 14r

*Stamford raised and sent troops to help Edward the fourth in his campaigns against the northern rebels 1468-70.*

[Thursday 5 April 1470]

**Session of Thomas Kesten aforesaid Alderman on Thursday next after the feast of St Ambrose doctor in the tenth year of the reign of the king Edward the fourth**

For taxes of divers wages paid in the time of George Chapman to divers men sent to the lord king at Nortyngham and for the wages of divers men with the lord king sent against the northern parts (*versus bor*) in the time of the aforesaid Thomas Kesten then Alderman etc.

\(^{30}\) sojourning?

\(^{31}\) perhaps the cloth ‘say’.
Taxers elected
Parish of Holy Trinity and Paul
  William Hawks
  Thomas Barber
Parish of St Michael
  Roger Skynner
  William Lee
Parish of St Mary
  John Stede
  John Malle
Parish of St John
  Alexander Dauntre
  Thomas Peryman
Parish of St Clements
  Thomas Clerke
Parish of St George
  Robert Bolt
  Walter Palmer
Parish of St Andrew
  John Keleby
  Robert Walker
Parish of All Saints
  Thomas Wryght
  John Wykes
Parish of St Peter
  John Tuff
  Robert Barker

The which aforesaid taxers shall tax the aforesaid tax for divers persons riding to the lord king in the time of the aforesaid George Chapman and in the time of the said Thomas Kesten Alderman to a total of xlvj li xvs vjd

Warrants taken this year
In primis a warrant taken for John Cole pewterer at the suit of John Fowater, fine to the hall
Item one warrant taken for Joan Paslowe servant of Master William Raaf at the suit of Thomas Norton clerk of St Michael, fine
Item one warrant for Joan Barton and William Ward at the suit of Geoffrey Hampton, fine
Item one warrant for Richard Lancastre at the suit of William Trewe, fine
Item one warrant for William Canon senior and William Canon junior and Joan Kyllyngworth at the suit of dom Simon Upp alias Sydford, fine.
Item one warrant for Joan James servant of John Fawkener and Alice Lambee at the suit of Agnes daughter of John Fowater, fine
Item one warrant for Joan Frankelen at the suit of dom Robert Coke chaplain of All Saints, fine
Item one warrant for Henry Robynson osteler at the suit of Thomas James of le Hart, fine

The coming year 1470-71 would clearly be very troublesome, for it was clear that Warwick (in exile in France) was making an agreement with the Lancastrian Queen Margaret of Anjou and her Scottish supporters. In these circumstances, the town turned once again to William Browne for its Alderman.

And the year turned out to be even more troubling. In October 1470 Warwick restored Henry VI as king since Edward had fled to the continent. But in April Edward returned

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32 These taxes were for local purposes, not royal taxation.
and defeated and killed Warwick at the battle of Barnet and then defeated the
Lancastrian forces at Tewkesbury and killed the Prince of Wales, son of Margaret and
Henry VI; shortly after Henry VI too died in prison.

During the short ‘second reign’ of Henry VI, MPs were chosen including one or more
from Stamford, but these are not recorded in the Hall Book. The name of one is known
(HofP): Richard Forster again, despite his Yorkist credentials.

William Broun Alderman

[30 September 1470]
Memorandum that in the day after St Michael the Archangel viz in the feast of St
Jerome doctor in the tenth year of the reign of the king Edward the fourth after
the conquest by the whole community of Staunfford in the common hall of this town
William Browne marchaunt was elected Alderman for the coming year.

And they elected John Osteler to the office of sergeant for the following year.
And they elected William Taverner to the office of bailiff of the franchise of the aforesaid
borough or town in this following year.

First xij for the Alderman
First xij
John Browne Thomas Gregorye John Gybbes
Thomas Kesten sworn John Gregoryesworn Alex Tyard Sworn
George Chapman Robert Hance John Nele
William Hykeham Robert Neyvour John Dykon

Second xij for the Community
Second xij
Twelve for the community
William Sutton Robert Skynner William Lee
Henry Cokke sworn David Hovye sworn William Gaywood sworn
Thomas Holton William Colom William Arketyll
Thomas Middleton John Wykes John Edenham

And then the whole community in common session raising their hands were sworn to
maintain the said Alderman etc.

Taxers
Taxers to tax in the time of William Browne Alderman of Staunfford for divers men
riding to the lord king with the lord le Warwick taxed to the total of xv li xiijs iiijd
Another time tax for xl men sent to the lord king Edward taxed on xxij day of April in the
xj year of the reign of the king Edward iiiij to the total of xxxv li vjd

Edward IV fled the country on 29 September 1470; he returned on 11 April 1471; Henry VI reigned from
3 October when he was released from prison. It is likely that this entry was written up after the restoration
of Edward IV rather than that the town was ignorant of what was going on.
Tax the third time to the total of viij li xvij j d

Warrants taken this year
Inprimis one warrant made for Thomas Frankelen at the suit of dom William Cooke chaplain
Item one warrant for Thomas Boston, Simon Walker and Thomas Baxter at the suit of Thomas Karver
Item one warrant for William Duffeld lokesmyth at the suit of Robert Darley
Item one warrant for William Lambe and Robert Lambe at the suit of Robert Darley.

fol 15r

1471-2: The times were still tense but more hopeful. The Yorkist stalwarts Murdoke and Forster were again elected as MPs for the town (and this parliament continued until 1475). In January 1472, William Browne secured a general pardon from Edward IV along with the other merchants of the Calais staple including his brother John Browne.

John Gregory Alderman

[30 September 1471]
Memorandum that in the day after St Michael archangel, namely the feast of St Jerome doctor in the eleventh year of the reign of king Edward the fourth since the conquest of England, John Gregorye was elected Alderman of the town or borough of Staunford for the coming year.

Twelve for the Alderman aforesaid
First Twelve
William Browne Robert Hans John Gybbes
John Browne sworn George Chapman sworn Alex Tyard sworn
William Hykeham Thomas Kesteven John Nele
Thomas Gregorye Robert Neyvour John Dykon

Second xij for the community
Second Twelve
William Sutton Robert Skynner William Gaywood
Henry Cokke sworn David Hovye sworn William Arketyll sworn
Thomas Holton William Colom John Edenham
Thomas Middilton John Wykes Thomas Phillipe

And then the whole community in the common hall by raising their hands were sworn to maintain the said Alderman etc.

And they elected John Osteler this day to the office of sergeant for the Alderman this year.
They elected this day William Taverner to the office of bailiff of the franchise of the aforesaid town or borough.
And they elected William Hykeham to the office of coroners [plural] for the following year etc.

[Thursday 30 January 1472]

Session of John Gregoye Alderman in the common hall on Thursday next after the feast of the conversion of St Paul apostle in the xj year of the reign of the king Edward the fourth after the conquest of England

Sworn
William Hunte taylour this day came before the Alderman and the community and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for fine by pledge of John Crose  vjs viijd
John Parker glover for the same by pledge of John Dyccon iiijs
Robert Heynes? weyver for the same by pledge of William Tovye iiijs
Thomas Ardyke carver for the same by pledge of Robert Bottesford iiijs
John Devgard? for the same by pledge of John Erle ijs
John Crosse taylour for the same by pledge of Thomas Clopeton  vjs viijd
Thomas Edward pewterer for the same by pledge of John Wykes iiijs
Thomas Wyolson smith for the same by pledge of John Stede iiijs

Chamberlains
John Nele were elected chamberlains of the aforesaid town.
Thomas Middleton

Constables
John Wykes, were elected constables for the lord king in the
John Tovye aforesaid town
William Gaywode

Warrants taken this year
In primis one warrant taken for Richard Elenson at the suit of William Lambe taylour, fine to the hall
Item one warrant for James Johnson servant of John Yerish of Stylton at the suit of John Bracht, fine
Item one warrant for the said James at the suit of William Thaker osteler of the inn [hospicium] of le George
Item one warrant for William Butler tyler at the suit of Elizabeth Chapman
Item one warrant for William Hunt taylour at the suit of John [blank] servant of the same William
Item one warrant for Reginald Osteler servant of John Elyott at the suit of Richard Bugden cooke, fine
Item one warrant for William Stranger [Extraneo] and John Mores shomaker at the suit of William Appylyard servant of John Johnson
Item one warrant for Joan Rycard alias Sneth at the suit of Thomas Manner fine
Item one warrant for Richard Freman laborer at the suit of John Child
Item one warrant for William Thakker at the suit of Anne Smyth, fine

[Thursday 24 September 1472]
Burgesses of Parliament
Session of the said John Gregorye Alderman and the community of the whole town of
Staunfford aforesaid in the common hall on Thursday after the feast of St Mathew the
evangelist in the twelfth year of the reign of Edward iii.

This day they elected Richard Forster and John Murdoke as burgesses of parliament for
the whole community of the aforesaid borough.

The writ for this election was dated 21 September 1472. The names of the Stamford
MPs, Richard Forster and John Moredok, are shown on the endorsement of the writ to the
Lincolnshire sheriff; the sheriff made the return to Chancery for Stamford. PRO
C219/17/2 (i)51

Chamberlains
William Gaywood and Thomas Phillippe were the same day elected chamberlains for the
borough of Staunfford for the coming year.

1472-3: A busy year. In July 1473 the king was again in Stamford, with his Council
which included William Hussey his attorney. On 27 July, messengers gave the king’s
great seal into the king’s own hands in the refectory of the Friars Minor (the Whitefriars)
in Stamford and he in turn gave it to Laurence bishop of Durham who was staying in the
hospice within the priory of St Cuthbert’s [i.e. St Leonard’s Priory] Stamford. Hussey
already had interests in Stamford and was steward of Lady Cecily the king’s mother and
lord of the manor of Stamford. This will account for his presence in the town council
meetings at this time, although it is interesting that he was present in January, before the
king was in Stamford.

It may be significant that thirteen names are given for the First Twelve, the extra name
being caused by John Murdoke royal servant who was again listed among the First
Twelve but for this year only; he had served from 1465 to 1468 but not since. Why was he
brought on for this year only? He came back again in 1481 for four years.

Robert Crane brought onto the Second Twelve had already served as chamberlain; he
was steward of the gild of Holy Trinity in Stamford.

Robert Hansse Alderman
[30 September 1472]

Memorandum that on the day after St Michael the Archangel, namely the feast of St Jerome doctor in the twelfth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth since the conquest of England, Robert Hanse was elected Alderman of the town or borough of Staunfford for the coming year.

**Twelve for the Alderman**

First Twelve

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Browne</td>
<td>William Hykeham</td>
<td>John Murdoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Browne sworn</td>
<td>George Chapman sworn</td>
<td>John Gybbes sworn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Gregorye</td>
<td>Thomas Kesten</td>
<td>Alex Tyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Gregorye</td>
<td>Robert Neavour</td>
<td>John Nele</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second Twelve for the community

Second Twelve

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Sutton</td>
<td>William Colom</td>
<td>Thomas Phillippe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Cokke</td>
<td>John Wykes</td>
<td>John Mole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Holton sworn</td>
<td>William Gaywood sworn</td>
<td>Thomas Clerke sworn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Skynner</td>
<td>John Edenham</td>
<td>Robert Crane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And then the whole community in the common hall by raising their hands were sworn to maintain the said Alderman etc.

They elected John Syll alias Osteler this day to the office of sergeant for the Alderman for the coming year.
They elected William Taverner to the office of bailiff of the franchise of the town or borough aforesaid for the coming year etc.

[Thursday 5 November 1472]

Session of the Alderman Robert Hans in the common hall on Thursday next after the feast of All Saints in the twelfth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth after the conquest of England.

John None taylour came before the Alderman this day and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for his fine by pledge of William Gaywood vjs viijd
Richard Browne baker for the same by pledge of Robert Barley vjs viijd
John Pyttes fyssher for the same by pledge of Richard Hyll iijjs iiiijd
Richard Hyll for the same by pledge of Richard Browne vjs viijd
John Nedson for the same by pledge of William Coper and Robert Lancastre vjs viijd
Thomas Stables for the same by the pledge of William Hekeham vjs viijd
Robert Lancastre for the same - nothing [to pay] because he was born in the town and borough aforesaid - nil

Constables

Roger Knott were this day elected constables for the coming year.
Robert Johnson and were sworn
Robert Crane

Mynstrells
William Barton were elected minstrells and were sworn etc.
Christofer Totyll
Richard Pynder

fol 16v

Accounts of the Chamberlains
Thomas Holton chamberlains of the town or borough of Staunfford aforesaid
John Gybbes before Robert Hans Alderman of Staunfford and the burgesses and
the whole community of the borough aforesaid on the said
Thursday next after the feast of All Saints [5 November] made their account for their
office of chamberlain aforesaid for the three years in the time and times of George
Chapman, Thomas Kesten and William Broun being before this time aforesaid Aldermen
of the aforesaid town or borough. And thus this day, all accounts being accounted and all
allowances being allowed, the said chamberlains owe to the community aforesaid and to
the hall aforesaid xxxvijs vjd ob, and thus they are quit.

It is odd that so soon after the ‘sack’ of the town in 1461 and after the wars of 1469-1470
including the nearby battle of Empingham, the town council should have been willing to
allow so many local property holders to open doors in the town’s defensive walls at the
bottom of their gardens. Some of these postern gates can be seen on North Street.

Grant of a postern gate to William Hykeham
This day William Hykeham begged licence of Robert Hans Alderman and of the whole
community to have one ‘le postern yate’ under [subtus] the boundary wall of the
aforesaid town in a certain garden of his next to his inn [hospicium] called le Antelope
which he [Hykeham] had in exchange from the fraternity of the Gild of Corpus Christi;
and it was granted by the said Alderman and the whole community of the town or
borough aforesaid to the aforesaid William Hykeham to make le postern yate.

[Thursday 19 November 1472]
Session of Robert Hans Alderman Justice of the peace and his fellows in the
common hall on Thursday xix day of the month of November in the xij year of the
reign of king Edward the fourth since the conquest of England.

Grant of a postern gate to Robert Hans Alderman
It was granted in the common hall by the whole community of Staunfford that Robert
Hans Alderman may make one ‘le postern yate’ in the boundary wall of the aforesaid
town on the north side of his messuage on Claymond which messuage was of [i.e.
formerly was held by] Walter Chapman. And this was granted to him by the whole
community of the aforesaid town or borough.
This year was the first occasion when a lawyer is recorded as being present at council meetings. This did not happen again until 1489, after the death of William Browne. Hussey was the steward of the lord of Stamford; he was Chief Justice of the King’s Bench 1481-1495. See above.

[Wednesday 20 January 1473]
Session of the peace held there before Robert Hans Alderman and his fellows and William Hosee lawyer (legis perito) on Wednesday on the octaves of St Hillary in the twelfth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth and the common hall there.

Sworn
John Fraunceys came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for fine [illeg] William Darley for the same and was sworn [blank] William Johnson plasterer for the same by pledge of Robert Christofer iiijs William Dawson for the same by pledge of William Gaywood ijs John Nyone taylour for the same by pledge of John Stede vjs viijd

[Thursday 8 April 1473]
Session of the peace held there before Robert Hans Alderman and his fellows on Thursday next before the Sunday the Passion of Our Lord in the thirteenth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth and the common hall there.

Sworn
Thomas Asbotyll came and petitioned to be admitted to scott and lott and he will give for fine by pledge of Robert Hans Alderman and William Hykeham iiijs John Lytttester for the same by pledge of William Taverner iiijs

[Thursday 29 April 1473]
Session of the Alderman and his fellows in the common hall on Thursday next before the feast of Saints Philip and James apostles in the thirteenth year of the reign of the reign of Edward the fourth and the common hall

Sworn into freedom
Thomas Copp came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for his fine by pledge of William Cooper iiijs John Brachet for the same by pledge of John Gregorye vjs viijd William Godfrey for the same by pledge of Nicholas Edward ijs Thomas Croxton for the same by pledge of William Darley iiijs John Clarke wryght for the same by pledge of William Clerke iiijs William Clerke carver for the same by pledge of John Clerke wryght iiijs

35 no pledges, no entry fine but last word illegible: it looks like ‘lost’ (perdzur)
Anthony Hawe wryght for the same by pledge of Robert Nevour iiijs
William Newcome mason for the same by pledge of John Gibbes and William Gaywod iiijs
John Barbour laborer for the same by pledge of William Gaywod and T Phillip ijs
John Mylnegate barke [sic] for the same by the pledge of John Tuff ijs

[Thursday 8 July 1473]
Session of Robert Hans Alderman in the common hall and ordinances for the coming of our lord king Edward the fourth to hold his council in Staunfford and other things to do on Thursday next after the feast of the translation of St Thomas the martyr in the thirteenth year of the reign of the aforesaid king Edward the fourth.

Sworn
This day came William Haukks and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott by pledge of William Dawson and he will give for fine ijs
John Fyssher laborer for the same by pledge of Nicholas Pewterer ijs

1473-4: Throughout this year, Edward IV concentrated on his relations with France, and in July 1474 he raised money for war through a ‘benevolence’ (a gift to the king from the wealthy). William Browne was sheriff of Rutland again. One thing which might concern Stamford was the peace which Edward made with the Hanseatic League, for that opened England once more to traders from the Baltic.

John Nele Alderman

[30 September 1473]
Memorandum that in the day following St Michael the archangel, viz in the feast of St Jerome doctor in the xij year of the reign of king Edward the fourth, John Nele was elected Alderman for the town or borough of Staunfford for the coming year.

xij for the Alderman
First twelve
William Browne
John Browne sworn
Robert Hans
Thomas Gregorie

William Gregorye
William Hykeham sworn
George Chapman
Thomas Kesteven

Robert Neyvour
John Gibbes sworn
Alex Dyott [sic]
John Dyccon

Second xij
Second xij
William Sutton
Thomas Holton
Robert Skynner

Henry Coke sworn
William Collome
John Edenham

John Wykes sworn
Thomas Gaywood
John Mole

Thomas Phillip sworn
Thomas Clerke
Robert Crane
And the whole community by raising hands were sworn to maintain the aforesaid Alderman.

Item the said day and year they elected John Syll in the office of sergeant for the coming year.
Item they elected William Taverner in the office of [bailiff of] the liberty for that year.

[Thursday 25 August 1474]

Session of the peace held there before John Nele Alderman and his fellows and William Hosee lawyer, Justices of the Peace etc Thursday next after the feast of the beheading of St John the Baptist in the fourteenth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth.

Sworn
John Markeby came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and was sworn and nothing to be paid for fine because he was born in the town - nil

[Monday 22 September 1474]

Session of the peace held there before John Nele Alderman and his fellows and William Hosee lawyer, Justices of the lord king on Monday next after the feast of St Mathew apostle and evangelist in the xiiiij year of the reign of king Edward the fourth.

Sworn
William Boston organmaker came on this day and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and was sworn and he gave for his fine by pledge of Thomas Kesteven ijs
On the same day William Templer laborer came and petitioned as above by pledge of Robert Crane and was sworn - ijs
Thomas Wyelson sawer for the same by pledge of Thomas Gregorye ijs
Robert Aylesborough for the same by pledge of John Nele and was sworn ijs

1474-5: Threats of war built up and in July 1475, Edward IV started his attack on France (which was torn by internal war between Burgundy, Brittany and France) from Calais. By August Edward had made a truce with the French king. But he still collected taxes for the war.

William Browne remained influential; he obtained the pardon of a group of Lincolnshire gentry who had fought at ‘Hornefeld’, Empingham in March 1470 (CPR). This was the years his Hospital started.
Alex Dyott\textsuperscript{36} Alderman

[30 September 1474]
Memorandum that on the Friday the day following the feast of St Michael viz on the feast of St Jerome doctor in the xiiij year of the reign of king Edward the fourth, Alex Dyott was elected Alderman for the town or borough of Staunford for the coming year etc.

\textit{xij for the Alderman}

First xij
\begin{tabular}{lll}
William Browne & John Gregorye & Thomas Kesteven \\
John Broun & William Hykeham & Robert Neyvour \\
John Nele sworn & George Chapman sworn & John Gybbes sworn \\
Thomas Gregorye & Robert Hans & John Dycccons \\
\end{tabular}

\textit{xij for the commonalty}

Second xij
\begin{tabular}{lll}
William Sutton & John Wykes & Thomas Clerk \\
Henry Coke & William Gaywood & Robert Cran \\
Thomas Holton sworn & John Mole sworn & John Stede sworn \\
Robert Skynner & Thomas Phillipe & Alex Dauntre \\
\end{tabular}

Item they elected in the office of sergeant for the Alderman John Syll and he was sworn
Item they elected in the office of bailiff of the liberty William Taverner and he was sworn
Item they elected in the office of coroner etc John Gregorye

Chamberlains
\begin{tabular}{ll}
John Decon & were elected chamberlains of the aforesaid town \\
Robert Crane & and they were sworn \\
\end{tabular}

Constables
\begin{tabular}{ll}
Thomas Frankelen & were elected constables for the lord King for the coming year \\
Nicholas Edward & and they were sworn \\
Robert Jonson & \\
\end{tabular}

Grant of a postern to Robert Neyvour

On this day, the Alderman and the whole community granted to Robert Neyvour a postern gate to be made by him in the boundary wall in the parish of St Paul on the north side of his tenement formerly of John Knott of Tynwell. And the aforesaid Robert and his assigns shall fully and sufficiently repair, sustain and maintain the aforesaid boundary wall in everything, in battlements and other things as it has been from ancient times (\textit{ex antiquo}).

\footnote{36 sometimes Tyard, sometimes Dyott or Dyett or even Dyatt.}
[Thursday 27 October 1474]

Session of Alex Dyott Alderman held there in the common hall on Thursday in the vigil of the apostles Simon and Jude in the xiiij year of the reign of king Edward the fourth etc.

