

# Surrey Archaeological Society

## Medieval Studies Forum

### Newsletter No.9

November 2012

Welcome again to the newsletter. This is the second one in 2012, a pattern of two a year that we now intend to keep up. Such a frequency, however, does depend as suggested in the last newsletter on members making contributions, and the response since March has been less than overwhelming. It is hard to believe that members of the forum do not have items of interest, however small, that they would wish to share with others. Items of many types would be welcome and can be about any subject likely to be of interest to other members, including, for example, research (in a preliminary form or otherwise), comments on conferences or lectures attended, or reviews of books of medieval interest. Our remit covers the whole period from the departure of the Romans to the end of the Tudors. In this issue, Rob Briggs has once again submitted an item of interest, but the rest comes from members of the committee. 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 one in March, but it will depend on having enough material.

### Visit to Winchester

As an innovation, we decided this year that the summer meeting would take the form of a visit to a place of medieval interest (and there are few places in England with more of medieval interest than Winchester). Thus on 23 June a modest group of us had a packed day, so packed that lunch had to be rather hurried, with guided tours of the cathedral and St Cross Hospital as well as first-rate lectures by Dr Ryan Lavelle and Graham Scobie on aspects of medieval Winchester's history and archaeology. The day was written up in a little more detail by Brian in *Bulletin* 434.

### Forthcoming meetings

#### ***Saturday 24 November 2012***

Members will already have received the notice of the meeting on "The Medieval Mind" (and seen the item in *Bulletin* 435). The meeting will take place at East Horsley Village Hall, with tea and coffee from 10.30.

There will be two external speakers. Professor John Henderson of Birkbeck College will speak on aspects of Understanding Plague in Late Medieval Italy and Dr Sophie Page of University College, London, will speak on Magic and religion in the Late Middle Ages. In addition, we have three speakers from among our members: Rob Briggs on Compton Church, Brian Creese on medieval sex and marriage, and Peter Balmer on the three fourteenth century bishops of Winchester who were also Chancellors of England.

### ***Saturday 16th March 2013***

The first meeting of next year will be devoted to the pre-Conquest period, and will be on 16 March at the Surrey History Centre in Woking. Dr Stuart Brookes (UCL) has agreed to give the keynote presentation (topic to be announced), and Nathalie Cohen will talk on “Finds from the foreshore: Anglo-Saxon and medieval evidence recorded during inter-tidal survey”.

We are, however, lacking contributions from our own members and would welcome talks, which need not be long, on any topic related to the pre-Conquest period. If you would like to give a presentation please contact Brian Creese.

### ***Saturday 11th May 2013***

A day conference will be held at the Surrey History Centre, Woking, on both documentary and archaeological evidence from Surrey and Hampshire regarding “Medieval pottery and the transition to post-medieval production”. The list of expert speakers is extensive with Jacqui Pearce, Peter Tipton, Ben Jervis, Clive Orton, Phil Jones, Steve Nelson, David Barker and Graham Dawson all in the programme. Details and application form will be circulated shortly. Numbers attending will be limited to 75.

### ***Summer visit***

Early plans are being made for a visit in June to Bermondsey, an area that many forget belongs to the historic county of Surrey.

### **Abbeys and priories**

A question that has been raised by members is that of what distinguished an abbey from a priory in the Middle Ages. This apparently simple question does not have a very simple answer as the monastic orders had varying practices, so a note is attached at the end of this newsletter as **Annex 1**.

This in turn begs a further question about the nature of these various orders, a question to which the answer could occupy several books. Instead, another brief note is attached, in this case in tabular form. (**Annex 2**).

Comments and questions (addressed to Peter Balmer) on either of these notes would be welcome.

Review of recent conference at the British Museum on the Portable Antiquities Scheme

In October, Rob Briggs attended what sounds like a very interesting conference at the British Museum on “Objects and Landscape: understanding the medieval period through finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme” and has sent us a review. As this is best read in Rob’s own words, it is attached at the end of this newsletter as **Annex 3**.

It is also worth reminding members of Rob's blog — <http://surreymedieval.wordpress.com> — in which can be found examples of his extensive research on various topics including on Thursley, Tuesley, Peper Harow, Woking hundred, and the question of whether King Alfred really went to Epsom, as well as additional thoughts he has had on the articles he published in *Bulletins* 423 and 427 (this list is not exhaustive!).

### **Future lectures at the British Museum**

The British Museum runs various lectures on archaeological topics, some in galleries based on objects in the collection and some as free-standing lectures. Those of medieval interest in the near future are:

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November – free gallery talk in Room 46 on Glass in Tudor times

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November – free gallery talk in Room 1 on Alabaster sculpture in the Middle Ages

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December – free gallery talk in Room 68 on the Re-use of coins in the medieval world

All three start at 13.15.

Events from January onwards will appear on: [http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats\\_on/events\\_calendar.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/events_calendar.aspx).

### **Committee Members**

Mary Alexander

Peter Balmer

Brian Creese

David Hartley

Richard and Pamela Savage — email: [medforum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:medforum@hotmail.co.uk)