

Surrey Archaeological Society

Medieval Studies Forum

Newsletter No. 5

December 2009

It has been some time since we last issued a formal newsletter, although we have continued to issue notes from time to time with lists of external events likely to be of interest to members. This issue will be brief and will be followed by a fuller newsletter in the New Year containing the reports of meetings held previously. The main purpose of this newsletter is to alert members to some forthcoming meetings and other issues that have arisen.

Next meeting of the Forum: 20 March 2010

We will be meeting at the Surrey History Centre in Woking for a full-day Forum on Saturday 20 March 2010, when we shall concentrate on communication between settlements in medieval times. David Harrison, author of "The Bridges of Medieval England: Transport and Society 400-1800", has kindly accepted an invitation to give the opening presentation on the development of overland communication routes in the later Saxon and Medieval periods. We shall be looking at roads, lanes, causeways, fords and bridges and the variety of documentary and archaeological evidence that can be adduced to reconstruct the communication system. It is intended that this meeting of the Forum should be more of a workshop than a Conference of set-piece presentations, with members encouraged to participate. We therefore invite members to let Peter know if they would be prepared to make a short presentation (of say 15 or 20 minutes) about the evidence for communications between settlements in their area, whether that evidence be gleaned from documentary sources or field archaeology. Work in progress would be just as welcome as more complete work. This is a forum for interchange of ideas and information so please respond **by the end of January** and also put the date of **20th March** in your diary now.

Register of Members

Requests were made to the Committee at the AGM on 14th November that when we re-issue the list of members in the New Year we include fuller details of each person's research interests, to include not only periods but also any specific geographical areas of interest. The current entries are in many cases rather sketchy and we accordingly ask you to review your entry and let Pamela have an updated list of your areas of interest **by the end of January**.

Woking Palace

Rob Poulton will be talking about the results of the first season of excavations at Woking Palace during the Society's Research Conference to be held at Ashted on **Saturday 27th February**. Finds range from 13th century buildings and artefacts through to a previously unknown design of a Valencian tile in the portion of the moat infilled in 1580. We are pleased to be able to let you know that it is now likely that sufficient funding will be available for a second season of excavation in 2010, with digging provisionally from Wednesday 14th July through to another public Open Day on **Sunday 1st August**.

Village Morphologies and the Villages Study Group

For those of you not members of the Villages Study Group we attach a copy of the letter issued to VSG members today. You will see that certain changes are proposed, with an archaeological test-pitting programme to be carried out under the aegis of the Medieval Studies Forum. We also enclose copies of Dennis' note about Ripley and his book review of Brian Roberts' latest book on village morphologies.

Committee Members

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