Taxers for the whole fifteenth.
On this day and year, there were elected taxers for the whole xv given to the lord King, namely two for each parish as appears in the entries below etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish of Holy Trinity and St Paul</th>
<th>Parish of St George</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Cottingham</td>
<td>Walter Palmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Honne</td>
<td>John Lyttster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish of St Andrew</td>
<td>Parish of St Michael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Hebbes</td>
<td>John Cowper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Kelby</td>
<td>John Glasyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish of St Mary</td>
<td>Parish of St John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Bullowe</td>
<td>Henry Barker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Jonson</td>
<td>Robert Dauntre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish of St Peter</td>
<td>Parish of All Saints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Tuff</td>
<td>Thomas Hawes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Holland</td>
<td>Thomas Frankelyn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish of St Clements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Barowgh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And they were sworn

To whom were associated for their counsel

Henry Coke       William Gaywood   sworn
Thomas Holton    John Sted

fol 19v

[Thursday 20 April 1475]

Session of Alex Dyott Alderman held in the common hall on Thursday next before the feast of St George the martyr in the xv year of the reign of king Edward the fourth

Sworn to freedom
On this day came Hugh Wady cooke before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for (pro) fine by pledge of John Stede iijs iiijd
John Cave fuller came and petitioned as above, gave for [de] fine by pledge of Thomas Holton iijs

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37 Parliament gave Edward one fifteenth and tenth on 8 April 1473 with several conditions attached, so that it was not confirmed until 18 July 1474; payment was due on 11 November 1474, Jurkowski p113.
38 or, less likely, from the council: de consilio
John Been taylour came as above etc and gave for [de] fine paid [soli] by William Brown vjs viijd
Laurence Gregorye laborer came and petitioned as above for [pro] fine by pledge of John Gregorye ijs
Alex Somerby baker born in [the town or borough] etc petitioned as above and was admitted and sworn - nil
John Boyvyle smyth petitioned as above by pledge of Alex Tyard [sic] Alderman iiijs
Thomas Clopton born in the liberty came etc as above and was sworn - nil
Thomas Webster taylour came and petitioned as above by pledge of John Jenkynson vjs viijd
John Jankynson weyvour came as above by pledge of Thomas Webster iiijs

On this day and year were elected taxers for one whole fifteenth given to the lord King\textsuperscript{39} etc viz two for each parish as appears in the entry below

**Taxers**
Parish of Holy Trinity and St Paul, Parish of St George, Parish of St Andrew, Parish of St Michael, Parish of St Mary, Parish of St John, Parish of St Peter, Parish of All Saints, and Parish of St Clements elected taxers for one whole xv to be paid etc in everything as otherwise appears above etc [i.e. the same names], and associating with them in everything for counsel Robert Neyvour, Thomas Holton, William Gaywood and John Stede.

**Grant of le postern**
On this day was granted to Master Thomas Stoke vicar of All Saints a postern gate to be made by him in the boundary wall at the north end of his garden, viz between the garden of William Browne and John Browne; and the aforesaid Master Thomas and his successors shall fully and sufficiently repair, sustain and maintain the aforesaid boundary wall there in everything on pain of forfeiture of this postern.

**Grant of le postern**
On this day was granted to William Browne a postern gate to be made by him in the boundary wall at the north end of a new place\textsuperscript{40} [loci] between the place [placea] of the same William Browne and Robert Hans; and the aforesaid William Browne, his heirs, executors and assigns shall fully and sufficiently repair, sustain and maintain the aforesaid boundary wall there in everything as it was in ancient times etc on pain of forfeiture of the aforesaid postern.

**Sworn into freedom**

\textsuperscript{39} Parliament gave Edward IV one and three-quarters of a fifteenth and tenth on 23 January 1475 due on 24 June 1475; but on 14 March, it was agreed it should be collected in a hurry, one whole fifteenth and tenth on 9 April and the remaining three quarters on 11 November, Jurkowski p117. Stamford was late in appointing its collectors. On 6 October 1475, the king abrogated the three quarters, but it was apparently reactivated in 1480, Jurkowski p118.

\textsuperscript{40} This site seems to be Browne’s Hospital
On this day and year John Thurleby husbondman came before the aforesaid Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for his fine by pledge of Thomas Holton iiijs

1475-6: For some reason the process of electing the town’s Alderman was changed; the outgoing Alderman and the First Twelve now put up three names from the First Twelve and then the Second Twelve and the other burgesses chose the Alderman. This seems to have resulted in a rather wider range of persons serving as Alderman than before. There was also an attempt to try to tidy up the accounts of the officers. During this year, the cortege with the body of Richard duke of York passed through the town on its way from Wakefield to Fotheringhay for reburial.

John Gybbes Alderman

[30 September 1475]
Memorandum that on the Saturday on the day after St Michael the archangel, namely in the feast of St Jerome doctor in the fifteenth year of the reign of King Edward the fourth, John Gybbes was elected Alderman of the town of Staunfford for the coming year.

Constitution for the election of the Alderman
On which day and year it was ordained by the Alderman and his brethren (confratres) and the comburgesses and the community that from now in the election of the Alderman on the feast of St Jerome doctor in perpetuity, during the time of the court held for the election, the Alderman for the time being and his brethren shall nominate three suitable persons from the first xij, of whom the community shall elect one suitable person into the office of Alderman for the coming year. And he shall be admitted etc.

First xij for the Alderman

First xij
William Browne  John Gregorye  Thomas Kesteven  Henry Coke
John Browne (deceased ins)  William Hykeham  John Nele sworn in place
Alexander Dyott  George Chapman  Robert Neyvour of J Broun
Thomas Gregorye  Robert Hans  John Dycon

Second xij for the community

Second xij
William Sutton  John Wykes  Robert Crane  William Bullowe
Henry Cokke  William Gaywood  John Stede
Thomas Holton  John Mole  Alex Dauntre
Robert Skynner  Thomas Phillip  William Wode

Sworn to the freedom
Thomas Danyell laborer came and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will
give for his fine by pledge of Robert Neyvour ijs
Henry Godman goldsmith petitioned similarly as above and will give for his fine by
pledge of William Hykeham and Alexander Dyott iiijs

Common sergeant
Item they elected into the office of sergeant for the Alderman John Styll [sic] - and he
was sworn

Bailiff of the liberty
Item they elected into the office of bailiff of the liberty William Taverner

fol 20v

[Monday 30 October 1475]
Session of John Gybbes Alderman of Staunfford held there on Monday next before
the feast of All Saints in the fifteenth year of the aforesaid King

The names of the assessors are not listed on this occasion.
Taxers elected for the half costs of the repair of the bridge at Uffyngton, namely one for
each parish and they were sworn

These are to tax for the repairs of the same bridge by all the parishes of the town of
Staunfford, namely for half of the bridge as of ancient usage and calculated from the west
side of the waters of Staunfford etc at ten pounds of English money etc.

Chamberlains
Item they elected into the office of chamberlains Robert Skynner and John Wykes -
sworn

Constables
Item they elected into the office of constables Thomas Phillippe, Nicholas Edward,
Thomas Frankelyn - sworn

Accounts of the chamberlains
On the same day and year, Thomas Phillippe and William Gaywood chamberlains for the
time of John Gregorye, Robert Hans and John Nele Alderman, viz for iij years,
accounting for all accounts and allowing all allowances, the aforesaid chamberlains have
their surplus jd.
And John Gybbes and Thomas Holton formerly chamberlains received the arrears on
their account paid to them, and are quit.

Sworn to the freedom
On the same day and year John Lynn weyver came before the Alderman and petitioned to
be admitted to lott and scott and will give for his fine by pledge of Robert Hans ijs
On the same day and year John Chapman taylour came and petitioned as above by pledge of Roger Lyllye and will give for his fine as appears and was sworn vjs viijd
Roger Lyllye weyver came and petitioned as above by pledge of John Chapman and will give for his fine iiijs
William Jurden glover petitioned as above by pledge of Alex Dyott and will give for fine vjs viijd
John Theobold laborer petitioned as above by pledge of John Barough to pay [soli] fine ijs
John Brooke fyssher petitioned as above by pledge of John Burbage and to pay fine ijs
John Burbage fyssher petitioned as above by pledge of John Broke and to pay fine ijs
Elias Wold weyvour petitioned as above by pledge of John None and to pay fine iiijs

fol 21r

[Tuesday 12 December 1475]
Session of John Gybbes Alderman held in the common hall on Tuesday next after the feast of the Conception of the Blessed Mary in the xv year of the reign of King Edward the fourth

Sworn into freedom
William Freman husbondman came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott by pledge of Richard Broun baker and will give for fine by pledge aforesaid iiijs
Richard Stuffyn taylour [blank]
Richard Fletcher laborer petitioned as above and will give for fine by pledge of Thomas Epwell ijs
Thomas Epwell laborer petitioned as above and to pay for fine by pledge of Richard Fletcher ijs
William Anderson weyver petitioned as above and to pay by pledge of John Parker glover iiijs

Heading and space but no entries

[Thursday 15 February 1476]
Session of John Gybbes and his fellows held there on Thursday next after the feast of St Valentine the martyr in the xv year of the reign of King Edward the fourth

[space]

fol 21v

[Thursday 9 May 1476]
Session of John Gybbes Alderman held there on ninth of May in the xvj year of the reign of King Edward the fourth
This is the first time some figures are attached to the accounts; the common chest must have kept separate accounts probably on separate sheets as at a later period in the town's history. On the evidence here, the sums cannot be reconciled.

Account of the Bailiff of the liberty
The same day and year, William Taverner bailiff of the liberty etc accounted for the issues of his office in the times of William Broun, John Gregorye, Robert Hans, John Nele and Alex Dyott Alderman xxvjs viijd.

From which he petitioned allowance for divers expenses incurred by him on the order of the aforesaid Aldermen as appears in the accounts, xxxs; arrears for the freedoms of the same account for iij years lxijx xjd ob. And thus the surplus xxxvjs iijd ob

And he accounted for the remainder in the common chest etc.

From this he received on this account vijs ijd
And thus for the clear surplus xxixs jd ob

Sworn into freedom
Thomas Rakke glover journeyman came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and will give for fine by pledge of John Langton glover and will give for fine iiijs

John Pate formerly apprentice of John Corywrer and petitioned similarly etc and will give for fine by pledge of the Alderman ijs

Thomas Stacy laborer came and petitioned as above and will give fine ijs

William Sherwyn mason came and petitioned as above and will give for fine by pledge of William Peerson iiiis

Account of the chamberlains
John Dycon and Robert Crane chamberlains accounted for the issues of the aforesaid office, and accounting for all accounts and allowing all allowances, they have a surplus on the account up to this day vijs vjd. Of which they received by the hands of John Wykes and Robert Skynner chamberlains in part payment iijs

fol 22r

1476-7: During this year, William Browne served as sheriff of Lincolnshire. Later in the year, Robert Skynner was promoted to the First Twelve and his name has been added to this list; hence it is given twice and the First Twelve has thirteen names. William Sutton, 'leader' of the Second Twelve since 1465, probably died; his place was taken by Holton who had been listed as third in the list for most of this period (Henry Cok who was listed as second in the list was promoted this year to the First Twelve). Two others were added to the Second Twelve during the year.

John Dycon Alderman

[30 September 1476]
Monday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the xvij year of the reign of King Edward the fourth, John Dycon was elected Alderman for the coming year.

First xij for the Alderman
First xij
William Broun  William Hykeham  John Nele  Robert Skynnour
John Gybbes  George Chapman  Alex Dyott
Thomas Gregory sworn  Robert Hans sworn  Robert Neyvour sworn
John Gregorie  Thomas Kesteven  Henry Coke

Second xij for the community
Second xij
Thomas Holton  John Molle  Alexander Dauntre  Christopher Palfreyman
Robert Skynner  Thomas Phillip  William Wood sworn
John Wykes sworn  Robert Crane sworn  William Bullowe sworn  John Tovye
William Gaywood  John Stede  John Broun glasyer

And then all the burgesses and commons were sworn by raising hands in the common hall to maintain the aforesaid Alderman.

The common sergeant
Item they elected into the office of claviger and serjeant for the aforesaid Alderman John Syll - and he was sworn

Bailiff of the liberty
Item they elected into the office of bailiff of the liberty of the borough Robert Dodale - and he was sworn

fol 22v

[Thursday 14 November 1476]
Session of John Dycon Alderman held there in the common hall xiiij day of November in the sixteenth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth

Sworn into freedom
John Wykes slater came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and will give for fine by pledge of John Barough iiijs
John Knyngh shomaker came as above and petitioned etc and will give for fine by pledge of Henry Coryer xiijs iiijd
John Read barbour came and petitioned as above and will give for fine by pledge of Thomas Parnell iiijs

Chamberlains
Item they elected into the office of chamberlains Henry Cokke and John Stede - sworn

Constables
Item they elected into the office of constables Alexander Dauntre, William Bullowe, John Yetson - sworn

The following regulation seems to debar the residents from keeping farm animals within the town area except when dipping or shearing. The exact text which is highly abbreviated is uncertain.

Constitution
On that day it was ordained by the Alderman and his brethren and the whole community that from this time no burgess shall keep or pasture sheep, ewes or wethers (*oves bidentes multones vulgarit nuncupatis ‘waders’) in the community (*infra communitatam*) of the aforesaid town except at such time as sheep dipping or shearing, on pain of vjs viijd

Warrants this year for peace
In primis a warrant to attach William Jakeson at the instance of Thomas Benson vj day of November.
Attachment of Thomas Shawe and Thomas Benson at the instance of William Jakeson vj November
Attachment of Henry Burton at the instance of John Milngate first day of December
Attachment of Elena Brounyng at the instance of Thomas Godfrey xx January
Attachment of John Chipman at the instance of Thomas Godfrey viij February
Attachment of John Taylour at the instance of William Templer xij February
Attachment of Margaret Midelton at the instance of John Nyon tenth of March
Attachment of Thomas Kendale and William Burton at the instance of Thomas Garnon

Sworn into freedom
Richard Bukstone tailour came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for fine by pledge of John Stotharde tailour vjs viijd
John Stothard tailour came before the same Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for fine by the pledge of Richard Bukston vjs viijd
Thomas Pierson laborer came etc and petitioned as above by pledge of William Philip bocher ijs

[Thursday 12 December 1476]
Session of John Dycon Alderman held in the common hall xijmo day of December in the xvj year of the said king

Accounts of the chamberlains
The same day and year John Wykes and Robert Skynner chamberlains for the past year accounted for the issues of their office and accounting for all accounts and allowing all allowances the same calculated that they owed to this day ixs jd ob

Constitution
The same day and year, it was ordained by the Alderman and comburgesses and the community that no outsider (extravens) from now on shall occupy any craft in the aforesaid town unless he shall pay from the first day of his occupation one quarter of the fine of his craft and so from thence he shall pay a quarter of the fine on the first day of the quarter until he shall have made his oath and if he wishes to be sworn into the freedom, then he shall pay the whole fine on the same day (into the hands added)

[Thursday 16 January 1477]
Session of the peace held there before John Dycon Alderman and his fellows xvj day of January in the sixteenth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth.

Sworn
William Broke laborer came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lot and scott and he will pay by pledge of Robert Clerk ijs
Robert Fulneby goldsmith came in the same manner and he will pay for his fine by pledge of John Dycon iiijs

[Sunday 19 January 1477]
Session of John Dycon Alderman held xix day of January in the sixteenth year of the aforesaid king

Sworn to freedom
William Salisbury husbond came before the Alderman and petitioned in similar manner and he will give for fine by pledge of Thomas Holton iiijs
John Langton glover came similarly and he will give for fine by pledge of Thomas Rakke vjs viijd.

Warrants to keep the peace
Att John Gretham etc at the instance of Joan Gretham
Att Thomas Worsley and John Sawyer at the instance of Edward Smyth
Att Alex Sawyer etc at the instance of David Hovy
Att Thomas Vyncent at the instance of William Archer
Att William Hawkes etc at the instance of John Wykes
Att John Haryson at the instance of Robert Combe clerk
Att Thomas Anwyk at the instance of Moric Johnson
Att Richard Forest at the instance of John Wodecok
Att Robert Hosyer at the instance of Robert Dyott
Att Nicholas Justice at the instance of Richard Keston
Att William Jordeyn at the instance of Agnes Aston
Att Thomas Parnell at the instance of John Lylly

fol 23v

41 Warrants of attachment
1477-78: There was an alleged attempted coup against Edward IV and the duke of Clarence paid for it with his life (in a butt of malmesey, according to legend). Parliament condemned Clarence: among the members were two from Stamford (not listed in the Hall Book): William Mounke of Barnack lawyer and Richard Forster again, now king’s butler of Boston (HofP).

During 1478, the king charged the Calais staple with the safe custody and the victualling of the town, castle and marches of Calais; William Browne (at this time mayor of the Calais staple) got together a company to go there (CPR).

In August 1478, the king commissioned a special court of gaol-delivery to try two men in Stamford prison. One of these men gave a recognisance for good behaviour to the council.

[30 September 1477]

Tuesday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the xvij year of the reign of king Edward iiiij, Henry Cok was elected Alderman for the coming year.

First xij for the Alderman

Henry Cok Alderman

| William Browne | Robert Hans | Alexander Dyott |
| John Dycon | Thomas Kesteven | John (Nevour del) Gybbes |
| John Gregory | John Nele | Robert Nevoure Sworn |
| William Hikeham | Robert Skynner | George Chapman |

Second xij for the community

| Thomas Holton | Robert Crane | William Bullowe |
| John Wykes | John Stede | John Browne glasyer sworn |
| William Gaywode | Alexander Dauntre | Christopher Palfrayman |
| Thomas Philip | William Wode | John Tovy |

And then all the community at that time in the common hall were sworn by raising hands to maintain the aforesaid Alderman.

Item they elected into the office of claviger and serjeant for the Alderman John Syll as above and he was sworn

Item they elected into the office of bailiff of the same borough Robert Dodale and he was sworn

[Tuesday 16 December 1477]

Session of the aforesaid Alderman in the common hall on Tuesday namely xvj day of December in the aforesaid year

Accounts of the chamberlains
On the same day and year Henry Cok and John Stede chamberlains for the past year accounted for the issues of their office; accounting for all accounts whatsoever and allowing for allowances whatsoever, they have a surplus\(^{42}\) and excess on their account xxs

**Sworn and admitted into freedom**

George Waterson tailour came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for fine by pledge of John Wykes vjs viijd

Richard Stuffyn hosyer came similarly by pledge of John Wykes vjs viijd

William Duraunt mercer for the same was sworn will give for fine by pledge of John Stede xxs

Item John Freman laborer for the same by pledge of Walter Palmer ijs

Richard Holande furbisser for the same by pledge of John Wodecok iiijs

William Dawson alias Sharp (baker ins) for the same by pledge of Henry Cok vjs viijd

Robert Jelot tailour for the same by pledge of John Dawson vjs viijd

**Chamberlains**

On the same day and year the commons elected into the office of chamberlains William Wode, John Tovy - Sworn

**Constables**

Item the said day and year they elected into the office of constables Thomas Stable, Robert Dauntre, William Derley – Sworn

\(^{43}\)Richard Hepley laborer came and petitioned as above and will pay into the hands [of the chamberlains?] for fine ijs

Thomas Johnson wever came and petitioned as above by pledge of John Nele and dom Henry Wykes iiijs

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**Election of MPs** in Stamford between 20 November 1477 when writ to elect MPs was sent out and 5 January 1478 when the return of the names of William Mounke and Richard Forster was made by the sheriff of Lincoln. *PRO C219/17/3(ii)56*

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\(^{42}\)surplus means ‘overspend’, not ‘underspend’.

\(^{43}\)these two entries are added at the bottom of the page without sub-heading.
Robert Brammok sclater came etc as above and he will give for fine by pledge of John Shomaker iiijs
Robert Dodale laborer came etc and he will give for fine by pledge of John Milnegate ijs
Robert Morant husbondman for the same will give for fine iiijs [name and fine deleted with note] because below.

[space]


[Wednesday 9 September 1478]
Session of the peace held there before Henry Cok Alderman and his fellows on Wednesday on the day after the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the xviiij year of the reign of king Edward iiiij.

On this day came Robert Morant husbondman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will pay for fine by pledge of John Borough iiijs

Warrants
Attached Robert Brammok and [sic - no name] at the instance of William Cort etc for securing the peace etc
Attached John Abney, Henry Halle and Peter Abney at the instance of William Derley etc
Attached John Clerk of Staunfford shomaker at the instance of Margaret Broune etc

[Thursday 24 September 1478]
Session of the peace held there before the aforesaid Alderman etc xxiiij day of September in the xviiij year of the reign of aforesaid king.

On which day and year, William Cort before the Alderman and his fellow Justices of the Peace etc in the common hall released the surety which he had earlier [given] against Robert Brammok, and both the aforesaid William Cort and the aforesaid Robert Brammok before the king’s justices (there ins) had promised, and both of them gave surety faithfully to stand and abide by the ordinance, judgement and arbitration of Alexander Dauntre and Thomas Fraunkeley, arbitrators on the part of the said William Cort, and John Symond and John Tovy arbitrators on behalf of Robert Brammok for and

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44 Ten of these names are members of the First Twelve; only Huse and Gayton are not on the council; William Browne’s name is not included. We note Margaret Browne was suing in this year: was William Browne abroad in Calais as other records suggest?
45 given as Thomas Walker below
up upon all such actions etc between the same William and Robert etc. On condition that the
said ordinance, judgement and arbitration shall be made and rendered before the Sunday
next after the feast of St Michael archangel [29 September] next coming after the date of
the abovewritten.

[Monday 14 September 1478]46
Surety for William Derley
On Monday in the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in the aforesaid year Thomas
Holton and Alex Dauntre came before the Alderman and gave surety and each of them
gave surety for William Derley of Staunfford fuller on pain of paying forty pounds etc if
the same William Derley inflict any harm etc against John Abney clerk or his servants,
bodily or by insult etc in future etc, which said sum etc they agree shall be levied on their
goods and chattels to the use of lord king.
The said John Abney came before the Alderman and made release [marginal note].

Surety for John Abney clerk
On the same day and year Robert Nevour of Staunford in the county of Lincoln
furbissher, Alex Somerby of the same town and county Barker, Robert Tuffe of the same
etc miller, John Pyttes of the same etc fissher, and John Tuffe of the same etc shomaker
came before the aforesaid Alderman and gave surety and each of them gave surety for
dom John Abney clerk on pain of paying forty pounds etc if the same John Abney inflict
any harm etc against William Derley and his servants, bodily or by insult etc, which sum
they agree shall be levied on their goods and chattels to the use of the lord king.
The said William Derley came before the said Alderman and made release etc as above.
[marginal note]
fol 24v

Sureties for Thomas Walker each of them to pay xld etc
Dom John Abney and Richard Knoblowe clerks, Thomas Wilson coryour, George
Watirson taiour, William Peerson, Richard Stuffyn, Robert Johnson shomaker, Thomas
Couper couper, Thomas Pernell, William Duffeld, John Dycons, John Litster, Richard
Broune came before the Alderman and gave surety and each of them gave surety for
Thomas47 Walker lately detained in prison, namely each of the aforesaid sureties for xld,
which said sum they consent and agree shall be levied on their goods and chattels before
the feast of St Michael next coming.

