

Surrey Archaeological Society

Medieval Studies Forum

Newsletter No.12

July 2014

Welcome again to the Newsletter. Like its predecessor, this edition is principally concerned with the new Surrey Historic Environment Research Framework (SHERF), the successor to the 2006 Surrey Archaeological Research Framework (SARF). The section on Anglo-Saxons featured in the last Newsletter, and has now been improved as a result of helpful comments from Rob Briggs (who had already contributed much of the substance), Chris Constable, Mary Korndorffer, Gerry Moss, Derek Renn and Jo Richardson. Many thanks to all of them.

Later Medieval and Tudor SHERF

Annexes 1 and 2 to this Newsletter contain a draft review and proposed redrafted text for the SHERF for the period after the Norman Conquest, similar to those in the last newsletter for the earlier period. Unlike in the SARF, and in line with the period we cover in the Medieval Studies Forum, these drafts aim to take the story up to the end of the Tudor period rather than stopping at c.1540.

This period has seen very different developments in understanding Surrey's historic environment over the past decade or so than the Anglo-Saxon period (where broader approaches and some re-evaluation of already known material have contributed to the reassessment of various issues). A lot more new evidence has emerged from excavations for the post-Conquest period, and there have been substantial reports published of earlier excavations, particularly in the London part of the county. In addition, the various meetings of the Medieval Studies Forum (and the Villages Study Group) have been presented with new information, which, while much of it has not yet been published, has informed the picture we now have of medieval Surrey.

For the next stage, three main things are needed from members of the Forum. First, additional information would be helpful in various parts of the draft: information on archaeological discoveries that have been overlooked in the list in **Annex 1**; and material on those areas where the draft in **Annex 2** is at its thinnest; a tentative list of these areas might include communications, dendrochronology, pottery, the glass industry, and stone quarrying, but there may also be others. It would be helpful if any suggested additions to the text could be expressed succinctly. Secondly, comments on the judgements made in

both annexes would help to highlight where there are areas of uncertainty or contention. Thirdly, no “possible projects” have yet been included in the draft. We would not wish to repeat our earlier experience with the SARF of listing projects that stand little chance of being carried out, but if anyone has thoughts of individual or group work that addresses any of the key issues that are identified (or other matters that have been overlooked), please put suggestions forward. It may be worth reminding members that, when asked for a show of hands at our meeting last November, far more members expressed an interest in this period of medieval Surrey than in the Anglo-Saxons.

Please send comments on any of these matters to Peter Balmer.

Forthcoming meetings

The next meeting of the Medieval Studies Forum will be on Saturday, 6 December at the Education Centre at Guildford Cathedral. The topic will be “Belief & Unbelief in the Middle Ages”. The principal speakers will be Professor John Arnold from Birkbeck who will talk about medieval heresy and Professor Diane Watt from Surrey University who will talk about anchorites. As ever, that leaves plenty of opportunity for contributions from members who may want to look at more local aspects of medieval religious belief. If you would like to contribute to the meeting, please let Brian Creese know (contact details below).

We are planning a further meeting in March of next year. Details will follow in due course. Members’ attention is also drawn to the Society’s Autumn Conference at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall on 15 November. The title is: “The Research Framework: a new emphasis”. Richard Savage will talk on the medieval period.

Woking Palace excavations 2014

Bulletin 444 contained details of this year’s excavations at Woking Palace (probably the penultimate season), which will take place from 8 to 29 September. There will be a public open day on Sunday, 28 September, providing an opportunity for non-diggers to learn about new discoveries.

An unidentified object

Rosemary Turner has contributed the note to be found in **Annex 3**. Any thoughts would be most welcome.

Other conferences of interest

Lives and Landscapes of Early Medieval Wessex: A Conference in Honour of Professor Barbara Yorke on 27 September 2014 at The Stripe, King Alfred Campus, University of Winchester, SO22 4NR. Speakers include: Prof. Martin Biddle “Winchester: city of two planned towns”; Prof. Janet Nelson “Alcuin's letters to abbesses”; Dr. Robert Higham “Rougemont Castle and Late Saxon Exeter”; Prof. David Hinton “Britons, Saxons and the Breamore cemetery: did Time Team verify the dates in the Anglo- Saxon Chronicle?”; Dr. Alex Langlands “Trade routes and communications through the landscape of early medieval Wessex”; plus short papers given by Professor Barbara Yorke’s research students.

Refreshments include a full luxury buffet, tea and coffee served with pastries and biscuits, morning and afternoon. The event will be followed by a wine reception.

Price: £25 (£22 student/unwaged). Organised by the Centre for Wessex History & Archaeology (CWAHA).

For more information and to book on-line, visit the On-line Booking Service <http://store.winchester.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&catid=10&prodid=180>

The Bigger Picture: medieval Hampshire in its Regional Setting Annual

conference of the Hampshire Field Club on 8 November 2014 at the Science lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds’ College, Beereweek Road, Winchester, SO22 6RX. Speakers are: Prof David Hinton “The Anglo-Saxon Landscape and the Influence of the Church”; Dr Simon Roffey “Medieval Hospitals and the Landscape”; Dr John Hare “Settlements and Landscape in the Chalklands of Wessex 1100-1500”; Dr Mark Page “Hampshire’s Medieval Landscape in Context”.

Price £17 (non-members), £12 (members).

More information and booking form

www.fieldclub.hants.org.uk/sections/landscapeconf14.html

Next Newsletter

Work on the SHERF has meant that our intention of bringing out the Newsletter twice a year has become a little skewed, but with good fortune the next one should come out early next year. In part this depends on members making contributions, so please send Peter Balmer any material that might be of interest to members.

Committee Members

Mary Alexander

Peter Balmer

Brian Creese

David Hartley

Richard and Pamela Savage — email: medforum@hotmail.co.uk