

Welcome again to the newsletter, which includes interesting contributions from a number of members who have responded to requests for material. These, together with our successful meetings on the Medieval Mind and England Before and After the Conquest, show that medieval Surrey continues to generate widespread interest. Please send contributions to Peter Balmer at the email or postal addresses at the end of this newsletter. We will aim to issue the next newsletter in November.

Forthcoming meetings

Visit to Southwark – 7 September 2013

After last year's successful visit to Winchester, a study trip is being organised to Southwark for Saturday 7th September 2013. Guided walks led by Stephen Humphries round historic Southwark and the Cathedral will bracket talks from Alistair Douglas, of Pre-Construct Archaeology, and Graham Dawson, at the John Harvard Library. This promises to be an exciting day, not to be missed. Please note your diaries now. Details will be sent to members nearer the time and will be posted on the Society's website.

30 November 2013

We will be meeting at St Catherine's Village Hall for our AGM and Members' Day. Details will follow but please note your diary now. Members' contributions on any relevant topic, which need not be long, to this and future meetings would be welcome. If you would like to give a presentation please contact Brian Creese.

Woking Palace excavation – 18 September to 6 October 2013

Members will be aware of the exciting discoveries that have been made at Woking Palace over the last four years. Funding is now in place, as a result of a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, for the fifth season of excavations at Woking Palace. The excavations will be looking at the development of the extensive medieval manorial complex into the Tudor palace. As in previous years members are warmly invited to participate as experienced volunteer excavators or in on-site finds processing. It is expected that places will be available for beginners both in excavation and finds processing. Excavations are planned to start on Wednesday 18th September and continue to Saturday 5th October with a public Open Day on Sunday 6th October. Those interested in participating in any way should contact Richard Savage on the contact details at the end of the newsletter.

Medieval and Tudor Gardens

Richard and Pamela attended a conference in Cambridge in June last year on recent research on medieval and Tudor gardens, where work by experts in a variety of disciplines is adding to understanding of these important landscape features. Their report appears as Annex 1 to this newsletter.

TRE

Many members will be familiar with the Domesday Book abbreviation “TRE” – indicating who held the land in the time of King Edward the Confessor. This is usually assumed to indicate the landholder immediately before the Conquest, but by examining the evidence for Southwark, Vauxhall and Lambeth Graham Dawson questions whether this was always the case. His thoughts on this appear as Annex 2 to the newsletter.

Medieval marriage

At our meeting on the Medieval Mind in December 2012, Brian Creese gave a fascinating talk on how the understanding of what constituted marriage changed through over time from the sixth to the thirteenth centuries. Particularly for those who were unable to attend, his summary tabulation appears as Annex 3.

Surrey Medieval Graffiti Survey

Members will remember the interesting talk given by Richard Neville on his project to study all the medieval graffiti in Surrey churches at our members' day meeting in December 2011. This work has made considerable progress since then, although there is still a long way to go. Discoveries so far can be found on the website at <http://www.medievalgraffitisurrey.org/>, which also contains information on how anyone interested can get involved.

Wintershall Manor Estate: an Archaeological and Historical Investigation – appeal for assistance

Mike Borrell, the local secretary for the Bramley/Wonersh/Shalford area, and Judie English have been invited to carry out a full review of the Wintershall Manor estate in Bramley by its owners, Mr and Mrs P W Hutley.

The estate is very large with many dry valleys together with ponds that may have been for freshwater fish or could be 17/18th-century hammer ponds. The earliest written record of the Manor is from 1227 but it is possibly of late Saxon origin (see the paper by Dennis Turner and Judie English entitled ‘Medieval Settlement in the Blackheath Hundred’ published in *Aspects of Archaeology and History in Surrey* in 2004). The main hall of the manor has a stunning roof with a moulded beam which could only have been built by a person of very high status.

Most of the medieval court documents have been transcribed and translated by Hector Carter and copies of these will shortly become available. The first task is to extract information on a holding by holding basis. All those interested in participating in this project are asked to contact Mike Borrell.

Books and articles

In response to the request in the last newsletter, Derek Renn has drawn attention to various books and articles that are likely to be of interest to members. These appear as Annex 4. The publications of the Pipe Roll Society are the first new editions after a gap of several years. Derek is too modest to indicate that he is one of the contributors to the South Mimms publication.

Derek has also drawn attention to two articles he published in the *Proceedings of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society*, which posed questions in their titles intended to provoke discussion which sadly has not materialised. These are: 'Was Leatherhead ever the county town of Surrey?' [*Proc L&DLHS* 7.2 (2008), 24–5] and 'Little Bookham – the heart of Surrey?' [*Proc L&DLHS* 7.3 (2009), 1–12]. Any thoughts would be most welcome. Also in the 2009 edition was an article by Brian Bouchard on 'Ashtead's Early Trackways' (13–21).

A periodical that some of our members doubtless read is *London Archaeologist*. For those that do not, a list of some recent articles of interest appears as Annex 5.

Please draw our attention to any other publications that would be of interest to members (or write a review!)

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