Surety for Robert Brammok
Barnard Richeman of Pyllesgate in the county of Northampton husbandman, Thomas
Clopton of Staunfford in the county of Lincoln sclater, John Symonde of the aforesaid
Staunford baker and John Palmer shomaker gave surety for Robert Brammok, each of
them on pain of twenty pounds, that the said Robert will not inflict nor cause to be
inflicted any harm etc and principally against William Cort etc.

46 These items are not in date sequence.
47 William Walker in royal commission of gaol delivery.
Sworn into freedom
William Boteler tailour came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for fine by pledge of Christofer Ydole tailour vjs viijd
Christofer Ydole tailour came similarly and he will give for fine by pledge of William Boteler vjs viijd
Robert Wodeborn wever came similarly etc and will give for fine iiijs
John Skalwyk carpenter came similarly etc and will give for fine by pledge of Robert Hans iiijs

Sworn into freedom
Thomas Taverner laborer came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for fine ijs
John Sabyn baker came and petitioned similarly and he will give for fine by pledge of Thomas Wilson vjs viijd
Thomas Wilson laborer came and petitioned similarly and will give for fine by pledge of John Sabyn ijs
John Washingburgh baker apprentice of William Hikeham and similarly will give for fine by pledge of Henry Cok ijs

[Friday 25 September 1478]
Surety for Richard Neuton
Friday next after the feast of St Matthew apostle and evangelist in the eighteenth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth, John Thurleby of Empyngham in the county of Rutland yoman, William Drapier of Hamolden in the aforesaid county yoman, John Donnyng of the aforesaid Hamolden yoman, Henry Toky of South Luffenham in the said county yoman, John Thornton of Empyngham came before the Alderman and gave surety and each of them gave surety for Richard Neuton of Langham in the aforesaid county to the next sessions to be held at Staunford, each of them bound on pain of xx li, which said sum they agree to be levied on their goods and chattels if the same Richard Neuton shall inflict or cause to be inflicted any harm on any of the people of the king and principally on Christofer Palfreyman of Staunford aforesaid.

fol 25r

1478-79: This was a very busy year for the Alderman. He got a large number of regulations enrolled, asserting that they were proclaimed by virtue of letters patent from the king.

Robert Skynner

[30 September 1478]
Wednesday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the year of our Lord one thousand four hundred and seventy eight Robert Skynner was elected Alderman for the coming year.
First xij
Robert Skynner Alderman
William Broune  George Chapman  Alex Dyott
Henry Cok    Robert Hans    John Gybbes  Sworn
John Gregory  Thomas Kesteven  John Dycons
William Hikeham  John Nele  Robert Nevour

Second xij
Thomas Holton  Robert Crane  William Bullowe
John Wykes     John Stede    John Broune glasyer  Sworn
Willian Gaywode  Alex Dauntre    Christofer Palfreyman
Thomas Philip  William Wode    John Tovy

And then the whole community before the aforesaid Alderman in the common hall at that time by raising hands were sworn on their oaths to maintain and obey the same Alderman.

The same day, year and place they elected into the office of claviger and serjeant for the Alderman for the coming year Robert Dodale and he was sworn into the aforesaid office

Item they elected into the office of bailiff of the liberty of the same borough Thomas Parnell and he was sworn.

[Tuesday 3 November 1478]
Session of Robert Dodale held on Tuesday next after the feast of All Saints in the xvij year of king Edward the fourth

The following entry reveals a claim by the prior of St Leonard’s Priory by Stamford on behalf of the bishop of Durham for privileges over outlaws. It would seem that this claim was allowed.

On which day and year Henry Cock [sic] Alderman for the preceding year accounted for the issues of his office and, accounting for all accounts and allowing allowances, he accounted that he owed for the issues of his said office in the town as is more fully made clear in the bill of particulars shown on this account xijs iiijd. Response: that he has paid and thus is quit.

[Marginal note] Paid.
Note However he is not burdened with vjs received from the goods of a certain outlaw thus appropriated to him, because the prior of St Leonard petitioned that such goods belonged to Saint Cuthbert and it is respite etc.

The same day and year William Wode and John Tovy chamberlains for the past year accounted for the issues of the office of chamberlain, accounting for all accounts and
allowing allowances, the same accounted that they owed on the said day and year [Is xd del] xlijs iiijd

Election of chamberlains
The same day and year they elected into the office of chamberlains for the coming year William Wode and William Bullowe: sworn

Item they elected into the office of searcher of the market for the coming year John Sabyn, Thomas Howes: sworn

Item they elected into the office of constables for the aforesaid year Robert Dauntre, sworn Thomas Edward, sworn John None, sworn

Sworn into freedom.
Robert Dyot bocher son of Alex Dyot free born in the said town came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give nothing for fine because he was born in etc.

It is not clear why Skynner should have declared all these by-laws at this time. The royal letters patent cannot now be traced.

Proclamation of statutes, ordinances, and articles

The Alderman by thuctorite of the kynges lettres patentez her present chief overseer and ruler of this markate and by thadvis and discrete consent and counseile of his bredern and the entiere commynaltye of this burgh hath provyded enacted and stablisshed certeyn articles concernyng the comyn wele aswell of this burgh

First that every man comyn to this toune and market kepe the kynges pees, pyke no quarells, gyve non occasion [on] payn of corporall punysshment, And that no man deynysyn [denizen], nor other nor none artificer ne journeyman bere no gleve [spear], pollax, longe staffe, clubbed staffe, swerde, wodeknyfe, baslard [dagger], ne hanger [short sword] except a gentilman to have a wepyn born after him, payn of forfatour of all such wepyns born to the contrary.

Also that every man that bryngeth corne to this market that thei set no sale theron at a gretter price than is had in marketts adjoynaunt, And yif thei will do, that thei be assised therto according.

Also that no person opyn ther sak or set their corn to sale afor the houre of x of the bell or els the undernon bell be rongen. And that no foryner entre the corn market to by any corn
therin, unto [until] the toune be served, that is to say by the space of an houre, payn of a
grevouse mercyment and punysshment corporall.

[Many marginal notes in later hands not always legible]

Also that no man of the toune ne of the cuntrey forstalk ne regrate the market nether of
corn nor of vitaille upon payn in the Statute therfor provided.

Also that every baker kepe perfecly the weght of his brede, And that no baker sell mo ne
lasse than iiiij loves or ij loves of white brede for a peny, payn of a grevous mercyment
and corporall punysshment.

And that every baker make his horslove in maner and fourme folowyng, that is to say iiiij
horsloves for jd and every horslove holdyng the weght accordyng to thassise and xij for
the doseyn and no mo, payn of forfaitur of every farthing horslove so baken and taken
therwith.

And that every Inkeper perfecly kepe thassise in ther fagot in lenght and space accordyng
to the statute uppon a grevous payn.

Also that every man havyng any mesur aswell stiykes, gallones, metwands and all other
that thei se them sealed accordyng to the kynges standard, payn of forfaitour of the mesur
and corporall punyshion.

Also that every fissher bryng holsom fissh to the market and that no fissher set any to sale
ne none retaile unto [until] thalderman or his assignes have overseen it and set ther on
[own] assis, uppon payn of forfaitour of their fissh, Provided in this article that yif any
lordes catour [caterer] come to that market that he may take to his plesour, Reservyng the
toune served satisfied and content after thassise ther uppon sett.

Also that every fissher straungier that bryngeth an ypanyers or [sic] fissh to this market
that he in his propre persone kepe a sale [stall] in merket and retaile it him self and not to
sell it in groose, payn of forfaitour of his fissh.

Also that every bocher (burgese ins) or other sell holsom flessh nor corupt nor excessive
take out accordyng to naturall raison, payn of a grevous punysshment.

fol 26r

Also that every candeler make sufficiaunt and durable candal of clene and pured talough
and that every pounde of candell kep truly the weght, payn of corporall punysshment and
a grevouse amercyment.

Also that every man or woman that bryngeth any pultre, egges, butter or chese that thei
set none to sale ne non offer to sell but in the playn merket, payn of forfetour of such as
thei brynge, And that every woman bryngyng butter that thei make it in dishses or in
cakes at their parell [peril].
And that no man of the toune ne of the cuntre ingroosse ne by [buy] up any such pultry eggges butter or cheese but in the playn market, payn of a grevous fyne and forfeiture of such as thei by.

Also that every man or woman that brynge any horses or mares to the market with corn or other stuffe that thei set up their horsez or mares in closur and not in the highway for parell [peril] of children and noying the kynges strets, payn of every hors or mare founden withoute to forfe at every tyme ob [a halfpenny].

And that every artificer and man of craft duely do and make ther operacion perfite and not take excessive therfor but accordyng to reason and conscience so that no compleynt be made and opynly proved, payn of a grevous amercymcnt.

And that no maner of straungier unknown and no vacabounde ne others callyng them self shipmen ne no comyn beggers, straungers abide or contynue in this toune over a day and a nyght as for the beythyng. And yif thei abide or contynue longar, thei shall have corporall punysshment accordyng to the statute therfor provided.

And also that no maner straungier ne other use the play of cardes, dycees, bowles ne other unlawfull game, payn of forfetour of such as thei play for and their bodies to prison.

And for consideracion that all thies said articles may be duely observed and kept, ther ben ordeyned and assigned certeyn serchers for every ma rket to present every defaute founden in premissez, Wherfor thalderman in the kyngs behalve and on my ladyes streitly chargeth that no man straungier ne none ot her, what degre or condicion he be of, entermytte [hinder] of any punysshon serchynge or examyngyng of any article afor specified but such as at this tyme ben or in tyme to come shall be assigned therto. And yif ther be any man see or understand any maner of ordynaunce befor writen not perfectly kept, that the said persone to come to the Alderman and make due proof of the same offens so founden, And he will set sich punysshment had therfor, that all other shall take ensample therby, And the partie thus shewyng the matier shall have grete laude and thanks for their labour.

fol 26v

[Thursday 7 January 1479]

Session of the peace held before the Alderman namely Robert Skynner justice of the peace and his fellows on Thursday the day after the Epiphany of our Lord in the xvij year of the reign of king Edward the fourth

Sworn into freedom
John (Dompnulby del) Dommelby husbondman came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lotte and scott and he will give for fine by pledge of Robert Dodale iiij

48 Lady Cecily duchess of York.
Thomas Withshawe, son of Nicholas Withshawe Barker, free born, mercer formerly apprentice of John Gregory of the same [town] mercer and petitioned etc and he will give for fine nil.

Thomas Kitson hosyer came and petitioned to be admitted by pledge of John Parker and he will give etc vjs viijd

John Vessy (baker del) laborer came similarly and will give for fine by pledge of Robert Skynner ijs (vjs viijd del )

John Milles sherman came and petitioned similarly and will give for fine by pledge of Thomas Barlowe iiijs

Thomas Barlowe sherman petitioned similarly by pledge of John Milles and will give for fine iiijs

Alexander Hardy tailour petitioned similarly by pledge of John Gregory and will give for fine viijd

Richard Forster roper petitioned similarly by pledge of John Boyvile and will give for fine iiijs

[Thursday 25 February 1479]

Session of Robert Skynner Alderman held on Thursday next after the feast of St Mathias the apostle in the xviiij year of the reign of king Edward IV

The same day and year there were elected taxers for the repair of a gate called Scofgate and the boundary wall of the town of Staunford, namely two for each parish as is shown below, namely to the total of xxiiij li vijs iiijd

Taxers for the parish of Holy Trinity and St Paul
Taxers Thomas Wryght Collectors William Hawkes
   John Palmer     Thomas Clopton

Taxers for the parish of St Andrew
Taxers Robert Loksmith Collectors William Carver
   William Dowson     John Barbour

Taxers for the parish of St George
Taxers John Freman Collectors Thomas Wilson
   Walter Palmer     William Dawson

Taxers for the parish of St Michael
Taxers Richard Tailour Collectors John Couper
   William Duffeld     Robert Ellerkay

Taxers for the parish of St Mary
Taxers John Perceley Collectors Richard Nevour
   John None     Thomas Stable

Taxers for the parish of St John
Taxers William Jordeyn Collectors Robert Clerk
   William Payne     Thomas Happe

Taxers for the parish of All Saints

49 This Richard Forster cannot be the Richard Forster MP since he was admitted to the freedom in 1480 (see below).
[Sunday 1 August 1479]
Surety for Richard Percy of Uppyngham
Memorandum that on Sunday the feast of St Peter in chains in the xix year of the reign of king Edward the fourth, before Robert Skynner Alderman of the town of Staunfford and Justice of the peace of our aforesaid lord king in that town and wholly on his initiative etc, there came in their own persons [personaliter] Robert Nevour of the foresaid Staunfford furbour and Robert Johnson of the same place shomaker and gave surety and each of them gave surety for Richard Percy of Uppyngham in the county of Rutland shomaker until the next sessions to be held at the aforesaid Staunfford, namely each of them on pain of xl li, which said sum they agreed and consented to be levied on their goods and chattels to the use of the lord king, and that the same Richard in the interim shall not inflict nor cause to be inflicted any harm on any of the people of the lord king and principally on William Cobbe of the aforesaid Staunford wever on his body, by waylaying [insidias], insult etc on the aforesaid penalty to be levied to the use of the lord king etc.

[Thursday 12 January 1480]\(^{50}\)
And at the sessions held in the common hall (on Thursday next after the feast of the Epiphany in the xix year of the reign of king Edward the fourth ins) the aforesaid Robert Nevour and Robert Johnson came before the Alderman and his fellows and gave surety for the aforesaid Richard Percy etc on pain as above.

[Monday 14 February 1480]\(^{51}\)
Before W Hikeham Alderman etc
Surety for John Barlowe of Newstede
George Chapman of Staunfford in the county of Lincolnshire mercer and Henry Cok of the same burgesses on xiiiij day of February in the xix year of the reign of king Edward the fourth came before William Hikeham Alderman of Staunfford and Justice of the Peace of our said lord the king in that town and on their whole initiative etc and gave surety and each of them gave surety for John Barlowe of Newstede next to Staunfford until the next sessions to be held at Staunfford, namely each of them on pain of xx li which said sum they agreed and consented to be levied on their goods and chattels to the use of the said

\(^{50}\) This entry which refers to a later date than this aldermanry year seems to be a renewal of the surety and may have been inserted. The date was added later.

\(^{51}\) This entry refers to the next aldermanry year of William Hikeham, not Robert Skynner.
lord king if the same John Barlowe in the interim shall inflict or cause to be inflicted any harm or injury on the body of Elizabeth Dawson widow etc

[Thursday 25 February 1479]
Enrolment of apprentice
On Thursday next after the feast of St Mathias the apostle in the above mentioned xviiij year of the reign of king Edward the fourth before Robert Skynner Alderman thus in the common hall, it was enrolled that Richard Claypol son of William Claypole of Wakerley had placed himself as apprentice and servant of John Gregory of Staunford mercer etc from the feast of the Nativity of our Lord in the eleventh year of the foresaid king until the final term of eight years from then following etc.

Grant of a postern
The same day and year there was granted to William Broune merchant an exit or postern gate to be made by him in the boundary wall at the end of the tenement in the tenure of John Thistylton. And the aforesaid William Broune, his heirs, executors and assigns shall repair, sustain and maintain the said boundary wall fully and sufficiently in all things there as ancienly etc on pain of the forfeiture of this same exit or postern.

I feel certain this next relates to Richard Forster royal servant, holder of land in the town and MP, not the roper admitted in 1479.

Grant of a postern
The same day and year was granted to Richard Forster in similar manner a postern gate to be made by the same Richard in the boundary wall at the end of his tenement in the parish of St Paul. So that the said Richard and his assigns shall repair and maintain the aforesaid boundary wall there in all things fully and sufficiently and honourably as from ancient times or better at his own cost on pain as above.

[Monday 8 March 1479]
Session of the same Alderman held viij day of March in the xix year of the reign of aforesaid king.

Enrolment of apprentice
The same day and year before the aforesaid Alderman it was thus enrolled that John Fairday son of Geoffrey Fairday of West Depyng had placed himself as apprentice etc of John Gregory of Staunford mercer from the feast of the Nativity of our Lord in the xviiij year of the reign of the aforesaid king until the end and term of eight years next following from thence etc

fol 27v
[Thursday 3 June 1479]
Session of the peace held before Robert Skynner Alderman and Justice etc and his fellows on Thursday next after Whit Sunday in the xix year of the reign of king Edward the fourth

Sworn into freedom
John Thistilton (laborer del) husband came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott etc and he will give for fine by pledge of John Hikson iiijs William Rede? scatter petitioned similarly by pledge of Thomas Hawes and he will give for fine iiijs.

1479-80: The period of relative calm enabled Edward IV to complete Eltham palace and for King’s College, Cambridge to start on building the chapel. Hikeham spent much of the year trying to tidy up the town’s finances. He and his wife Alice were at this time rebuilding the roof of the north aisle of St Mary’s church where it seems the Guild of Corpus Christi held their meetings.

William Hikeham Alderman

[30 September 1479]
Election of Alderman
Thursday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the xix year of the reign of king Edward the fourth, William Hikeham was elected Alderman for the coming year.

Bailiff of the liberty
Item Thomas Parnell was [elected] into the office of bailiff of the liberty as above for the coming year.

Common sergeant
Item Robert Dodale was elected into the office of sergeant as above for the aforesaid year.

First xij
William Broune          Robert Hans          John Gybbes
Robert Skynner          Thomas Kesteven       John Dycon
John Gregory            John Nele            Henry Cok    Sworn
George Chapman          Alexander Dyott        Robert Nevour

Second xij
Thomas Holton           Robert Crane          William Bullowe
John Wykes              John Stede           John Broune glasyer
William Gaywode         Alexander Dauntre      Christofer Palfreyman Sworn
Thomas Philip           William Wode          John Tovy

[Tuesday 2 December 1479]
Session of the said Alderman held in the common hall ij day of December in the aforesaid year.

Accounts of the chamberlains
On which day and year William Wode and William Bullowe chamberlains accounted for the issues etc as accounting for all accounts and allowing allowances, the same accounted that they owed xixs (x li js vjd del) viijd

The same day and year, it was ordained and provided by the Alderman and his brethren and the whole community of the town that for the honour of God and the reformation of the faith, the play (ludus) of Corpus Christi in the current year (instanti anno) should be publicly played completely as in the last year past etc.\(^52\).

Account of R Dodale bailiff of the liberty
Robert Dodale bailiff of the liberty [came] and rendered account for the issues of his office in the time of Robert Skynner Alderman; and accounting his accounts etc, the same accounted that he owed on this account vijs which he paid on this account. And therefore he is returned as quit.

Corrections
Corrections and attachments of R Dodale common sergeant
Alice Shepherd servant of William Tigh for her correction imprisoned and will pay fine vjd
Agnes wife of J Hikford for the same and will give for fine vjd
Richard Payne servant of William Payne for the same and will give for fine vjd
Moricc Johnson for the same and will give for fine vjd
Walter Bowland servant of John Dycon for the same and will give for fine vjd
William Nicolson servant of Thomas Harper for the same for fine vjd
John Barbour servant of Richard Broune baker for the same vjd
Thomas Couper servant of Richard Broune aforesaid for the same vjd
John Standyford servant of the same Richard for the same vjd
William Cartwright hosier for the same against John Tovy vjd
Alice Clark servant of John Smyth for the same vjd
William Collys wever for the same will give for the same vjd

Sworn into freedom
John Gabon laborer came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott etc. He was sworn and will give for fine ijs
Robert Jameson barker came before the Alderman and petitioned similarly and will give for fine vjs viijd

[Tuesday 7 December 1479]
Accounts
Tuesday the day before the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the xix year of the reign of king Edward iiiij, (Thomas del) Robert Dodale bailiff of the liberty in the time of John Dycon and Henry Cok Aldermen, namely for two years, accounting for all accounts and allowing for allowances, the same accountant was returned as quit

Account
The same day and year Thomas Parnell bailiff of the liberty etc for the time of Robert Skynner Alderman accounted for the issues of his office, and accounting for all accounts and allowing for allowances, the same accounted that he owed on the said day and year iijs viijd.

On which day the same bailiff delivered to William Wode and William Bullowe chamberlains xxs

Corrections
Agnes Clerke vagabond, lodged (hospitat) with Petronilla Grene, for her correction to R Dodale vjd: vacated here because the fine is elsewhere.

For the next few folios, entries are out of date sequence. It is not clear why.

[Sunday 15 October 1480]
Recognisance
On the fifteenth day of October in the xx year of the reign of king Edward the fourth, John Faukener came before William Hikeham Alderman53 and (John F del) acknowledged himself to be indebted to the aforesaid Alderman and his successors to the use and profit of the common hall; if the said John or Emma his wife in any way breaks the king’s peace against (William ins) Cobbe wever and Cecily his wife, whether by word or by deed, from the set date, in xxs which he agreed to be levied from his goods etc to the profit of the common hall etc so often as they shall break or either of them shall break the king’s peace etc in any way whatsoever in the future.

Recognisance
The same day and year William Cobbe wever came before the aforesaid Alderman and freely [sponte] acknowledged himself to owe to the said Alderman and his successors xxs of legal English money to pay to the use and profit of the common hall so often as the said William Cobbe or Cecily his wife shall in any way disturb the king’s peace by word or deed against John Faukener or Emma his wife as often as they disturb it [xxs]; the which xxs the said William and Cecily agreed and consented to be levied on their goods and chattels to the use of the common hall.

Warrants
Thomas Whitetop of Brun [Bourne] bocher indicted etc - will pay for fine vijs vjd
Hugh Arnesdale of Brun barker arrested by writ at the suit of W Broune ijs iiijd
John Chipnam arrested by warrant at the suit of John Milnegate ijs iiijd

53 Hikeham should have ceased as Alderman on 30 September 1480 when Chapman took over; see below
John Milnegate freely sworn [freeman] arrested by warrant at the suit [blank] viijd
John Ricard freeman arrested for the peace at the suit of Dame Margaret Motte viijd
William Barlowe stranger arrested by warrant at the suit of Isabell Dawson ijs iiijd
William Meryell for the same at the suit of William Templer ijs iiijd
William Hawkes sworn and freeman for the same at the suit of the same William Templer viijd
William Shepherd servant of William Hawkes for affray iijjs iiijd
Richard Ledes stranger for the same at the suit of William Barlowe ijs iiijd
Robert Moraunt for the same at the suit of William Philip and others viijd

Warrants and arrests
William Hosteler stranger arrested by warrant at the suit of Alice Barton ijs iiijd
John Clerk for the same at the suit of John Knyght ijs iiijd
John Knyght for the same at the suit of John Clerk viijd
William Sawyer for the same ijs iiijd
Robert Hardy for the same arrested ijs iiijd
John Pate for the same viijd
John Couper of Uppyngham for the same ijs iiijd
Nicholas Justice for the same ijs iiijd
John Coddar stranger for the same ijs iiijd
William Tygh freeman sworn for the same at the suit of Thomas Edward viijd
John Litster freeman for the same at the suit of the same Thomas viijd
William Cobbe and Cecily his wife for the same at the suit of Emma Faukener xvjd
Total xlvs vijd

Corrections levied by the bailiff
Thomas Lover servant of Robert Wodeborn for the correction for transgression against his own master xijd
William Colles for the same for transgression against Thomas Happe xijd
John Forrider of Ledyngton for the same against the prioress [of St Michael, Stamford] xijd
Richard Mason for the same against John Bussh viijd
Robert Dudley and his servant for making a transgression ijs
Agnes Clark vagabond for fine vjs viijd
William Osteler indicted for transgression for his fine ijs iiijd
Fine of certain women released from the judgment of correction xiijs iiijd
Total xxixs

Sworn into freedom
John Johnson wever came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott etc and will give for fine iijjs
Ralph Lokkey sclatter came similarly and will give for fine and sworn etc iiijjs
William Maddy laborer came similarly and was sworn and will give for fine ijs
James Williamson laborer came and was sworn and will give for fine ijs
Robert Neleson smyth for the same was sworn and will give for fine iiijs
John Russhby parchementer for the same was sworn and will give for fine iiijs
William Hynkersale baker for the same sworn and will give for fine vjs viijd

fol 29r

Ministralls
Henry Haynes ministrall admitted for the present year [pro anno instanto] by pledge of
Robert Nevour
Richard Pyndell similarly admitted for the same year by pledge of Richard Nevour
William Johnson likewise admitted for the aforesaid year by pledge of William Tygh
Sworn

[Monday 4 December 1480]
Surety
John Tovy of Staunford in the county of Lincoln draper and Thomas Fraunkeleyn of the
same town and county husbond came before the Alderman and gave surety and each of them gave surety for John Milnegate on pain of x li, and the said John Milnegate [gave surety] until the next sessions on pain of xl li to be paid if the same John Milnegate [shall do] any harm to Thomas Stableford or any other of the king’s people, the which sum the said John Tovy, Thomas Frankeleyn and John Milnegate agreed to be levied on their goods and chattels to the use of the king.

[Tuesday 21 March 1480]55
On the twentyfirst day of March in the xx year of the reign of king Edward iiiij, Robert Fulneby of Staunford in the county of Lincoln goldsmyth, John Litster of the same town and county shomaker, William Payn of the same town and county glover, Thomas Stable of the same town and county yoman, and John Percele y came before the Alderman and gave surety and each of them gave surety (until the next sessions ins) for Robert Fulneby and John Fulneby on pain of the said Robert Fulneby (goldsmyth ins) xl li and each of the other sureties x li, that the said Robert Fulneby and John Fulneby [shall do] no harm etc to a certain Oliver Kendelman, Miles Walker, William Banes, and Edmund Walker …, Thomas Lamberd or any other of the king’s people, the which sum the said Robert, John etc agreed to be levied on their goods and chattels to the use of the king.

Thomas Philip of Staunford in the county of Lincoln mercer, Geoffrey Hampton and Robert Eldercon of the same town and county drapers on the said day and year came before the said Alderman and gave surety etc for Oliver Kendelman, Miles Walker, William Banes, Edmund Walker and Thomas Lamberd unto the next sessions that the said Oliver, Miles, William, Edmund and Thomas [shall do] no harm to Robert Fulneby, John Fulneby or any other of the king’s people on pain of each of the aforesaid sureties x li, the which sum they agree and consent to be levied on their goods and chattels to the use of the lord king.

54 This should be George Chapman but Hikeham seems still to have been acting as Alderman.
55 The mnext entries are in the wrong date order.
[Thursday 13 January 1480]
Session of the peace held in the common hall before William Hikeham Alderman and Justice etc and his fellows on Thursday next after the feast of Epiphany in the xix year of the lord king Edward the fourth

On that day and year John Syll was elected into the office of sergeant in place of Robert Dodale sergeant until the feast of the Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary [25 March 1480] next etc; and the said John was sworn.

There is a marginal note against four of these seven freemen to say that their fines have been paid; the others are not so marked.

Sworn into freedom
Richard Bedwyn pewterer came before the said Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and will give for fine and was sworn iiijs - paid
William Godeson came in the same way etc and was sworn before the Alderman and will pay iiijs - paid
William Freman of the parish of St Peter (laborer ins) for the same was sworn and will pay for fine ijs - paid
John Rookby husbondman for the same was sworn and gives [sic] for fine iiijs - paid
Nicholas Parker mason for the same, sworn, gives for fine iiijs
John Smyth baker for the same was sworn and gives for fine vjs viijd
Barnerd Richman husbondman for the same was sworn and will pay for fine iiijs

fol 29v

[Sunday 26 March 1480]
Surety
Sunday the day after the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the xx year of the reign of king Edward iii, there came before the Alderman Richard Knoblowe of Staunford in the county of Lincoln clerk, John Dycon of the same town and county glover, William Gaywode of the same town and county glover, John Tovy of the same town and county draper and John Wodecok of the same town and county shomaker, and gave sureties and each of them gave surety for John Fulneby detained in prison, each of them on pain of x li; that the said John Fulneby had been required to find some such surety that before the feast of Pentecost next he would submit his body to the Alderman or his deputy into prison as above, unless before the said feast of Pentecost letters of pardon had been raised etc, the which sum the said sureties agree and consent etc to be levied on their goods etc to the use of the king.

Corrections levied by John Syll common sergeant
By John Syll
Walter Harre servant of Thomas Edward pewterer for correction vjd
Elizabeth wife of William Raynold for the same vjd
Alexander Hardy for the same vjd
John Dyker of the parish of St Martin for the same vjd
The son of John Cave for the same vjd
William Purser for the same vjd
The servant of Thomas Tailour vjd
The servant of Robert Gillot for the same vjd
George Waterson for the same vjd
William Philip bocher for the same vjd
Thomas Couper for the same vjd
ij corrections of ij strangers (*extravenorum*) xijd
The wife of John Swift for the same vjd
The tapster (*pincerna*) of John Nyon tailour for the same vjd
The servant of Robert Nevour for the same vjd
The servant of Richard Nevour for the same vjd
Thomas Couper baker for the same vjd
Robert Grymston for the same vjd
A servant of John Dycon for the same vjd
Thomas Wilson sawyer for the same vjd

fol 30r

1480-81: The main (national) problem this year was the Scottish border; James III attacked. In February 1481, Edward IV reactivated a tax which he had earlier rescinded, and at the same time he wrote to various towns asking for a ‘benevolence’ (additional payment for war) which many towns changed into sending men to his army instead. Stamford may have done the same, but there are no signs in this year’s entries. But Stamford had its own problems: for some unknown reason, the town’s seal was taken from the control of the town clerk and kept locked in the common chest, accessible only to a small group of council members. There are hints that undue influence was being used: the statute against anyone taking livery, badges or retaining fees from any nobility (i.e. private armies) was repealed; Richard Forster was admitted to the freedom and came onto the First Twelve (Murdoke receiving an special provision that he should not be elected Alderman against his will; he did not serve as Alderman at all). It is possible we have here factional fighting on the council. The town boundaries and defences were again put into repair.

George Chapman Alderman

[30 September 1480]
Saturday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the twentieth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth, George Chapman was elected Alderman for the coming year.

First Twelve
William Broone Thomas Kesteven John Dycon
William Hikeham John Neele Henry Cok Sworn
Jophn Gregory Alexander Dyott Robert Skynner
Robert Hans John Gybbes Robert Nevour

56 Jurkowski p118.
Second Twelve
Thomas Holton  Robert Crane  William Bullowe
John Wykes    John Stede   John Broune glasyer  Sworn
William Gaywode Alexander Dauntre Christopher Palfreyman
Thomas Philip  William Wode  John Tovy

Commons
Then all the commons in the common hall at that time were sworn by raising hands to maintain the said Alderman etc

The following entry refers to the Richard Forster who had already served as MP for many years; he was now admitted to the freedom; there is no sub-heading for this entry and no fine mentioned; Forster became immediately a member of the First Twelve. There is another Richard Forster roper admitted to the freedom in 1479.

Richard Forster came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scotte etc and was sworn and will give [blank]

[Thursday 9 November 1480]
Session of George Chapman Alderman held in the common hall on the Thursday before the feast of St Martin bishop in the said year.

Election of chamberlains
The same day and year, they elected William Wode and Alex Dauntre chamberlains for the coming year - sworn.

Election of constables
The same day and year they elected into the office of constable for the coming year Thomas Edward, Robert Daunntre, John Wodecok - sworn.

Accounts of the bailiff of the liberty
The same day and year Thomas Parnell bailiff of the liberty accounted for the issues of his office in the time of William Hikeham Alderman, and accounting for all accounts and allowing allowances, the same Thomas owed the same day and year xxviijs ixd

Sworn to freedom
John Scalwyk carpenter came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and will give for fine iiijs

Accounts of the chamberlains
The same day and year William Wode and William Bullowe chamberlains accounted for the issues of their office, accounting for all accounts and allowing for all allowances, the same accountant owed xxxvijs xd
The same day and year John Syll sergeant accounted for the issues of his office and accounting for all accounts and allowing allowances, the same John was returned as quit-quit.

**Election of bailiff and sergeant**
Item they elected into the office of bailiff for the coming year William Taverner in place of Thomas Parnell.
Item they elected into the office of sergeant John Syll as above - and they were sworn.

fol 30v

[Sunday 11 February 1481]

**Session of George Chapman Alderman held in the common hall xj day of February in the twentieth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth**

On that day and year were elected taxers for the three quarters part of one whole fifteenth and tenth given to the lord king in his parliament\(^{57}\) etc, namely ij for each parish as appears below:

**Enrolment of apprentices**
On that day and year Thomas Higdon apprentice of Thomas Kesteven came before the said Alderman and acknowledged himself to be apprentice and servant of the same Thomas from the feast of Easter in the thirteenth year of the reign of king Edward the fourth [18 April 1471] until the end and term of nine years then following etc. And the said apprentice was sworn before the Alderman to observe all the conventions and conditions as set out in a certain indenture between the same master and his apprentice as above etc.

**Taxers of the three quarters part of one whole fifteenth**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxers of the parish of Holy Trinity and St Paul</th>
<th>Collectors of the same parish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Yetson</td>
<td>William Hawkes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Palmer</td>
<td>Thomas Clopton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Andrew apostle</td>
<td>Collectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Carver</td>
<td>Robert Loksmith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Barbour</td>
<td>William Godeford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary</td>
<td>Collectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Bullowe</td>
<td>Richard Nevour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Wodecok</td>
<td>John Langton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Peter</td>
<td>Collectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Lambe</td>
<td>Robert Jameson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Pyttes</td>
<td>John Halle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Clement</td>
<td>Collector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Moraunt</td>
<td>Christopher Palfreyman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{57}\) This is the three quarters of the tax which had been granted to Edward IV in 1475 but then abrogated and then reinstated in 1480, Jurkowski p118.
Session of the same Alderman held in the common hall xix day of March in the (said del) year xxj

The same day and year, it was provided by the said Alderman etc and the community that all streets (strate) of the same town shall be surfaced anew [de novo inundentur], and that in no wise shall they be obstructed [artentur] with timber, stone or ropeworks [fino] after the third Sunday in Lent, both in Scofgate and also elsewhere in the said town on pain (of xld del) for each [offence] etc xl d

The next entry is an odd provision; it seems to equate the First Twelve with past Aldermen. Past Aldermen must have two liveried attendants and all the Second Twelve must have one liveried attendant to attend the Alderman at church. But not all the First Twelve had served as Alderman.

Constitution
Item, it is ordained that whoever has been in the office of Alderman shall have two liveried men [duos homines arraiatur] and whoever are of the second twelve shall find one man similarly liveried to attend on the Alderman with the constables on the fourth Sunday in Lent next in the same town and at the time of the fairs.

Election of constables
On the same day and year they elected into the office of constable (John Wodecok del)
John Sabyn
John Palmer Sworn
John Stede
William Gaywode

fol 31r
Enrolment of apprentices
The same day and year before George Chapman Alderman in the common hall, it was enrolled that James Lokkey formerly [*nuper*] son of Richard Lokkey of Cartanayle had placed himself as apprentice and servant of John Parker glover etc from the feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist in the xvj year of the reign of king Edward iiiij until the end of the term of ten years then following; and the said apprentice was sworn to observe all conventions relating to his part.

Sworn into freedom
William Hatherwey landlord of the Moon and Stars [*hospes de le mone et stern*] came before the aforesaid Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lotte and scotte and will give for fine by pledge of William Taverner (etc by equal portions at Easter, Nativity of St John, St Michael and the Nativity of Our Lord *ins*) vjs viijd
John Cobbe mercer for the same and will give for fine by pledge of John Gybbes xxs - of which he was pardoned xs
William Hiegh mercer for the same will give for fine by pledge of Thomas Philip xxs

Repairs to Scotgate Gate.
[Thursday 26 April 1481]
Session of the same Alderman in the common hall on Thursday in Easter week in the said year
The same day and year (it was decreed) by the Alderman, his brethren etc that all collectors of taxes for the repairs of the gate of Scoffegate shall offer all bills in this respect and all sums of money before the same Alderman and render faithful account for their receipts etc.

Order that no-one should become a retainer of some outside lord.
Constitution
The same day and year, it was ordained by the Alderman and his brethren etc that no burgess of the First Twelve shall receive or accept any livery or badge (*signum*) or support of any gentleman etc on pain of each such occasion xx li. And that no one of the Second Twelve shall receive or accept any suchlike livery, badge or support on pain of each occasion x li. And that no commoner shall receive etc in such manner on pain of each occasion to the contrary cs to be levied to the use of the common hall.

Murdoke was elected to First Twelve without any commitment to become Alderman.

The same day and year the commons [*communes*] elected (John Murdok *ins*) into the office of the First Twelve for the Alderman in place of Robert Skynner deceased, and further they gave to the same John Murdok that he should in no wise [*nullum*] be burdened nor elected into the office of Alderman nor any other office to his own harm or detriment without the consent or will of the same John.

This is an obscure entry but it seems to refer to clearing out ditches on the tenter meadows and on the north side of the river.
Item it is ordained etc that the common boundary [mete] of this same town shall be repaired anew before the feast of the Invencion of the Holy Cross next [3 May], namely one by boundaries in lez tentour medewes; and one by boundaries on the north side as of antiquity etc.

Sworn into freedom
George Thistilhwyte draper came before the foresaid Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lotte and scotte and he will give for fine by pledge of Thomas Philip xxs
Thomas Couper baker for the same by pledge of William Inkelsale, he will pay for fine vjs viijd
William Aleyn roper for the same by pledge of William Godeson iiijs
William Waryng (laborer ins) by pledge of John Barbour for the same will give for fine ijs
Geoffrey Acton poyntmaker for the same by pledge of Robert Goldsmith iiijs
Thomas Whitwell grocer for the same by pledge of George Chapman xxs
John Love skynner for the same by pledge of John Syll vjs viijd

[Thursday 3 May 1481]
Session of the peace in the common hall held before George Chapman Alderman and his fellows on Thursday the feast of the Invencion of the Holy Cross in the xxj year of the reign of king Edward iiiij.

Trouble with the town seal. On Thursday 3 May it was locked up in the common chest; three days later, it was used to give a reference for a citizen accused of murder; the issue was still a live one in 1485 (see below). This may be part of factional fighting on the council.

The same day and place, the common seal etc was placed in the chest (in the common hall ins) under the seal of the said Alderman, William Broune, John Gregory and John Gibbes. The keys of that chest shall remain in the custody of the said Alderman under the seals of Thomas Kesteven, John Nele and John Dycon etc. So that [quod] the common seal shall never appear except in the presence of the said Alderman and the greater part of those named above.

[Sunday 6 May 1481]
On Sunday the feast of St John before the Latin gate in the said year, the said common seal was delivered at the instance of a certain Richard Howland in the presence of the said Alderman, William Broune, John Gregory, Thomas Kesteven, John Nele, Alex Tyard, John Gybbes, Thomas Holton, John Wykes, Robert Crane, William Wode, Alex Dauntre and Christopher Palfreyman with the writing as follows here below:

To all them to whome this present writting shall come, George Chapman Alderman of the toune and burgh of Staunford, William Broune merchaunt, Stephen Talbot esquier, John

58 ditches?
Gregory mercer, Robert Hans fisshmonger, John Nele, John Gibbes, John Dycon and Henry Cok with many mo of the same burgh senden Reverence due and also gretyng in our sayvour crist Jesu. And forasmych as in things doubtfull, it is meritory to ber wittenes and testifie the trouth yif any maner wold surmyse and say that one Richard Howland of Staunford nowe beyng in durace in the gaole of Northampton shulde be one of the cause of the deth of William a Tygh of Stan’ford ther late slayn. We have called afor us Raufe Holand of the same burgh sadeler, John Dawson bowyer, John Parker glover, and Robert Goldsmyth hosyer which sawe all the cause and the deth of the said William Atygh. And thei and ich of them by us duely examyned and suorn upon the holy evangelistes say upon their othes in the premissez that the said Richard Howland was in his own house whan the same William Atygh had his deseths stroke and come not nygh him by a grete space. In wittenes

The same day and year, the common seal was again placed in a linen bag under the seal of the aforesaid Alderman, William Broune and John Gregory in the chest in the common hall as above. Of which chest the keys under the seals of John Nele, John Gibbes and Robert Nevour shall remain in the custody of the Alderman as above etc.

[Monday 3 September 1481]
Session of the peace held in the common hall before George Chapman Alderman and his fellows iij day of September in the xxj year of the reign of king Edward iiiij.

[rest of page blank].

fol 32r

1481-2: The king came very close to Stamford (Fotheringay) in June 1482 and collected an army to invade Scotland to depose James III in favour of Alexander of Albany. There was a coup in Scotland in favour of Edward’s party and the army (under Richard duke of Gloucester) recovered Berwick.

In Stamford, the key thing this year was that the town got the borough charter renewed and extended (an extra weekly market and two new annual fairs; and nomination of the town’s Recorder). Negotiations for this had no doubt been going on for some time (the business of the town seal may be connected but it is unlikely). Factionalism may still have been a problem; the council decided to fine those who did not attend council meetings. At the end of the year, two of the First Twelve resigned (which was unprecedented - they held office for life) so that Christopher Browne (the son of John Browne brother of William; Christopher was admitted to the freedom only in this year 1481-2) and Richard Forster (for one year only) could become members of the First Twelve without first serving on the Second Twelve. Christopher Browne became Alderman immediately. John Murdock was brought back onto the First Twelve in place of Robert Skynner who probably died at this time.
There was also a decision to hold the Corpus Christi plays in two parts, half one year and the other half in the following year. It may be significant that this regulation came very soon after the year in which Hikeham was Alderman, for Hikeham had very close links with the Guild of Corpus Christi.

**Robert Hans Alderman**

[30 September 1481]

**On Sunday the feast of Jerome presbyter and doctor in the xxj year of the reign of king Edward iiiij, Robert Hans was elected Alderman for the coming year.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Twelve</th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Brune</td>
<td>George Chapman</td>
<td>John Nele</td>
<td>Henry Cok</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Hikeham</td>
<td>Alex Dyott</td>
<td>Robert Nevour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Gregory</td>
<td>John Gybbes</td>
<td>John Murdok</td>
<td>Sworn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Kesteven</td>
<td>John Dycon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Twelve</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Holton</td>
<td>Robert Crane</td>
<td>William Bullowe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Wykes</td>
<td>John Stede</td>
<td>John Broune glasier</td>
<td>Sworn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Gaywood</td>
<td>Alexander Dauntre</td>
<td>Christopher Palfreyman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Philip</td>
<td>William Wode</td>
<td>John Tovye</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The commons sworn

Then all the commons in the common hall at that time were sworn by raising hands to maintain the aforesaid Alderman - Sworn

[Thursday 13 December 1481]

**Session of the same Alderman in the common hall on Thursday next after the feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the xxj year of the reign of king Edward the fourth**

*Christopher Broune was admitted to the freedom in December along with three other native born burgesses which was unusual. One of these was John Nele whose father (also John Nele) had just resigned (again very unusual) his place on the First Twelve in favour of Christopher Broune. Broune was elected onto the First Twelve on 30 September and then on the same day elected as Alderman.*

**Sworn into freedom**

The same day and year Christopher Broune merchant born in this town or borough came and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scotte and will pay nothing for his fine - thus he was sworn.

John Nele junior barbour born in similar fashion in the town was sworn.

John Morton shomaker born in the town etc was sworn.

Robert Riche glover born in similar fashion in etc was sworn.
Nicholas Scotte inholder born outside etc will give for fine by pledge of William Broune vjs viijd

**Election of officers**
The same day and year, they elected into the office of bailiff of the liberty William Taverner. Sworn.
Item into the office of sergeant, they elected John Syll for the coming year and he was sworn.

**Election of two to the Second Twelve**
The same day and year they elected into the office of the Second Twelve in place of William Bullowe, Bernard Richman and he was admitted and sworn
Item in similar fashion the same day and year, they elected John Hikson in place of Alex Daunte - Sworn.

**Election of chamberlain**
The same day and year, they elected into the office of chamberlain Thomas Holton and William Gaywode - Sworn

**Election of coroner**
The same day and year they elected into the office of coroner in place of John Gregory - John Murdok.

**Constitution**
The same day and year, it was ordained that no-one sworn to the freedom from now on after this proclamation shall absent himself etc on pain of each occasion from the First Twelve xijd (... del) forfeited to the use and profit of the common hall; and on pain of each such occasion of the Second Twelve viijd, and on pain of each of the commonalty shall do to the contrary vjd as often as it occurs; without licence of the Alderman and legitimate excuse etc; provided always that if any person after the pronunciation of these premises shall come late, namely after the first cause moved by the Alderman (there ins) or to be moved, he shall forfeit half of such aforesaid penalty etc. And that no-one thus called shall absent himself in any way from the presence of the Alderman without licence but diligently paying attention and there shall be present on pain as above.

fol 32v

[Monday 17 December 1481]
**Session of Robert Hans Alderman in the common hall Monday next after the feast of St Lucy the virgin in the xxj year of the reign of king Edward the fourth**

**Chamberlains’ accounts**
The same day and year, William Wode and William Bullowe chamberlains for the preceding year rendered account for the issues of their office, making all accounts and allowances, and they owe on the said day and year xxxij s vijd
**Accounts of the bailiff of the liberty**
The same day and year William Taverner bailiff of the liberty accounted for the issues of his office, making all accounts and allowances, the said bailiff was returned quit.

**Accounts of the common sergeant**
The same day and year John Syll common sergeant accounted for the issues of his office and, accounting for all accounts and allowing for all allowances, the accountant was returned then quit.

The same day and year Thomas Holton and William Gaywode chamberlains newly elected received in the common hall on their account there iiijs.

**Election of taxers**
The same day and year, taxers were elected for the costs and expenses incurred by the aforesaid Alderman and others in the perquisites of the new charter of the lord King to have one Monday market in each week in perpetuity and two new fairs; also the perquisites with other privileges given to the Alderman and the comburgesses of the town or borough of Staunford and their successors in perpetuity as is more fully contained in the new royal charter drawn up for them on that account etc namely ij for each parish as appears here below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The taxers of the parish of Holy Trinity</th>
<th>Collectors of the same parish and St Paul</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Templer</td>
<td>John Palmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Clopton</td>
<td>Robert Broune wever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Andrew</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Tuffe</td>
<td>John Symond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Clerk</td>
<td>John Barbour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Michael</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Edwards</td>
<td>Robert Crane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Honne</td>
<td>John Couper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St George</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Freman</td>
<td>Thomas Couper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Wilson</td>
<td>Richard Fletcher</td>
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<td>St Mary</td>
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<td>John Molle</td>
<td>William Duraunt</td>
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<td>William Bullowe</td>
<td>Thomas Whitwell</td>
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<td>St John</td>
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<td>Robert Goldsmyth</td>
<td>William Jurdeyn</td>
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<td>John Litster</td>
<td>John Morton</td>
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<td>All Saints</td>
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<td>John Saby</td>
<td>John Cave</td>
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<td>Thomas Frankelyn</td>
<td>William Darley</td>
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<td>John Boyvile</td>
<td>Robert Jameson</td>
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<td>John Lambe</td>
<td>John Milngate</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Clements</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Robert Moraunt    Nicholas Parker

Two of the First Twelve and two of the Second Twelve were assigned to aid the said taxers.
To which said taxers Thomas Kesteven, Henry Cok, John Wykes and John Stede were sworn and assigned to provide counsel and aid etc.; and before the said Alderman in the common hall on Thursday next after the feast of the Circumcision in the above said year [Thursday 3 January 1482], they were sworn to tax the aforesaid parishes in the sum of xliii li xxs iiijd

[Thursday 14 February 1482]
Session of the peace held in the common hall before Robert Hans Alderman and his fellows Thursday next after the feast of St Scolastica the virgin in the twentyfirst year of the reign of king Edward the fourth.

Sworn into freedom
John Alwyn laborer came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lotte and scotte and will give for fine by pledge of Richard Fletcher ijs
John Snydale fremason by pledge of Thomas Hall gave similarly iijs
Thomas Hall fremason by pledge of John Snydall gave similarly iijs
John Rylay shomaker by pledge of John Stede and John Houne similarly xijj iiijd
Geoffrey Haryson carpenter by pledge of William Payne similarly iijs

Election of constables
The same day and year they elected William Wode and Robert Johnson into the office of constable in place of John Stede and John Palmer.

Sworn
Andrew Stotard fissher came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lotte and scotte and will give for fine by pledge of Richard Dey fissher iijs iiijd
Richard (Fissher del) Dey fissher came similarly by pledge of Andrew Stotard and will give iijs iiijd
Thomas Kesteven husbondman came etc and will pay similarly iijs by pledge of William Gaywode
John Gretham fissher came by pledge of William Gaywode and will pay iijs iiijd

[Sunday 14 April 1482]
Session of the same Alderman in the common hall xiiij day of April in the twenty second year of the reign of king Edward the fourth

The same day and year Robert Gunby bocher came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lotte and scotte and he will give for fine by pledge of John Dycon vjs viijd
John Reynold laborer for the same by pledge of Christopher Broune ijs
John Awdesley tailour for the same by pledge of Christopher Broune vjs viijd
Henry Dauson chaundeler by pledge of John Broune glasyer iiijs
William Hyncley bocher by pledge of John Dycon and will give for fine vjs viijd

The plays are to be played in two parts (see above)

Constitution
On the same day and year, it was ordained by the Alderman, comburgesses and all the commons gathered in the common hall by their common assent and assent [sic] that from now in perpetuity the annual Corpus Christi play [anuati ludus corporis Christi] by the wardens of the arts [i.e. the crafts] and their fellow members [et societatis eorum] shall be played as otherwise etc; namely vj pagents in the feast of Corpus Christi next coming and the remaining five pagentes in the feast of Corpus Christi in the following year, thus the same pagentes to continue in the same way in the said feasts by the crafts previously assigned. on pain for each craft assigned to this doing to the contrary or refusing to act forty shillings to be impounded and levied to the use of the common hall.

It was unusual to have two court sessions on successive days.

[Monday 15 April 1482]
Enrolment of apprentices
On the fifteenth day of April in the xxij year of the reign of king Edward the fourth before Robert Hans Alderman as before written came Peter Mansure and acknowledged himself to have been apprentice and servant to George Chapman of Staunford mercer and Elizabeth his wife from the twentieth day of May in the xxj year of king Edward the fourth [21 May 1481] until the end of the term of seven years next following, as appears more fully in a certain indenture between the aforesaid parties made for that purpose. And he will be held to all the commitments on the part of the same apprentice contained in that indenture. The same apprentice appeared in person before the said Alderman to take his oath etc

[Thursday 4 July 1482]
Session of the peace in the common hall before Robert Hans Alderman and his fellows on the fourth day of July in the xxij year of the reign of king Edward iiiij.

Sworn into freedom
The same day and year Thomas Lancastre iremonger came before the Alderman and petitioned himself to be admitted to lott and scot etc and will give for fine by pledge of William Gaywode iiijs
Geoffrey Morgon chaundeler and will give for fine by pledge of John Stede iiijs
Richard Claypole (sol ins) formerly enrolled apprentice etc of John Gybbes mercer and will give for fine ijs
Richard Smyth smyth came and petitioned etc by pledge of John Gybbes and will give for fine similarly iiijs
William Lesscy husbondman came etc and will give by pledge of John Tuff iiijs
William Bullok draper came by pledge of Thomas Kesteven and will pay xxs
Thomas Langar wever came similarly by pledge of Thomas Couper of the parish of St John and will pay iiijs

The following appear to be political changes designed to enable Christopher Browne to be elected immediately as Alderman and Forster to be again elected as one of the town’s MPs. Forster was a member of the First Twelve only for a few months.

[30 September 1482]
Elections and Removals
Monday the feast of Jerome doctor in the said year, John Nele one of the First Twelve before the Alderman and comburgesses on account of certain reasonable causes set out by himself and by the said Alderman (accepted ins) etc, is removed from that office. And Robert Nevour for similar reasons etc is similarly removed from his office in like manner etc.

Officers
And immediately Christopher Broune and Richard Forster were elected into the office of First Twelve in place of John Nele and Robert Nevour etc

1482-3: Was the election of Christopher Browne in September 1482 politically motivated? During the year, Edward IV died in April 1483; Edward his son was declared Edward V but was imprisoned with his brother in the Tower of London; and in June Richard duke of Gloucester declared himself king (Richard III). Trouble immediately stirred. Parliament granted to Edward IV a tax on aliens in the country; letters to collect this were issued in the name of Edward V and again by Richard III on 1 August 1483, due to be paid by 6 June 148459.

In November 1482, William Broune became sheriff of Rutland again; he was confirmed in this by both Edward V and Richard III. Edward V’s government called a parliament and the town again chose Richard Forster (deputy butler of Boston) accompanied this time by a local man, Thomas Kesteven draper. But the parliament did not meet. In June, when elections were again held, Forster (now called yeoman of the buttery in the king’s household) and John Moredok were elected.

[30 September 1482]
Christopher Browne Alderman
Monday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the twenty second year of the reign of king Edward the fourth, Christopher Browne was elected into the office of Alderman for the coming year.

First Twelve
William Browne George Chapman John Dycon
Robert Hans Thomas Kesteven Henry Cok

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59 Jurkowski p120.
Then all the commons in the common hall at that time were sworn by raising hands to maintain the said Alderman - Sworn

Election of officers
The same day and year they elected into the office of bailiff of the liberty William Taverner
Item into the office of sergeant John Syll for the coming year and was sworn.
Sworn

Item into the office of constables of the borough aforesaid
William Wode
John Sabyn Sworn
Thomas Stable

Item into the office of searcher of the markets
Robert Goldsmyth
William Loksmyth
Robert Johnson
John Tuffe
John Parker glover
Robert Broune wever Sworn

Constitution
The same day and year it was ordained and provided by the Alderman, comburgesses and all the commons of the same borough gathered in the common hall that from now no keeper of a lodging house in the said borough shall sell or trade for themselves or shall sell in the name of anyone else to their itinerant guests other than two horse loaves for one penny unless it is well seasoned [tamen bene seisiatur] nor more than two fagots or two bales of hay? [duas sereinas fem’ bene seisiatur] well seasoned and measured, on pain for each person doing to the contrary iijs iii jd

fol 34v

[Wednesday 25 October 1482]

Constitution
Wednesday next before the feast of SS Simon and Judes apostles in the twenty second year of the reign of king Edward the fourth, it was ordained and provided by the
Alderman and comburgesses that no keeper of a common lodging house in the borough of Staunford and any agent for it shall from now on keep in their hostel any vagabond or suspect women or any other women tapsters [pincernas], servants, or strangers in their hostel being itinerant, unless he shall lodge them [hospitat] in his chambers or other private place on pain for each such keeper of the lodging house for each such occasion forty shillings to be devoted [convertend’] to the use and profit of the common hall as often as he shall do this to the contrary of this provision.

Constitution
The same day and year it is ordained, constituted and provided by the Alderman, comburgesses and the aforesaid commons that all butchers of this borough shall hold their butchers’ shops simultaneously, in common and as by custom in the ancient street called Bocher Rawe, and there they shall continue and in no other public or private place in the said borough on pain of each person xls to be devoted to the use of the said common hall as above, except it shall be permitted [dimitaxatur] on market and fair days. Providing always that this constitution or ordinance shall not apply to any of the fore-named before the feast of Easter next etc.

[Monday 16 December 1482]
Session of Christopher Broune Alderman held in the common hall xvj day of December in the xxij year of the reign of king Edward the fourth.

Forster had only just been elected to the First Twelve.

Election of burgesses for Parliament
On this day and year, the commons elected into the office of burgess of the parliament of our lord king Edward the fourth to be held at Westminster xx day of January next, Richard Forster and Thomas Kesteven.

Sworn into freedom
Henry Derley fuller came before the said Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lotte and scott and will give by pledge of W Gaywode iiijs
Thomas Middelton tailour by pledge of Thomas Holton for the same vjs viijd
Robert Smyth tailour by pledge of William Boteler for the same vjs viijd
Ralph Walker sadeler by pledge of John Molle for the same iiijs
William Baker fuller by pledge of John Lambe iiijs

Admission of minstrels
Henry Hede ministrall was admitted for the current year by pledge of Robert Nevour
Richard Pynder similarly was admitted for the same year by pledge of Richard Fletcher
William Smyth in similar wise was admitted by pledge of John Knyght

Sworn
[Thursday 13 March 1483]
Session of the same Alderman held in the common hall xiiij day of March in the xxij year of the reign of the said king Edward
Sworn into freedom
David Malpas armiger came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott etc. Sworn.

Election of bailiff
The same day and year [blank] Parnell in place of William Taverner bailiff of the liberty. Sworn.

[Monday 26 May 1483]
Session of the peace held before Christopher Browne Alderman etc and his fellows
xxvj day of May in the first year of the reign of king Edward the fifth.
Sworn
William Jackson baker came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and will give for fine by pledge of William Belton barbour vjs viijd

[ Thursday  5 June 1483]
Session of the same Alderman held in the common hall on the fifth day of June in the above year.

David Malpas from Cheshire and royal servant was a major figure in Rutland from 1475, having estates and serving on commissions there as JP and sheriff. He was made freeman of Stamford by Christopher Browne on 13 March 1483 and was now elected to the First Twelve in the middle of the year (June 1483). Was this connected with Richard III’s coup in June 1483? Malpas became Alderman in the next year 1484-5 and later became MP. Richard Forster left the First Twelve after a very short period of service. But he remained as the borough’s MP.

Election into office
The same day and year the commons in the common hall elected into the office of the First Twelve for the Alderman in place of George Chapman deceased and Richard Forster - David Malpas and Thomas Philip. Sworn.
The same day and year they elected into the office of the Second Twelve for the commonalty in place of Thomas Philip removed as above and promoted into the First Twelve - Thomas Edward pewterer.

The uncertainty about the date of the parliament reflects the uncertainty of central government between Edward V and Richard Duke of Gloucester who became Richard III on 26 June.

Election of burgesses of parliament
The same day and year they elected into the office of burgess of the parliament of our lord king Edward the fifth to be held at Westminster (on the day after St John the Baptist

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60 This and the next entry have been squeezed onto the bottom of the page.
del) (xxv June ins) (namely xv June inserted but then deleted) next as below - Richard Forster and John Murdok, burgesses of parliament.

[Tuesday 23 September 1483]
Session of the peace held before Christopher Broune Alderman of Staunford and his fellows xxiiij day of September in the first year of the reign of king Richard the third.

Sworn
The same day and year Nicholas Billesdon dyer came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lotte and scotte and was admitted and sworn into freedom; he will pay for his fine vjs viijd
William Skynner bocher born in the borough in similar mode [sic] was sworn into freedom.
William Elys tailour petitioned to be admitted as above and he will pay for fine by pledge of Christopher Broune vjs viijd
William Wystowe wever for the same will pay for fine by pledge of W Gaywode iiijs

The same day and year Nicholas Billesdon dyer came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lotte and scotte and was admitted and sworn into freedom; he will pay for his fine vjs viijd
William Skynner bocher born in the borough in similar mode [sic] was sworn into freedom.
William Elys tailour petitioned to be admitted as above and he will pay for fine by pledge of Christopher Broune vjs viijd
William Wystowe wever for the same will pay for fine by pledge of W Gaywode iiijs

1483-4: It is likely that the town foresaw much trouble ahead this year. The duke of Buckingham led a failed rebellion and was executed in November 1483; and in September 1484 at Nottingham Richard III made peace with Scotland. In November 1483, Richard III cancelled parliament because of the Buckingham rebellion, but in January 1484, the king called parliament again, and Forster and Murdok were once more chosen to represent Stamford. The king may have passed through Stamford in July 1484 - which could have had significance for William Browne (see below).

John Dycon Alderman

[30 September 1483]
Tuesday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the first year of the reign of king Richard the third, they elected John Dycon into the office of Alderman for the coming year.

First Twelve
William Broune Thomas Kesteven (Thomas corrected to) John Murdok
Christopher Broune Alexander Tyard Thomas Philip
William Hikeham John Gybbes John Gregory Henry Cok
Robert Hans David Malpas

Second Twelve
Thomas Holton John Stede John Tovy
John Wykes William Wode Bernard Richeman
William Gaywode John Broune glasyer John Hikson
Robert Crane Christopher Palfreyman Thomas Edward
Then all the commons at that time present in the common hall were sworn to maintain the said Alderman in similar manner by raising hands.

**Election into office**
Item they elected into the office of bailiff of the liberty Thomas Parnell as above - Sworn And into the office of common sergeant John Syll as above and sworn.

[large space]

fol 36 [new hand]

*This and the following list of First and Second Twelves were written in a new hand into a space which had been left. It is odd that there are repeat lists for the same Alderman-making in 1483 and that in the first list one name (John Murdok) is omitted, especially as Murdok was elected as MP for the borough and this was renewed in the following January. It would seem that membership of the First Twelve was becoming felt to be necessary for election as MP.*

[30 September 1483]
**Tuesday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the first year of the reign of king Richard the third, John Decon was chosen [selectus est] into the office of Alderman for the coming year.**

No sub-headings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>William Broun</th>
<th>John Gregory</th>
<th>David Malpas</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Broun</td>
<td>Thomas Kesteven</td>
<td>Henry Cok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Hykeham</td>
<td>Alex Tyard</td>
<td>Thomas Phelip</td>
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<td>Robert Hans</td>
<td>John Gybbys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Holton</td>
<td>John Stede</td>
<td>John Tovy</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Wykys</td>
<td>William Wode</td>
<td>Bernard Richeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Gaywode</td>
<td>John Broun glasyer</td>
<td>John Hykson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Crane</td>
<td>Christopher Palfreyman</td>
<td>Thomas Edward</td>
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[Thursday 15 January 1484]
**Session of the peace held before John Dycon Alderman and his fellows xv day of January in the first year of the reign of king Richard the third.**

**Election of burgesses of parliament**

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61 It should be John Murdok; see fol 35v.
The same day and year, they elected for burgesses of parliament of our lord king Richard the third to be held at Westminster xxiiij day of January next - Richard Forster and John Murdock.

**Election of constables**
Item they elected into the office of constable William Wode, John Litster, Nicholas Scotte, constables

**Sworn into freedom**
Thomas Belamy harburdassher came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lotte and scotte and he will give for fine by pledge of Robert Crane iiijs
John Broune tailour for the same by pledge of John Lytster vjs viijd
Robert Wylson couper for the same by pledge of John Lytster iiijs
Richard Grysthwayte shomaker for the same by pledge of Robert Neleson xiijs iiiijd
John Arnoldle glover for the same by pledge of Nicholas Scotte vjs viijd

*It may be significant that there are no records of the town council activities between January and September 1484. A heading has been entered but no space has been left for minutes of the session. There are no signs of the alien subsidy being collected in May-June 1484.*

[Thursday 20 May 1484]
Session of the peace held before John Dycon Alderman Justice of the lord king and his fellows the twentieth day of May in the first year of the reign of king Richard the third

[Tuesday 7 September 1484]
Session of the same Alderman in the common hall Tuesday the vigil of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the second year of the reign of king Richard the third

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Tuesday the vigil of the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary in the second year of the reign of king Richard the third before John Dycon Alderman and his fellows in the common hall, the commons elected taxers for expenses incurred in seeking confirmation of the charters etc as appears below

The parish of Holy Trinity and St Paul
**Taxers**
- John Palmer
- Thomas Denyell

**Collectors**
- William Hawkes
- Robert Broune

St Andrew
- John Barbour
- William Godeson

St Michael
- John Honne
- John Cobbe

St George
- Robert Johnson

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99
The year 1484-5 was one of major turmoil. Clouds must have been on the horizon. But it was not until August 1485 that Henry Tudor invaded England from France and killed Richard III at the battle of Bosworth (22 August).

The town however turned to the courtier who had just joined the council to become Alderman. David Malpas of Pickworth was yeoman of Edward IV’s household from 1461 to 1475; he may have come from Cheshire. He had been JP in Rutland and sheriff there in 1476-7 and 1481-2. He was richly rewarded for his services which took him through this period and into the reign of Henry VII.

William Browne had used the period to gain royal support for his personal project, setting up his almshouse in Stamford. Having no direct male heir, he left his property divided between his daughter Elizabeth Elmes and his newly founded Hospital. It was Richard III who in January 1485 gave him licence to use this property to endow his almshouse. Browne had to get the new king’s licence again later.

Thursday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the second year of the reign of king Richard the third, David Malpas armiger was elected into the office of Alderman for the coming year.

David Malpas Alderman
The next entry is not only out of date order but it seems that the outgoing Alderman continued in office for a considerable time after the election of his successor, unless the clerk has made an error in the name of the Alderman.

[Wednesday 5 January 1485]
The session of the peace held before John Dycon [sic] Alderman and his fellows on Wednesday the feast of St Edward king and confessor in the second year of the reign of the aforesaid king.

Sworn into freedom
John Thorp (came before del) husbandman came before the said Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lotte and scott etc and he will give for fine by pledge of Nicholas Billesdon iiijs

The oaths of the First and Second Twelves are taken two months after the Aldermanry election.

[Tuesday 30 November 1484]
Tuesday the feast of St Andrew apostle in the second year of the reign of king Richard the third, all the previously named, both the First Twelve for the Alderman and also the Second Twelve for the community, were sworn

Then all the commons in the common hall were in similar manner sworn to maintain the above said Alderman David Malpas by raising hands.

Item they elected into the office of bailiff of the liberty for the coming year Thomas Parnell as before.
Item into the office of common sergeant John Syll as before.
And they were sworn on that day etc.

Headings are entered but no details of business transacted are recorded.

[Wednesday 1 December 1484]
The session of the peace (held before ins) David Malpas armiger Alderman and his fellows Justices for the preservation of the lord king’s peace on Wednesday the day

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62 This name squeezed in. The order of names in this list seems to be important.
after the feast of St Andrew apostle in the second year of the reign of king Richard the third.

Friday 24 December 1484

Session of the peace of the same Alderman held in the common hall Friday next before the feast of St Thomas apostle in the said year.

Tuesday 19 April 1485

Session of the peace held in the common hall before David Malpas armiger Alderman of Staunford and his fellow Justices of the lord king xix day of April in the second year of the reign of Richard the third.

Sworn into freedom as well apprentices enrolled.

On the same day and year John Wynter mercer came before the said Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lotte and scotte in [the said borough] etc and he will give for fine by pledge of Robert Cave xxs

Thomas Hygdon draper by pledge of William Gaywode will pay similarly a fine (xxs del) ijs

William Sampson tailour by pledge of Robert Crane will pay similarly vjs viijd

William Bateman chaundeler by pledge of Thomas Parnell will pay for fine iiij

William Forster (sadeler ins) by pledge of Ralph Walker will pay similarly for fine iiij

Sunday next after the feast of the Ascension of the Lord in the second year of the reign of the king Richard the third, James Metcalf of Wyttryng in Northants yoman, Robert Neleson of Staunford in the county of Lincoln smyth, John Stothard of Staunford tailour and Antonnie Metcalf of the city of York payntour came before the said Alderman and gave surety and each of them gave surety for William Metcalf payntour unto the next sessions to be held at (Staunford ins) namely each surety on pain of twenty pounds which said sum they agreed and each of them agreed to be levied on their goods and chattels if the same William Metcalf in the interim shall inflict or cause to be inflicted any harm to anyone of the king’s people and principally to William Taverner of the said Staunford either bodily or by insult etc

Saturday 4 June 1485

Surety for Thomas Middylton

Saturday the vigil of the Holy Trinity in the second year of the reign of king Richard the third came William Chamberleyn formerly of Staunford in the county of Lincoln tailour came [sic] before the said Alderman and gave surety for Thomas Middylton of the said
Staunford laborer on pain of xx li; and the same Thomas Middylton took on himself on pain of xl marks until the next sessions to be held at Staunford, the which sum the said William and Thomas agreed and each of them agreed to be levied on their goods and chattels if the same Thomas in the meanwhile shall inflict or cause to be inflicted any harm etc on any one of the king’s people bodily or by waylaying etc.

Sureties for W Chamberley
The same day and year Thomas Middylton of Staunford in the county of Lincoln laborer came (before del) before the said Alderman and gave surety for William Chamberleyn formerly of the said Staunford tailour unto the next sessions to be held there on pain of xx li; and the same William Chamberleyn took on himself the penalty of xl marks, the which sum the said Thomas and William agreed and both of them agreed to be levied on their goods and chattels if the same William in the interim shall inflict or cause to be inflicted any harm etc on any of the king’s people on their bodies etc or by waylaying, fire etc.

Stay of proceedings
The same day and year William Torton of Staunford the county of Lincoln laborer arrested to preserve the lord king’s peace was exonerated from the execution etc by writ of supercession of the lord king.

Richard III was killed at the battle of Bosworth on 22 August 1485. Two of the Second Twelve were moved up as normal to fill vacancies in the First Twelve, and four local men were selected onto the Second Twelve to fill these and two other vacancies. Murdok the town’s MP had died, and Alexander Tyard/Dyott may also have died, for his name does not occur in the records after this.

[Thursday 1 September 1485]
Session of the aforesaid Alderman on Thursday first of September in the first year of the reign of king Henry vij

Sworn to freedom
William Bewshire husbondman came and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scotte and he will give for fine by pledge of William Gaywode iiijs.

John Stede was elected onto the First Twelve on 1 September and became Alderman on 30 September.

Election into office
The same day and year William Gaywode and John Stede were elected into the office of the First Twelve in place of Alex Tyard and of John Murdok deceased.

The same day and year the commons elected into the office of the Second Twelve in place of William Gaywode, John Stede, Thomas Holton and John Tovy - William Bullok, William Bewshire, John Litster and John Couper; and they were sworn.
1485-86: Henry VII consolidates his regime by marrying the daughter of Edward IV in January 1486; and he visited Stamford in March (and perhaps also in August) 1486. Christopher Browne and a newcomer John Thurleby, a serjeant at arms of Richard III who held the customs at Lynn but who weathered the storm and served the new king, were chosen as MPs in October 1485. He is unlikely to be the John Thurleby husbandman admitted to the freedom in 1475, more likely the John Thurleby of Empingham yeoman who was surety in 1478. He was elected MP again in 1487 and 1491.

During this year, the town’s seal was still under the control of a small sub-committee, and at least one meeting of the council was held in the Guildhall of Corpus Christi.

**John Stede Alderman**

[30 September 1485]

Friday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the first year of the reign of king Henry seventh, John Stede was elected into the office of Alderman for the coming year.

**John Stede Alderman**

First Twelve

- William Broune
- David Malpas
- Christopher Browne
- William Hikeham

Second Twelve

- John Wykes
- Robert Crane
- William Wode
- Christopher Palfreyman

---

Sworn

- John Gregory
- Robert Hans
- Thomas Kesteven
- John Gybbes
- Bernard Richman
- Thomas Edwards
- John Hikson
- Nicholas Billesdon

---

John Dycon
Henry Cok
Thomas Philip
William Gaywode
William Bullok
William Bowshir
John Litster
John Couper

---

[Sunday 23 October 1485]

**Burgesses of parliament**

The Sunday next before the feast of SS Simon and Jude apostles in the said year of the reign of the said king, Christopher Browne and John Thurlby were elected burgesses for the town or borough of Staunford to go to the king’s parliament to be held at (Staunf del) Westminster on 4 November in that year.

[Thursday 27 October 1485]

**Proclamation**

Thursday the vigil of SS Simon and Jude Apostles then following in the common hall, was shown the king’s commission directed to the sheriff of Lincoln to make proclamation both inside the liberty and outside, the which commission the Alderman there made publicly to be proclaimed.
The subject of this royal proclamation is not known. It may have been the commission de walliis et fossatis (embankments and ditches) along the river Welland through Stamford issued by the king in October 1485 to certain notables.

The commons took their oath to support the Alderman more than one month after the election on 30 September.

[Tuesday 8 November 1485]
Election into office
Tuesday viij November then following, the commons were sworn to maintain the Alderman etc by raising hands.

Neither of the chamberlains came from the council members but Robert Johnson was elected to the Second Twelve in the following year.

The same day and year they elected John Syll sergeant and Thomas Parnell bailiff of the liberty as before; they were sworn.

The same day and year they elected into the office of chamberlain of the borough Nicholas Edward and Robert Johnson; sworn

The town seal was still locked up under the supervision of a sub-group of the council.

The common seal for the burgesses of parliament.
The same Tuesday and the first year of the reign of king Henry the seventh, the indenture for the election of the burgesses for the borough of Stauford was sealed with the common seal of that borough; because the same common seal [is] in a certain linen bag under the seals of John Stede Alderman, William Broune, John Gregory and John Gybbes (to del); and it shall remain in the custody of the said Alderman until etc.

[Monday 5 December 1485]
Accounts of the Chamberlains
Monday namely the fifth day of December in the first year of the reign of king Henry the seventh, Thomas Holton and William Gaywode chamberlains of the town or borough of Stauford accounted for the issues of their office for the past four years to the feast of St Michael archangel as noted above, namely in the time of Robert Hans Alderman, Christopher Broune, John Dycon and David Malpas Aldermen, accounting for all accounts and allowing allowances, the said accountants on that day and year were in excess by ls xjd ob.

The next session was held in the hall of the Gild of Corpus Christi; the common hall was clearly a different building. The reason for the change of venue is not clear, it has been suggested because of disrepair (see fol 41r below) of the common hall, but such meetings did not take place there again for some time. Later this room was used for checking the accounts of the chamberlains which suggests the common chest may have been kept
there. William Broune was Alderman of the combined gild of the BVM and Corpus Christi in 1484 and probably on other occasions also.

[Tuesday 13 December 1485]
Session of John Stede Alderman in the hall of the gild of corpus christi on the feast of St Lucy in the first year of the reign of king Henry the seventh

Receipt for [Resp] iiijs xjd in the hands of the chamberlains.
The same day and year Nicholas Edward and Robert Johnson chamberlains received from the arrears of the account of William Wode etc on their account being rendered then iiijs xjd

Sworn to freedom
The same day and year Simon Horn laborer came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for fine by pledge of Thomas Parnell ijs
Richard Joy skynner for the same will pay by pledge of John Stede iiijs
Thomas Copeland tailour for the same will pay by pledge of John Copeland vjs viijd
John Jakson shomaker for the same will pay by pledge of Robert Johnson xiijs iiijd

Bonds
Owed to Robert Hans former Alderman of the borough of Staunford as by his account made there for the time of his office all accounts and allowances included xlvs iiijd
Owed in similar mode by the said town to Henry Cok as by his account made there xxvs iiiijd
The same day and year it was discovered that there is owed to William Broune merchaunt for money delivered on behalf of the said borough to the burgesses of parliament in the time of John Dycon Alderman 63 xxs
Owed to Thomas Kesteven for his expenses etc for the time in which he went as burgess of parliament for the said borough in the time of Christopher Broune Alderman liijs iiiijd

[Thursday 5 January 1486]
Tax for the expenses of the burgesses of parliament as appears in the other part following Thursday in vigil of the Epiphany of our lord namely the fifth day of January in the first year of the reign of king Henry the seventh before John Stede Alderman and his fellows in the common hall, they elected taxers for the expenses incurred by Christopher Broune and John Thurlby burgesses of parliament for the borough of Staunford in the said year as below64.

Constitution
The same day and year it was ordained that no person from now shall place soil or dung [finum] under the boundary wall [murum claustralem] of the said town or borough nor under the walls of the convent of friars preachers [the Blackfriars] nor anywhere else under the walls around the said town or borough etc on pain of each action to the contrary xxd

63 This is the parliament of 1476-7 or 1483-4
64 list on next page
[Thursday 5 January 1486]
Thursday the vigil of the Epiphany as in the said year of king Henry vij.
Parish of Holy Trinity and St Paul taxers collectors
  Thomas Clopton  Robert Broune wever
  William Templer  John Whipp
St Andrew Robert Loksmythe Robert (Loksmythe del) Clerk
  William Godeson  Richard Chambre
St Michael John Cobbe Adam Richard (Talbot del)
tailour
  Richard Tailour
St George Thomas Couper Richard Fletcher
  John Freman  John Alwyn
St Mary Nicholas Scotte Hugh Wady
  Robert Muston  Richard Neavour
St John Robert Dauntre John Morton
  John Johnson wever  John Parker
All Saints William Frankelyn Thomas Higdon
  Thomas Hawes  John Jakson
St Peter William Walker Alex Somerby
  John Vessy  John Barbour
St Clements Robert Moraunt Nicholas Parker

To whom were assigned for counsel and aid Thomas Kesteven and William Wode;
who were sworn to tax the said parishes for the expenses for the making of the said
burgesses [of parliament] and other necessities to a total of xij li xjs viijd

Sworn into freedom
The same day and year William Richardson sclatter came before the Alderman and
petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and admitted, he will give for fine by pledge of
Robert Slatter iiijs
John Robert (sclatter ins) similarly admitted will give by pledge of William Richardson
fine iiijs
Richard Chace fissher came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lotte
and scotte and he will give for fine by pledge of John Syll iijs iiijd

[Sunday 22 January 1486]
The twenty second day of January in the said year came before the Alderman (and
petitioned del) Mr Thomas Lacy scriptor petitioned to be admitted to lotte and scotte
and he will give for fine in this wise for his admission iiijs

[Wednesday 1 March 1486]

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65 An abbreviated hand from this point
66 another possible candidate for town clerk? Were there two persons called Thomas Lacy; for is he the
  Thomas Lacy of Grantchester MP for the borough?
Session of the peace held before the said Alderman and his fellow Justices of the
king etc on the first day of March namely the feast of St David bishop in the first
year of the reign of the said king.

[Thursday 13 July 1486]
Session of the peace held before the said Alderman and his fellow king’s Justices xij
day of the month of July in the first year of the reign of the said king

Sworn into freedom
The same day and year Richard Happ’ smyth came before the said Alderman and
petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott in the said borough and he will give for fine by
pledge of Ralph Walker iiijs

[Thursday 13 July 1486]
Enrolment of apprentice
xij day of the month of July in the first year of the reign of king Henry the seventh, it
was enrolled that a certain Thomas Daddy formerly of Legburn by Louth in the county of
Lincoln placed himself as apprentice and servant to John Gregory [of Staunford] in the
said county mercer from the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the first year of the reign
of king Richard the third until the end and termination of five years then following and to
be completed fully as appears more fully in a certain indenture between the said parties
made to this effect. And holding to and fulfilling all and singular of the provisions
contained in that indenture relating to the same apprentice. The same apprentice was
sworn before John Stede the underwritten [sic] Alderman.

Grant (of a postern del) to Mr Thomas Hikeham and his assigns68
The same day and year in the common hall it was granted by the said Alderman,
comburegesses and the whole community of the said town or borough to Master Thomas
Hikeham (Rector of the church of the parish of St Peter del) of this town of Staunford one
exit commonly known as “a postern gate” to be newly made in the boundary wall of this
said town (words del), namely on the north side. (The said Rector del). And the said Mr
Thomas Hikeham Rector aforesaid shall fully repair the said boundary wall there etc and
so that he repairs all things honourably as from ancient times or better, the same (Rector
del) and his assigns will fully and competently sustain and maintain at their own costs
and expenses on pain of forfeiture in this wise of the exit and postern etc.

[Sunday 6 August 1486]
Lease of the common meadow and pasture to William Bewshir
On Sunday namely the vj day of the month of August in the said year the Alderman,
comburegesses and all and the whole of the community of the town or borough of

67 heading but no entries.
68 This whole entry deleted; it is not to be found in the book again. It is very likely that Hikeham died
before the entry was completed; he does not appear after this entry in the Hall Book, and his membership of
the Gild of St Katherine ended in 1486.
Staunford granted, let and leased at farm to William Bewshir of the said Staunford one parcel of meadow and pasture with appurtenances as lies on the other side of the Weyland [Welland] called Seynt Leonardesford between the land of the abbot of Peterborough on the south and the land of the prior of St Leonard in part and the land of Robert Hans in part on the north and its head abuts west on the said monastery of St Leonards and the east head abuts on the land of the Master of the Hospital or Chapel of St Thomas the martyr on the bridge of the said town of Staunford; to hold to the said William Bewshir and his assigns from the feast of St Michael archangel last past until the end and term of ninety nine years following etc; rendering for it etc as is more fully contained in a certain indenture made to this effect.

[Thursday 22 September 1486]
Surety for William Aleyn and Simon Bell
Thursday xxij day of September in the second year of the reign of king Henry the seventh came [singular - sic] Robert Johnson of the said Staunford shomaker, John Freman (husbondman ins) and Thomas Kydston of the same [town] hosyer came before (the Alderman del) John Stede Alderman and gave surety and each of them gave surety for William Aleyn and Simon Bell (to the next sessions of the peace to be held there ins) that they will not inflict nor cause to be inflicted by anyone else in their name, nor either of them inflict or cause to be inflicted any harm to William Jenor of Whaplode nor any other of the king’s people on their bodies, by waylaying, insults or in any other manner whatsoever that in a way that amounts to breaking or disturbing the king’s (said peace ins) on pain of each of the said sureties xx li; and the said William Aleyn and Simon took upon themselves on pain of each of them (xx li del) (xl marks ins), which they agreed to be levied on their goods to the use of the lord king.

[Thursday 5 October 1486]
Relaxation etc
And on Thursday 5 October in the said year before the same Alderman both the said William Jenor and also the abovesaid William Aleyn and Simon Bell petitioned to be released from their previous sureties etc.

1486-7: The first rebellion against Henry VII was suppressed forcibly in June at East Stoke near Newark. William Browne was again appointed sheriff of Rutland in November 1486, and the king would seem to have passed through Stamford in August 1487.

Thomas Kesteven Alderman

[30 September 1486]
Saturday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the second year of the reign of king Henry the seventh, Thomas Kesteven was elected Alderman for the coming year

69 The town paid to St Leonard’s Priory a regular fee for having diverted the course of the Welland past the Priory to form the mill race for Hudd’s Mill.
70 This entry inserted at bottom of page
First Twelve  
William Broun  William Hikeham  John Dycon  
John Stede  John Gregory  Henry Cok  
Sworn  Thomas Philip  
David Malpas  Robert Hans  
Christopher Broune  John Gybbes  William Gaywode  

Second Twelve  
John Wykes  Thomas Edward  William Bewshir  
Robert Crane  John Yetson  
Sworn  John Litster  
Christopher Palfreyman  Nicholas Billesdon  
John Couper  
Bernard Richman  William Bullok  Robert Johnson  

The same day and year they elected into office of the Second Twelve in place of William Wode deceased Robert Johnson; and he was sworn.

Election into office  
Item they elected into the office of chamberlains Robert Johnson and William Jordeyn  
Item they elected into the office of constable Nicholas Billesdon, Thomas Whitwell and John Cobbe mercer  
Item they elected into the office of sergeant Robert Dodale and into the office of bailiff of the liberty Thomas Parnell; and they were sworn.

There seems to have been no delay this year in the commons taking their oath.

Then the community were sworn to maintain the said Alderman by raising hands.

Election of coroner  
Item they elected into the office of king’s coroner in the said liberty John Gybbes.

[Monday 20 November 1486]  
Session of the peace held in the common hall Monday the feast of St Edmund king and martyr in the second year of the reign of king Henry the seventh before the said Alderman and his fellow Justices of the lord king.

[Thursday 23 November 1486]  
Sureties for William Cartwright  
Thursday the feast of St Clement bishop in the second year of the reign of king Henry vij, Robert Johnson of Staunford in the county of Lincoln shomaker, Geoffrey Hampton of the said Staunford draper, William Halle of the same town and county sawer, Robert Wright of the same town (and county ins) hosyer, Richard Sutton of the same town and county barbour and Thomas Langton of the same town and county barbour (came del) before the Alderman etc and gave surety and each of them gave surety for William Cartwright hosyer unto the next sessions held here namely each of them bound on pain of xl li; that the same William Cartwright shall not in the interim inflict nor cause to be

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71 This seems to be an alternative spelling for Hikson; he was steward of the gild of St Katherine.
inflicted by himself or by any others in (his ins) name any harm or bodily injury on William Taverner of the said Staunford nor on any other of the king’s people by waylaying, insults or in any other manner whatsoever in a way that amounts to breaking or disturbing the king’s peace etc which sum each of them etc.

[Marginal entry largely illegible but it seems to indicate that the body of William Cartwright had been surrendered and the sureties exonerated].

fol 40v

[Monday 4 December 1486]

Session held in the common hall before Thomas Kesteven Alderman and his fellow justices of the lord king on Monday next after the feast of St Andrew apostle in the second year of the reign of king Henry the seventh

Minstrels sworn that their shields [badges] and their liveryes were delivered to them safely and surely by pledges.
The same day and year Henry Hayn ministrall by pledge of Robert (Nevour ins) for his shield.
Richard Pynder in the same way ministrall by pledge of John Stede and Bernard Richman.
Christopher Totyll ministrall was admitted by pledge of John Gybbes for his shield - all sworn.

Sworn into freedom
The same day and year Robert Lambe (tailour ins) sissor born in the said borough was admitted etc and sworn
Item William Muston (tailour ins) in similar way was admitted and sworn. Both sworn

Accounts of the chamberlains
The same day and year Nicholas Edward and Robert Johnson chamberlains of the said town or borough accounted for the issues of that office for one whole year terminating at the feast of St Michael archangel last past namely for the time of John Stede Alderman, all accounts being accounted and allowances being allowed, these accountants owe on this account cvs vd which they have immediately paid into the treasury [seaccario] and thus they are quit.

Payments into the treasury
In which day and place paid to John Basse for part [parcel] writing to divers sheriffs [on behalf?] of the said chamberlains before72 etc ijs. And to John Syll former sergeant for his salary namely one half of one quarter of a year xxd
Item the same day and place there, there was delivered to the same John Syll for ij capons bought for … [pro exem?] xxd

72 It is not clear what common form phrase has been omitted here. Was Basse the town clerk at this time?
Item there was paid then and there by the mandate of the Alderman to John Nele junior for a certain horse taken by a certain messenger of the lord king Henry vij in part recompense of his damages in this wise xiiijs

Remains in the hands of the chamberlains
The surplus (Remanens) in the treasury [scaccario] was delivered to Robert Johnson and his fellow chamberlains for the coming year upon account, as is rendered there etc iiiij li xs vd

Item there was given to the same chamberlains foreign amercements on divers (inhabitants ins) before the Justices of Peace in their sessions for non-appearance not yet levied but by the same chamberlains to be levied and they to render full account there as (appears del) in the foresaid issues vjs vjd

[Tuesday 12 December 1486]
Session of Thomas Kesteven held on Tuesday next after the feast of the Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary in the aforesaid year

Sworn into freedom
Richard Owres tailour came before the said Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and sworn; he will give for fine by pledge of Thomas Kesteven vjs viijd
Robert Cave fuller by pledge of John Cave will give for fine iiijs
John Tyard free born in the borough will give nil fine and was sworn
Henry Dalton wever by pledge of Robert Tuffe will give for fine similarly iiijs
Robert Richardson laborer by pledge of Thomas Parnell will give fine ijs

The said day and year in the common hall before the said Alderman, the commons elected taxers for divers expenses due to be paid (for ins) the confirmation of charters and other reparations to be made as appears below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Taxers</th>
<th>Collectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holy Trinity</td>
<td>Robert Broune</td>
<td>William Hawkes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>wever</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Palmer</td>
<td>Thomas Clopton</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Andrew</td>
<td>John (Symonds del Burbage)</td>
<td>Richard Chambre</td>
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<td>John Pounceby</td>
<td>John Lynne</td>
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<td>St Michael</td>
<td>John Couper</td>
<td>John Pate</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John Syll</td>
<td>Thomas Taverner</td>
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<tr>
<td>St George</td>
<td>(Thomas Couper del) John Freman</td>
<td>Thomas Langer</td>
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<td>Richard Fleccher</td>
<td>William Cobbe</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Mary</td>
<td>William Taverner</td>
<td>John Langton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hugh Wady</td>
<td>John Nele junior</td>
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<tr>
<td>St John</td>
<td>John Wynter</td>
<td>David Hovy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William Payn</td>
<td>Walter Fariday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Saints</td>
<td>William Wistowe</td>
<td>Roger Knotte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William Derley</td>
<td>William Lyneley/Lyncley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
to whom were assigned in aid John Dycon, Robert Crane, John Stede, William Bullok
Who were sworn that they would tax the above mentioned parishes for expenses incurred
in the confirmation of the charters, the repairs to the common hall and to the boundary
walls of the said town or borough with other necessities newly incurred there for
the public good, to a total of xx li xd.

[Wednesday 20 December 1486]

Sureties for Nicholas Billesdon
Wednesday the vigil of St Thomas apostle in the second year of the reign of king Henry
the seventh came John Gregory of Staunford in the county of Lincoln mercer and John
Dycon of the same glover before the said Alderman and gave surety and each of them
gave surety for Nicholas Bylesdon of Staunford dyer to the next sessions etc namely
both of them on pain of xx li and the said Nicholas took on himself the penalty of xl
marks; that the said Nicholas shall not in the interim inflict or cause to be inflicted by
himself or by others etc on a certain Thomas Hobson dyer or any of the king’s people by
waylaying, insult or in any other way whatsoever, in a way that amounts to breaking or
disturbing the said king’s peace etc; which said sum they agreed to be levied on their
goods and chattels to the use and profit of our lord king.

[Sunday 24 December 1486]

Sureties for Thomas Hobson
Sunday the vigil of the Nativity in the above said year William Adam of Staunford (in
the county of Lincoln ins) merchant, Geoffrey Hampton of the same town and county
draper, John Corby of the same town and county husbandman and Henry Grymston of
the same town and county tanner came before the said Alderman and gave surety for
Thomas Hobson (each of them on del) until the next sessions etc and each of them on
pain of xx li; that the said Thomas Hobson in the interim shall not inflict nor cause to be
inflicted etc on Nicholas Bylesdon of the said Staunford dyer nor any of the king’s people by
waylaying, insult or in any other manner whatsoever, or in any other wise whatsoever in a way that amounts to breaking etc the peace of the king; the which sum
the said sureties agree and each of them agrees to be levied on their goods and chattels
given to the use and profit of the lord king.

fol 41v

[Tuesday 9 January 1487]

Session of the peace held in the common hall Tuesday next after the feast of the
Epiphany in the second year of the reign of king Henry the seventh before Thomas
Kesteven Alderman and his fellow king’s Justices of the peace etc

Searchers of the market
The same day and year the commons elected into the office of searcher of the market etc for the town or borough of Staunford William Gaywode, Robert Crane, Nicholas Edward, William Payne and John Cobbe mercer.

[Wednesday 24 January 1487]
**Recognisance of William Cartwright**
Wednesday xxiiiij day of January in the said year before Thomas Kesteven Alderman of the said town or borough, Robert Hans etc and his fellow justices of the king’s peace in the said town (came William Cartwright hosyer ins) and acknowledged himself to owe to the Alderman and his successors xl pounds sterling; to be paid to the same Alderman and his successors if he William Cartwright should inflict or cause to be inflicted any harm or injury by himself or by anyone else in his name on William Taverner of the said Staunford yoman or any of the other king’s people bodily, by waylaying, insult etc, the which said sum the same William Cartwright agrees to be levied on his goods and chattels to the use of the king and the right of the common hall of the said town or borough.

[Tuesday 6 March 1487]
**Session of the peace held in the common hall Tuesday** (next after the feast of St David bishop in the aforesaid year ins) before Thomas Kesteven Alderman and his fellow justices of the king

[Friday 20 April 1487]
**Sureties for William Ligh mercer**
Friday namely the xx day of April in the second year of the reign of king Henry the seventh, there came before the said Alderman Thomas Philip of the said Staunford mercer and William Gaywode of the same glover and gave surety for William Ligh of the aforesaid Staunford mercer until the next sessions to be held there and each of them gave surety for the same William Ligh on pain of xx li and the said William Ligh took on himself on pain of xl li sterling that he would not inflict nor cause to be inflicted on any of the king’s people any harm or bodily injury nor on a certain Henry Higgen etc, the which sum they agreed to be levied on their goods and chattels to the use of the lord king etc, and that the same William Ligh in the interim shall keep [gerat] the peace etc

[Sunday 6 May 1487]
**Sureties for Henry Claydon**
On Sunday the 6 May in the said year of the said king, there came before the said Alderman Nicholas Byllesdon and John Parceley of Staunford burgesses and gave surety and recognizance for Henry Claydon detained in prison until the next sessions to be held there and both of them acknowledged and gave surety for the same Henry on pain of xx li that the said Henry in the interim would not inflict nor cause to be inflicted by himself or any other persons on a certain Robert Smyth of the said Staunford bocher nor on any of the king’s people any harm or bodily injury, the which sum they agreed to be levied on their goods and chattels to the use of the lord king etc, and that the same Henry took on himself for himself [sic] on pain of xl marks etc
[Monday 27 May 1487]

Session of the peace held in the common hall before Thomas Kesteven Alderman of Staunford and his fellow Justices of the lord king Monday xxvij day of May in the second year of the reign of king Henry the seventh

Sworn into freedom
The same day and year Richard Loy laborer came before the said Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for fine by pledge of Robert Dodale ijs

Sureties for William Ligh
The same day and year Thomas Philip of Staunford in the county of Lincoln mercer and William Gaywode of the same glover came before the said Alderman and his fellow justices of the lord king and gave surety for William Ligh of the same mercer to the next sessions of the peace to be held here namely each of them on pain of xx li and the said William Ligh took on himself on pain of xl li etc as above for the same etc.

[space]

[Thursday 21 June 1487]

Session held in the common hall before the said Alderman xxj day of June in the said year

Sworn into freedom
The same day and year John Frebarn yoman came etc and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and he will give for fine by pledge of Christopher Broune merchant (and sworn ins) vjs viijd

Item John Launder smyth by pledge of John Palmer and he will pay for fine iiijs

Election
The same day and year the commons elected John Frebarn of the Second Twelve for the community (in place of William Bewshir ins) etc and sworn

Robert Martyndale mercer by pledge of William Gaywode came and sworn (will pay for fine del) - not sworn

Constitution
for commonvng ...

Item the same day it was ordained in the common hall by the Alderman and his brethren and the commonalty of the same town that no inhabitant shall from now common their horses, cows, (ewes ins) and sheep in any field of the said town sown with grain (nor upon les leez and balkes in that field nor in any part of the same sown fields ins) until the whole of such grain shall have been harvested; and that no-one there shall collect or glean any grain during that time. And that whatsoever burgess or inhabitant shall fully allow such deterioration by such cattle, the malefactors shall be prosecuted according to the law
of England, notwithstanding any other constitution prohibiting (on pain of iijs and iiijd ins).

It would seem from this entry that the town raised and sent troops to Henry VII against Lambert Simnel at East Stoke by Newark in June 1487.

[Monday 2 July 1487]
Monday next after the feast of SS Peter and Paul apostles in the second year of the reign of king Henry the seventh in the common hall before Thomas Kesteven Alderman, the commons elected taxers for expences incurred in aiding the said lord king resisting his rebels etc as appears below

The Thomas Lacy in the next item is probably Thomas Lacy scriptor rather than Thomas Lacy esquire of Grantchester and JP in Cambridge who became MP for Stamford later in this year (HofP). TL scriptor quickly entered his duties, being assigned as one the supervising committee for the assessors of the taxes on the same day. He remained on the Second Twelve until 1494 when he moved up to the First Twelve; the other TL was elected as MP in 1487.

Election
The same day and year the commons elected into the office of the Second Twelve in place of William Bewshir - Mr Thomas Lacy

The same day and year there the commons elected taxers for expenses incurred by them as stated above as follows below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish of Holy Trinity and St Paul</th>
<th>Taxers</th>
<th>Collectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Fissher</td>
<td>William Hawkes</td>
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<td>Andrew Stotard</td>
<td>John Palmer</td>
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<td>St Andrew</td>
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<td>Robert Tuffe</td>
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<td>Nicholas Edward</td>
<td>Robert Crane</td>
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<td>Richard Tailour</td>
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<td>John Parceley</td>
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<td>Robert Dauntrre</td>
<td>John Wynter</td>
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<td>All Saints</td>
<td>Thomas Hawes</td>
<td>William Darley</td>
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<td></td>
<td>William Belton</td>
<td>John Cave</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

73 It is odd that both John Freebarn and Thomas Lacy were said to have replaced William Bewshir on the Second Twelve. Freebarn rose to the First Twelve in three months and then became Alderman; Lacy took longer for promotion.
St Peter John Reynold John Vessey
John Boivile Richard Osborn
St Clement Robert Moraunt John Yerdley
To whom were assigned for counsel in aid Christopher Broune and John Wykes, William Gaywode and Thomas Lacy.
The which taxers were then sworn to tax all parishes above to the sum of xvij li vjs iijd

[Monday 6 Aug 1487]
Session held in the common hall before the Alderman on Monday vj August in the second year of the reign of king Henry the seventh

Sworn into freedom
Richard Osborn laborer born in the town is admitted and sworn to freedom, nothing for fine because he was born within [the town].
William Stulpes laborer by pledge of Thomas Rande for the same, he will give for fine ijs
Thomas Rande laborer by pledge of William Stulpes in similar fashion will give for fine ijs
Thomas Stapilford laborer by pledge of Thomas Parnell for the same will give for fine ijs
William Polver mason by pledge Thomas Langer will give for the same fine iiijs

Corrections
Fines for the time of the said Alderman as more fully appears in the first and second folios next and immediately following after the acts of Henry Cok Alderman next following [see folio 43v and 44]

fol 43r

1487-8: There seems to be something odd about this entry concerning the election of Henry Cok as Alderman, for he was not sworn into office until a month after the election. Cok died in office during the year (late May or early June 1488), and an Acting Alderman was elected at a special council meeting to fill in for the remainder of the year. A second oddity is the election into vacancies on the First Twelve which was recorded before the listing of the names of the Twelve.
In October 1487, Thomas Lacy and John Thurlby were elected MPs for the town. This parliament granted Henry VII another tax on aliens living in the country and two fifteenths and tenths.

Henry Cok Alderman

[30 September 1487]
Sunday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the third year of the reign of king Henry the seventh, Henry Cok was elected into the office of Alderman for the coming year.

Election of First Twelve
The same day and year John Freebarn and Nicholas Billesdon from the number of the Second Twelve were raised into the number of the First Twelve for the Alderman etc.

First Twelve
William Broune  Robert Hans  Thomas Philip
David Malpas  John Dycon  William Gaywode
Christopher Broune  (Thomas Kesteven ins; Henry Cok del)  John Frebarn sworn
John Gregory  John Stede  Nicholas Billesdon

Second Twelve
John Wykes  Thomas Edward  John Couper
Robert Crane  John Yetson  Robert Johnson
Christopher Palfreyman  William Bullok  Thomas Lacy sworn
Bernard Richman  John Litster  William Derley

Then the commons were sworn to maintain the said Alderman by raising hands.

This is the first time that the Alderman was admitted to his office at a date later than 30 September; does this perhaps indicate that Henry Cok was elected in his absence, or was there some other reason why he could not be admitted to office on the day of his election? We note that Cok died during his year of office (late May - early June 1488). We also note that the clerk wrote the name of Henry Cok among the First Twelve and had to delete it and insert the name of the immediately retiring Alderman, Thomas Kesteven. The entry was squeezed into the text.

Election of burgesses of parliament
The same day and year John Thurlby and Thomas Lacy were elected burgesses for the town or borough of Staunford to attend the parliament of the lord king to be held at Westminster on ix November next following.

Session (of the peace ins) of the same Alderman held in the common hall Thursday next after the feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the third year of the reign of king Henry the seventh

Session of the same Alderman held xiiij February in the said year

Accounts of chamberlains
The same day and year, Robert Johnson and William Jordeyn chamberlains for the borough accounted for the issues of their office for the last year ending at the feast of St
Michael archangel in the above year; but the same day the account of the said chamberlains was not finalised but was respited until it could be reviewed with more deliberation etc.

[Thursday 27 March 1488]
Session of the same Alderman held xxvij March in the said year of the reign of the king

[Monday 31 March 1488]
Session of the said Alderman the last day of March in the said year.

Election into office
The same day and year William Derley was elected into the office of the Second Twelve. The same day and year John Dycon was elected into the office of coroner.

Constables
The same day and year they elected into the office of constables Bernard Richman, William Taverner, Robert Jameson. Sworn

fol 43v

[Tuesday 15 April 1488]
Session of the peace held in the common hall before Henry Cok Alderman and his colleagues justices of the king's peace Tuesday next after the close of Easter in the third year of the reign of Henry the seventh.

[Thursday 1 May 1488]
Election of officers
Thursday the feast of the apostles Philip and James next following, William Bullok one of those in the office of the Second Twelve was removed into the office of the First Twelve. The same day and year Robert Jameson was elected into the office of Second Twelve.

Sworn into freedom.
The same day and year Robert Smyth bocher came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scotte and will give for fine by pledge of John Langton glover vjs viijd
Thomas Dycons husbandman for similar will give by pledge of John Dycon iiijs

Corrections from the time of Thomas Kesteven in the preceding year etc
A certain servant of Thomas Wilson smyth attached for making affray and paid for correction vjd
William Muston for the same paid vjd
Item in that time John Glase for the same vjd
Thomas Midylton for the same correction vjd
John Shilton for the same vjd
A certain son of Robert Lambe for the same vjd
A certain servant of William Muston for the same vjd
John Bernard for the same vjd
William Reed for the same paid vjd
Maurice Organmaker and Margaret Boston for the same to pay xiiijd
The daughter of a certain widow at Saltbyesyate for the same vjd
John Richardson for the same paid vjd
John West of Baroughdon and Margerie Egerston for the same correction to pay xvjd
A certain tapster of John Dycon paid vjd
Dom Richard Gybson for the same paid vjd
Thomas Ketilwell and Elizabeth Clopham to pay xvjd
John Smyth at the suit of Nicholas Billesdon for the same vjd
John Glase a certain servant of John Langton and a certain Joan Spynner for the same correction paid xviiijd
John Mumby for the same paid vjd
Friar Richard of the convent of friars preachers [Black Friars] for the same viijd
John Nyon for correction paid vjd
Thomas Jameson servant of lord Grey for the same viijd
Robert Wodeburn for the same vjd
A certain servant of William Cobbe for the same vjd
Philip Coryour for the same vjd
William servant of William Godyson for the same paid vjd

Margaret Poche for a like correction paid vjd
A certain woman at the instance of Christopher Broune paid vjd
Hugh Smyth at the suit of John Tailour for correction vjd
William Corveser of Dunstable and a woman for the same vjd
Friar Robert York for a same correction paid vjd
Richard Dyconson for the same vjd
A certain tapster (pincern) at the suit of John Nyon for the same paid vjd
William Stulpes for the same vjd
Edward Banes for the same paid vjd
A certain servant of Robert Yerdeley and another servant of Robert Dauntre xijd
John Milnegate for a same correction paid vjd
John Olygh servant of John Pate for the same paid vjd
John Conyas for the same paid vjd
Gaudefer Abbot for the same paid viijd
A certain servant of Margerie Frankeleyn for the same paid vjd
Andrew Netherd for the same paid vjd
A certain servant of John Barford for the same paid vjd
William Muston for the same paid vjd
Richard Owres for a same correction paid vjd
William Yves for the same paid vjd
A certain tapster of Thomas Whitwell for a same correction viijd
William Frost servant of Robert Haryngton armiger for the same vijd
John Pate for a like fine paid vjd
John Jameson for the same paid vjd
William Sampson for the same paid vjd
Cecily de Caleys for a similar fine paid vjd
Richard Claypol and Thomas Roper for the same xijd
A certain servant of Robert Cave for the same paid vjd
James a collector of the marshalsea of the lord king for the same vjd

Robert Hans Alderman

This is the first time an Alderman is recorded as having died in office; a senior member of the First Twelve (John Gregory) called a meeting attended by only eight of the Twentyfour comburgesses and other burgesses, and a new Alderman (Robert Hans) was elected to finish off the year.

[Monday 2 June 1488]
Robert Hans Alderman
Monday the second day of June in the third year of the reign of king Henry the seventh, Henry Cok former Alderman late deceased and John Gregory acting for the time being, the same John Gregory with eight comburgesses and commons assembled in the common hall (treated ins) for the election of a future Alderman, the commons elected into the office of Alderman until the feast of St Jerome doctor next etc Robert Hans and he was sworn.

It is unusual to have a list of the First and Second Twelves in the middle of an Aldermanry year as well as at the feast of St Jerome (September).

First Twelve
William Broune       Thomas Kesteven       William Gaywode
David Malpas        John Dycon            John Frebarn       Sworn
Christopher Broune  John Stede            Nicholas Billendsdon
John Gregory        Thomas Philip          William Bullok

Second Twelve
John Wykes          Thomas Edward          Robert Johnson
Robert Crane        John Yetson            Thomas Lacy       Sworn
Christopher Palfreyman  John Litster    William Derley
Bernard Richman     John Couper            Robert Jameson

fol 44v
The Monday and year above written the commons elected taxers for (one half of ins) the fifteenth of the lord king as appears below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish of Holy Trinity and St Paul taxers</th>
<th>Collectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Clopton</td>
<td>John Palmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Broune</td>
<td>John Whip</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St Andrew</th>
<th>Collectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Godeson</td>
<td>John Pounceby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Wright</td>
<td>Robert Barough</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St Michael</th>
<th>Collectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Syl</td>
<td>Roger Berell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Cobbe</td>
<td>William Bateman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St George</th>
<th>Collectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Fletcher</td>
<td>John Couper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Freman</td>
<td>Thomas Couper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St Mary</th>
<th>Collectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Taverner</td>
<td>Robert Muston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Langton</td>
<td>William Forster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St John</th>
<th>Collectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomass Couper</td>
<td>Robert Dauntre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Parker</td>
<td>John Wynter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Saints</th>
<th>Collectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Belton</td>
<td>John Cave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Jakson</td>
<td>William Derley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St Peter</th>
<th>Collectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Vessy</td>
<td>William Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Boivile</td>
<td>Robert Jameson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St Clement</th>
<th>Collectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Moraunt</td>
<td>Thomas Copeland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To whom were assigned in aid for counsel Christopher Broune, John Wykes, William Bullok, Thomas Lacy;

And they were sworn to tax the said parishes at this day to a total of xviij li vs vjd

*The nature of the following proclamation is not known.*

[Thursday 19 June 1488]

**Session of Robert Hans Alderman held in the common hall xix June in the third year of the reign of king Henry the seventh**

Publication of letters

On which day letters of our said lord the king directed to the said Alderman were published in the common hall before the comburgesses and commons of the borough etc.

fol 45r

[Thursday 29 July 1488]

**Session (of the peace ins) held in the common hall before Robert Hans and his fellow justices of the peace Tuesday next after the feast of St James apostle in the third year of the reign of king Henry vij.**

---

74 Parliament granted two fifteenths and tenths in November-December 1487; some towns were excused. It was to be collected in four instalments between June 1488 and November 1489. This half was due on 24 June 1488, Jurkowski p122.
1488-9: the year of William Browne’s death. In October 1488 the king called a specially reinforced Council to which Christopher Browne (who had strong court connections) was summoned on behalf of the town; and in December Christopher Browne of Tolethorpe and Stamford stapler and David Malpas of Pickworth, Rutland were elected MPs for the borough. In April, there was a revolt in Yorkshire directed against the increasing taxation (the earl of Northumberland was killed) and Henry went in person to put it down.

**John Frebarn Alderman**

[30 September 1488]
Tuesday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the fourth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh John Frebarn was elected into the office of Alderman for the coming year.

**Sworn into freedom**
The same day and year Thomas Maidwell laborer came before the Alderman and was sworn to the freedom and will pay for fine ijs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Twelve</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Browne</td>
<td>John Gregory</td>
<td>Thomas Philip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Hans</td>
<td>Thomas Kesteven</td>
<td>William Gaywode sworn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Malpas</td>
<td>John Dycon</td>
<td>Nicholas Billesdon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Browne</td>
<td>John Stede</td>
<td>William Bullok</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Twelve</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Wykes</td>
<td>Thomas Edward</td>
<td>Thomas Lacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Crane</td>
<td>John Yetson</td>
<td>Robert Johnson sworn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Palfreyman</td>
<td>John Litster</td>
<td>William Derley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernard Richman</td>
<td>John Couper</td>
<td>Robert Jameson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then the commons were sworn to maintain the said Alderman by raising hands.

[Tuesday 14 October 1488]
**Session of the peace held before the said Alderman and his fellow Justices of the lord king on Tuesday next after St Edward king and confessor in the fourth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh.**

**Christopher Browne was chosen to attend the King’s Council by letters of the king.**

[Monday 27 October 1488]
**Session of the same Alderman held Monday the vigil of the apostles Simon and Jude in the fourth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh**
On which day by the reading of letters of the lord king etc, Christopher Browne was elected for the said town or borough to attend the king’s council at Westminster x

---

75 Most probably the Translation of Edward the Confessor.
November next etc. And Thomas Philip was elected to attend with him if it should be necessary etc

Sworn into freedom
The same day and year John Goylyn keeper of the lodging house de le Bulle came before the said Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to scotte and lotte etc; and he will give for fine by pledge of Thomas Philip vjs viijd
Geoffrey Hampton draper in similar fashion came etc by pledge of (Thomas del) William Bullok xs
Robert Lambe bocher born in the borough will pay nil for his fine - sworn
Thomas Fletcher barker in the same wise sworn
Hugh Sutton smith by pledge of Robert Hans will give fine iiijs
John Sylton carpenter will pay nothing for fine because he was born in the borough - sworn
William Walker fleccher by pledge of William Gaywode will give fine iiijs
John Robson laborer was sworn; he will give fine by pledge of Robert Lambe bocher ijs

It is unusual to have the date of the session repeated.

[Monday 27 October 1488]
Monday the vigil of the apostles Simon and Jude in the fourth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh in the common hall, the commons elected taxers for the second half of the fifteenth of the king\textsuperscript{76} as appears hereinafter.

The parish of Holy Trinity and St Paul taxers collectors
Andrew Stodard John Fissher
William Carver Thomas Clopton
St Andrew
Robert Tuffe Robert Cave
Richard Fissher Thomas Woller
St Michael
John Syl William Bateman
John Cobbe
St George
Richard Fletcher Thomas Couper
John Freman Thomas Langer
St Mary
Hugh Wady John Nele junior
Robert Muston Robert Aylesborough
St John
Thomas Couper William Payn
John Parker John Perceley
All Saints
John Sabyn Roger Knotte
William Belton William Hyncley
St Peter
Thomas Peryman Alex Somerby
Ralph Holand John Reynold
St Clement
Richard Loy Thomas Copeland
To whom immediately were elected in aid and counsel the Alderman, Thomas Edward, John Gregory, Bernard Richman.

\textsuperscript{76} This was due on 11 November 1488, Jurkowski p122.
All of whom were sworn to tax the said parishes this day [sic] to a total of xviij li vs id

[Sunday 14 December 1488]
Sworn into freedom
On the fourteenth of December in the fourth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh, John Loring literatus (trained in the law, perhaps a notary?) came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and will give for fine for his admission likewise iiijs

[Monday 22 December 1488]
Session of the same Alderman held in the common hall Monday the day after St Thomas apostle in the above year.

Election of burgesses for the parliament
The same day and year David Malpas armiger and Christopher Broune were elected burgesses for the town and borough of Staunford to go to the king’s parliament to be held at Westminster xiiij day of January next etc.

fol 46r

[Tuesday 21 January 1489]
Session of the peace in the common hall before John Frebarn Alderman of Staunford and his fellow justices of peace of the king Tuesday xxj day of January in the fourth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh.

[Thursday 7 May 1489]
Session of the same Alderman held in the common hall seventh day of May in the fourth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh.

Stamford was ordered to contribute its share to the supply of men, horses and food for an army of 10,000 men to be raised. This came immediately after the Yorkshire revolt had been suppressed: was it an attempt at establishing some sort of militia ready to take up arms as required?

On which day and year on behalf of the said our lord king (the aforesaid Alderman ins) ordered all burgesses, victuallers, keepers of lodging houses, and the rest together with all burgesses inhabiting the borough of Staunford that from now on without any delay they shall ordain and prepare or take action to ordain and make themselves prepared in the said borough honest and suitable victuals and fodder for horses for 10,000 (xviij) of the king’s lieges namely for each inhabitant according to his means before [erga] Tuesday next etc.

[Friday 24 July 1489]
Sworn into freedom
In the vigil of St James apostle in the above year, John Yerdley laborer came before the said Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott etc and will give for fine by pledge of Robert Moraunt and Robert Dodale ijs

[Monday 10 Aug 1489]  
Session of the peace held in the common hall before John Frebarn Alderman and his fellow justices of the king on Monday the feast of St Laurence martyr in the fourth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh.

[30 September 1489]  
Thomas Edward was elected into the First Twelve in place of William Broune namely on Wednesday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the fifth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh.

William Browne died in April 1489 (CFR).

1489-90 and thereafter: Just as Henry VII is beginning to mobilise his resources for an attack on France, Perkin Warbeck raises his revolt but it is suppressed without violence.

In Stamford from this date there is increasing interference in the town’s government from the Castle. The steward of Lady Cicely duchess of York²⁷ insists on attending some council meetings; the newly elected Alderman has to attend at the castle to take his oath of office (i.e. there is a veto over the election by the Castle). A separate book of freemen was introduced in 1491 but entries continued in the Hall Book with very large numbers of freemen sworn.

William Radclyffe was elected onto the Second Twelve at the same court as he was admitted to the freedom, and the following September he was promoted to the First Twelve.

A full survey of all accounts of all officers was conducted in this year from the beginning of the Hall Book.

Thomas Philip Alderman

On Wednesday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the fifth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh, Thomas Philip was elected into the office of Alderman for the coming year.

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²⁷ From 1492, Henry’s queen Elizabeth too had an interest in Stamford, but in 1495 on the death of Cecily, the manor passed to King Henry VII’s mother Lady Margaret Beaufort of Collyweston; two royal officers, Reginald Bray and William Hussey were appointed steward and receiver of both Grantham and Stamford. Margaret Beaufort was served by several leading Stamford figures such as William Radclyffe, Christopher Browne and David Cecil.
First Twelve
(John Frebarn ins)
David Malpas   John Dycon   Nicholas Billesdon
Christopher Broune   Thomas Kesteven   William Bullok    sworn
John Gregory   John Stede   Thomas Edward
Robert Hans   William Gaywode

Second Twelve
John Wykes   John Yetson   Robert Johnson
Robert Crane   John Litster   William Derley
Christopher Palfreyman   John Couper   Robert Jameson
Bernard Richman   Thomas Lacey   William Radclyff
Then the commons were sworn to maintain the said Alderman by raising hands.

Election of Constables
The same day and year, they elected into the office of constable
Thomas Whitwell
Thomas Couper baker
Thomas Websterson couper
All sworn.

William Radclyffe may have come from Yorkshire into Stamford; he quickly moved up to the First Twelve, then Alderman 1495 and three more times, MP in 1497. He founded the Grammar School before his death in or about 1532. No trade is given on his application for the freedom of the borough but his entry fine was large, 6s 8d.

Sworn into freedom
On the same day and year, William Radclyff came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and was received into the freedom of the town by the pledge of Robert Hans and gave for fine as appears in capite vjs viijd

[Monday 5 October 1489]
Session of the peace before the Alderman on v October in the said year.

[Tuesday 20 October 1489]
Constitution for lodging house keepers and cooks
On xx day of October in the said year, it was ordained by the Alderman, comburgesses and the commons that no keeper of common lodging houses in the borough shall put out for sale in his lodging house any roast flesh [assat] to the detriment of the common cooks on pain of xld for each occasion.

Note: the layout of the next entry is not clear; it could be there were two searchers for flesh and fish and two for the rest of the market.

78 This entry has been inserted in a different hand.
The same day and year they elected John Evylyn searcher of the market for flesh and fish; Thomas Parnell, William Taverner and Nicholas Edward were elected searchers for all other markets.

**Election of chamberlains**
The same day and year they elected William Bullok and John Goylyn chamberlains for the coming year.

**Election into office**
The same day and year they elected into the office of sergeant Robert Dodale.
The same day and year, they elected Robert Moraunt as bailiff of the liberty for the coming year.

fol 47r

*This unusual audit was very formal. A special committee was appointed but all the First Twelve and Second Twelve together with a ‘Third Twelve chosen in the name of all the commons of the borough’ conducted an audit of all accounts mentioned in this Hall Book (the details must have been kept separately for there are no detailed accounts in the Hall Book) since it began in 1465. There is a hint that this was part of a royal audit of the town. The following day a full session of the council was held with John Walcote the lawyer in attendance.*

[Tuesday 26 January 1490]

**Tuesday xxvj day of January in the fifth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh**

Staunford
Atte the accomptez holden in the Guyldehalle ther the day and yere abovewreten before Thomas Phelipp Alderman, Christooffer Broun, Robert Hanse, John Gregory, Thomas Kesteven, John Dycon, John Frebarne, John Stede and all the substaunce off the ffirste xij. And the secunde xij with xij men chosen in the name off all the comens off the seid Burgh off Staunfford, to here examyn and determyne All maner accompts rekening payments and allowaunce off all maner officers alsowell off Alderman, chamberleyns, Baylyffs off the fraunchez sergeauntz collectours off taxes and xves [fifteenths] which have ben wythyn this town payd and receyved any tyme afore unto the day off this accomptaunts made, with all the profitees off the ffeyres revenuez rents ffynes amercements and all other commoditees belonging unto the seid town and burgh off Staunfford, whereoff the accompts clerely serched and seen by the seyd auditours, by oon assente thus they have concluded and determyned that all manere accomptaunts whos names been wretten and conteyned in this commen Boke fro the begynnyng off this Boke unto the tyme and day off this accompte made ben quyte and discharged off all their accompts charges and rekenyngs, Excepte certeyn dettours which owe unto the seid Town certeyn dewtees whos been wretten hereafter in this Boke by the advyse off the seid auditours to that entente that Willyam Bullok and John Goylyn chosen chamberleyns for

79 A new hand
the nexte yer sewing [ensuing] shall endever them to gedre [collect] the same detches off the seid detteours. And the seyd William Bullocke and John Goylyn have receyved at this accompte afore the seid auditours to yelde accompts theroff in redy money vj li vjs ob.

Names of debtors:
Robert Cave due for his indictment ijs
John Palmer pledge for John Launder iiijs
Thomas Rande pledge for W Stulpes ijs
The same Thomas for his own dues xiijd
William Povy mason for his fine iiijs
Davyd Hovy dues viijd
William Tourton ijs
John Kerver dues iiijd
John Wryght iiijd
John Loryng iiijs
John Sherman iiijd
John Selby iiijd
Roger Knotte dues [blank]

From this date, a lawyer is almost always recorded as being in attendance when the council met. Nothing is known of John Walcote. William Elmes lawyer of the Inner Temple was the grandson of William Browne; MP for Stamford in 1495; described as recorder of Stamford from 1502 to 1504 when he died (HofP).

[Wednesday 27 January 1490]
Session of the peace held in the common hall before Thomas Philip Alderman and his fellow justices together with John Walcote lawyer [legis parito] on Wednesday xxvij January in the fifth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh.

[Monday 15 March 1490]
Session of the peace held in the common hall before Thomas Philip Alderman and his fellow justices of the king with William Elmes lawyer on Monday xv March in the fifth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh

[Tuesday 24 Aug 1490]
Session of the peace held before Thomas Philip Alderman and his fellow justices of the king on Tuesday the feast of St Bartholomew apostle in the fifth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh.

Sworn into freedom
Robert Clerk wright by pledge of Robert Johnson mason will pay for fine iiijs
Robert Johnson mason by pledge of Robert Clerk will give for fine iiijs

129
Robert Chapman laborer by pledge of Robert Hans will give for fine ijs
Thomas Chamber laborer by pledge of Robert Hans for fine ijs
William Molle baker by pledge of Robert Hans for fine vjs viijd
Richard Grenefeld tailour by pledge of Richard Tailour and John Nele junior for fine vjs viijd
Robert Martyndale mercer by pledge of Walter Fairday for fine xxs
Walter Fairday glover by pledge of Robert Martyndale for fine vjs viijd
Robert Yates laborer by pledge of Thomas Philip for fine ijs
William Smyth spurryour by pledge of William Taillour baker for fine iiijs
William Taillour baker by pledge of William Smyth for fine vjs viijd
Ralph Wode sawyer by pledge of Thomas Gayhowe for fine iiijs
Thomas Gayhowe plasterer by pledge of Ralph Wode for fine iiijs
John Johnson poynntmaker by pledge of Walter Fairday for fine iiij
Thomas Cukkoo goldsmyth by pledge of John Gregory for fine iiijs
Robert Grene husbondman by pledge of Thomas Fissheer for fine iiijs
Thomas Fissheer [blank] by pledge of Robert Grene for fine iiijs
John Shako shomaker by pledge of Robert Dauntre for fine xiijs iiijd
Alex Eymson laborer by pledge of William Brighton for fine ijs
William Fissheer hosyer by pledge of John Tyard bocher for fine vjs viijd
Robert Brough laborer by pledge [blank] ijs
William Adam scribe? (‘literatus’ - lrat) by pledge of Thomas Lacy will give for fine ijs
Walter Bromhold shomaker by pledge of William Wylys for fine xiijs iiijd
Nicholas Shirborn glasyer by pledge of William Broune skynner for fine iiijs (whole entry del)
William Broune skynner by pledge of Nicholas Shirborn for fine iiijs (whole entry del)

fol 48r

[Thursday 30 September 1490]

Thurday the feast of St Jerome doctor in the sixth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh, William Gaywode was elected into the office of Alderman for the coming year.

The same day and year Geoffrey Hampton was elected into the Second xij in place of Robert Johnson and John Burbage in place of John Wykes and were sworn.

It is odd that Philip held a session as Alderman after Gaywode had been elected as his successor. Perhaps Gaywode had not yet been sworn before the steward (see notes above and Introduction).

[Tuesday 5 October 1490]

Session of the peace held before Thomas Philip [sic] Alderman and his fellow justices of the king on 5 October in the sixth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh.
Enrolment of apprentice
The same day and year John Greswode acknowledged himself to be bound as apprentice of William Bullok of Staunford draper from the feast of the Annunciation of the BVM in the xxij year of the reign of king Edward the fourth [25 March 1482] to the end and term of seven years then following to be fully completed. And the said William Bullok before the said Alderman made known that the said apprentice had well and faithfully completed his said term and had fulfilled all and each of the rules and regulations applying to him as in a certain indenture had been made previously between the said parties.

Enrolment of apprentice
The same day and year before the said Alderman John Durant apprentice of Thomas Philip mercer declared himself to have been apprentice and servant of his said master from the feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist in the xxij year of the reign of king Edward the fourth [24 June 1482] to the end and term of [blank] years next following, and fully completed. And his said master there made known that the said apprentice had well and faithfully fulfilled his term and all the rules and regulations applying to him and he will pay for his enrolment viijd.

Sworn into freedom
The same day and year Thomas Antwesyll walker by pledge of Thomas Lacy will give for fine iiijs
William Wylles smyth by pledge of John Nele junior for fine iiijs
Thomas Freman walker by pledge of William Derley for fine iiijs
William Bukstone sadeler by pledge of William Forster for fine iiijs
Robert Stede hosyer by pledge of John (Tyler ins) for fine vijs viijd
Thomas Dale laborer by pledge of John Stede iijs
William West shomaker by pledge of Thomas Jakson for fine xiijs iiijd
Thomas Jakson shomaker by pledge of William West for fine xiijs iiijs
Richard Hughes coryour by pledge of John Litster for fine iijs
John Tailour pewterer by pledge of John Syll for fine iijs
John Gibson barker by pledge of Thomas Peryman for fine vijs viijd
Reginald Tyson (shomaker? ins) by pledge of Robert Martynsdale for fine xiijs viijd
Christopher Palfreyman haburdassher by pledge of Robert Martynsdale for fine iiijs
Christopher Whetley glover by pledge of William Shitylworth for fine vijs viijd
William Shitylworth glover by pledge of Christopher Whetley for fine vijs viijd
John Palmer barbour by pledge of Edward Broune for fine iiijs
Henry Robert slatter by pledge of William Brighton slatter for fine iijs
Thomas Barr mercer free born in the said borough free and sworn.
(John del) Robert sclatter by pledge [incomplete entry]

William Gaywode Alderman
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First xij</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Philip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Malpas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Broune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Gregory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

fol 48v

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second xij</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Crane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Palfreyman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernard Richman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Yetson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then the commons, raising hands, were sworn to maintain the said Alderman.

**Surety for Alexander Somerby**

[Thursday 7 October 1490]
Thursday after the feast of the Translation of St Hugh bishop (in the above written year ins) William Bullok of Staunford in the county of Lincoln draper and William Radclyff of the same town and county gentilman in their own person made themselves sureties (before the Alderman ins) namely each of them on pain of twenty pounds for Alex Somerby of Staunford. And the same Alexander took surety upon himself on pain of forty pounds that he would do or cause to be done no harm or evil to a certain John Wykes or any other of the king’s people in any wise; and each of the said sureties agreed that the which said sum of xx li and the said Alex agreed that the said sum of xl li should be levied from their goods and chattels to the use of the king if any harm or evil should happen to the same John Wykys or any other of the king’s people

[Monday 22 December 1490]
Monday the xxij December in the sixth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh the said commons elected taxers for the half xvth of the lord king as below

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80 text has several erasures and is obscure but the sense is plain.

81 Parliament granted Henry VII one fifteenth and tenth tax in February 1490; it was due on 11 November 1490 and 11 November 1491. Jurkowski pp 124-5. Stamford was late in appointing collectors.
To whom were assigned for counsel and aid John Stede, Thomas Lacy, John Frebarn, John Goylyn.

foll 49r

[Thursday 27 January 1491]

Session of the peace held at Staunford on Thursday namely xxvij day of January in the sixth year of the reign of king Henry vij before William Gaywode Alderman, John Walcote lawyer associated with him and his fellow justices of the king.

[Monday 21 February 1491]

Staunford

Session of the said Alderman held there on Monday namely the next after the first Sunday in Lent in the sixth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh

Election into office

The same day and year William Radclyff was elected into the number of the First xij. Item John Goylyn was elected in place of William Radclyff into office of the ij xij. William Radclyffe armiger etc was elected in the foresaid xij in place of Thomas Kesten (whole entry deleted).

Sworn into freedom

The same day and year William Mote glover came before the Alderman and petitioned to be admitted to lott and scott and came will give [sic] for fine by pledge of John Dycon vjs viijd - sworn Richard Whithik laborer for the same will pay for fine by pledge of Thomas Stable ijs - sworn.

Grant of a doorway (exitus)

The same day and year was granted to John Fishier a postern in the north part of his free tenement in the parish of St Paul to be made by him in the boundary wall. And the said John shall have and execute this grant, and shall well and sufficiently repair the said wall

---

82 a different hand; the following entry reverts to the former hand.
in all things as he used to repair it anciently and sustain and maintain it on pain of forfeiture of the said doorway and postern.

**Election into office.** The same day and year William Mote was elected into the office of sergeant in place of Robert Dodale and was sworn.

[Tuesday 29 March 1491]
Session of the same Alderman held there xxix day of March in the sixth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh.

*The following ordinance was started in Latin and then the clerk gave up and started again in English.*

**Constitution**
The same day and year it was ordained by the Alderman and his brethren and the whole community that from now no person dwelling in the borough of Staunford.

Item the same day and year it was ordeyned that none inhabitaunt within this Burgh of Staunford after this day bye any vitailes or marchaundise in seynt martyn parissh of any dueller in the same parish nor any othyr thing wherfor they shall leve any of ther money ther. And also that no man inhabit within this burgh shall set any dueller within the parissh of seynt Martyn aforsaid in any occupacion and warke uppon peyn of every of the first xij xxs, every of the secunde xij xiijs, and every commyner vjs viijd without any such person be suorne afor the Alderman.

**Constitution for fishing**
And also that none inhabitaunt within this burgh shall fissh in this watir in any place in the night uppon peyn of forfaitour of his nett that one half to the commyn hall and that other half to hym that so taketh him in the nyght fisshyng.

fol 49v

[Thursday 14 July 1491]
Staunford
Session of the peace held before William Gaywode Alderman and William Elmes lawyer associated with him and his fellow justices of the king xiiiij day of July in the sixth year of the reign of king Henry the seventh.

**Christopher Broune Alderman**
[30 September 1491]

Christopher Broune Alderman
Wednesday in the feast of St Jerome doctor in the vij year of the reign of king Henry the seventh Christopher Broune was elected into the office of Alderman for the coming year.

[11 October 1491]

Election of MPs
The eleventh day of the month of October in the said year the commons elected Thomas Edward and John Thurlby burgesses to go to the lord king’s parliament on xvij day of the said month.

First xij
William Gaywode  Thomas Philip  William Radclyffe
David Malpas  John Frebarn  Nicholas Bylesdon  sworn
John Gregory  John Dycon  William Bullok
Robert Hans  John Stede  Thomas Edward

William Skynner’s name must have been added later for he was not elected to the Second Twelve until November 1491.

Second xij
Robert Crane  John Litster  Robert Jameson
Christopher Palfreyman  John Couper  John Goylyun  sworn
Bernard Richman  Thomas Lacy  Geoffrey Hampton
John Yetson  William Derley  John Burbage
William Skynner

Commons were congregated and sworn
Then [Deinde] all those then [adtunc] congregated by raising hands were sworn to maintain the said Alderman. Sworn

[Tuesday 11 October 1491]
Tuesday xj day of October in the said year they elected taxers for the second part of the xv of the lord king 83 namely for each parish ij taxers and ij collectors as follows below

Holy Trinity and St Paul taxers  collectors
John Loryng  Hugh Smyth
John Wasshyngburgh  John Sylton

St Andrew
Roger Borell  John Pounceby
Thomas A Dale  Robert Barough

St Michael
John Cobbe  William Molle
John Wynter  Richard Lygh

St George
Thomas Couper baker  William Reede
John Freman  Thomas Langer

St Mary
William West  John Nele junior
Thomas Whitwell  Richard Happ

83 This is the second half of the tax granted in February 1490 and due on 11 November 1491, Jurkowski pp 124-5.
St John
  William Jurdeyn  Richard Assewell
  John Johnson wever  Christopher Palfreyman
All Saints
  William Derley  William Skynner
  Thomas Kesten husbondman  John Tyard
St Peter
  Thomas Peryman  Robert Jameson
  William Lessy  William Westowe
St Clement
  John Yerdeley  Thomas Copeland
To which taxers were immediately assigned for counsel and aid John Dycon and William Bullok, Thomas Lacy and Geoffrey Hampton who shall tax all the parishes to the sum of [blank] - sworn.

fol 50r

[Thursday 3 November 1491]
Session held there iij day of November in the seventh year of the reign of king Henry the seventh

Election into second xij
The same day and year, William Skynner was elected into the office of the ij Twelve in place of Christopher Palfreyman.

This entry shows once again a case in which the elected Alderman took up his duties several weeks after being elected; but in this case he and the commons took their oaths in their common hall, not in the castle before the steward as in later elections.

Election into offices
Item the same day and year Christopher Broune elected into the office of Alderman for the coming year was sworn in the common hall and took up his duties.
Item the commons elected Robert Moraunt into the office of bailiff of the liberty as before.
Item into the office of sergeant Richard Whityk for the said year - sworn.

Item they elected into office as constables John Lankton, William Hosyer and William West.

Memorandum that ther is a nother boke ordeyned in the whiche shalbe wreten the names of all the sworn men with fynes and corrections that shalbe for this yere folowyng.

The rest of this folio and the next four folios are blank, the minutes starting again on folio 56 with the election of the alderman (Thomas Edwarde) on the feast of St Jerome in the tenth year of the reign of Henry the seventh [30 September 1494]. Despite the reference to a separate book for the enrolment of freemen, in October in that year 34 freemen were admitted in one session and a further 31 throughout the rest of the year.
The following items show something of the changes introduced after the death of William Browne.

fol 60r: The commons gathered in the common hall on Monday 26 October 1495, William Radclyffe Alderman took upon himself the burden of his office for the coming year. And immediately afterwards the gathered burgesses together marched [prexerunt] to the castle there before John Walcote lawyer and he was sworn to exercise the said office of Alderman.

fol 68r: In 1497, the Alderman was sworn before Sir John Husy steward of the manor and castle of Staunford “according to ancient custom”.

fol 78: In 1502, Christopher Browne armiger living in his manor of Tolthorpp was elected Alderman, but because he was a member of the council of Lady Margaret mother of the king and countess of Richmond and Derby, it was agreed that he could exercise the office by deputy when necessary.