

Newsletter No.8

March 2012

Welcome to the newsletter. Unfortunately it has been some time since the last issue, but we hope that we will be able to issue two a year from now on. Members' contributions would be more than 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 and Brian Creese have submitted items of interest. Please send contributions to Peter Balmer at the email or postal addresses at the end of this newsletter.

Members' Day Meeting

Our last meeting in December 2011 took the form of a members' day, without a specific theme, on an experimental basis. From comments made in the margin, the day was widely judged to be a success and we will probably repeat the idea in future. A summary of the day's proceedings appeared in *Bulletin* 431.

Forthcoming meetings

Members will have seen the notice sent out on 10 February outlining plans for future meetings. Some progress has been made since then in firming up details.

Visit to Winchester 23 June 2012

The visit will comprise guided visits (in small groups) around Winchester Cathedral and St Cross Hospital. Between these visits there will be two presentations, the first by Dr Ryan Lavelle on "Winchester, Wessex and the Anglo-Saxon Kings of England" and the second by Graham Scobie, the recently retired City Archaeologist for Winchester, entitled 'Views of a Medieval Community'. This second talk describes not only the excavations at The Brooks in the 1980s but also provides historical information on the lives of those who lived there in the years around 1299.

Members attending will need to make their own arrangements for travel to and from Winchester, meeting at the Westgate Museum between 10 and 10.30am on the day. The cost will be £17.50 per person, which includes all visits and talks and afternoon tea or coffee prior to the walk to St Cross. There are plenty of places for lunching in the city.

The visit is open to all members of the Society within an upper limit of 40 people. Tickets will be issued in advance. For further details contact Brian Creese or Mandy Clements at Castle Arch.

Saturday 24 November 2012

A full day meeting will be held at East Horsley on the theme of “The Medieval Mindset”.

The two keynote speakers will be:

Dr Sophie Page (UCL) on ‘Magic and Religion in the Late Middle Ages’

Dr Isabel Davis (BBK) about concepts of Medieval Masculinity.

Contributions from members on anything related to the theme will be welcome. If you would like to give a presentation please contact Brian Creese.

Further details will be issued nearer the date.

Saturday 16 March 2013

We are planning a full day meeting, the second devoted to aspects of the Pre-Conquest period, with Dr Stuart Brookes (UCL) giving the keynote presentation.

Contributions from members on anything related to the Pre-Conquest period will be welcome. If you would like to give a presentation please contact Brian Creese.

Medieval Roads

Members will recall the interesting meeting we held on medieval roads and causeways in June 2010 and the interesting note by Rob Briggs on the Old Woking and Pyrford causeways attached to the last newsletter. Rob has now produced a final version of this work and included it in his new blog. It can be found at <http://surreymedieval.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/the-surrey-fens-causeways-2202122.pdf>.

Rob’s blog is intended to make the fruits of his own research on historical, archaeological and linguistic topics in Surrey in the medieval period available to a wider audience. In due course, he would like to open it up to research by other authors as well. For more details, see Rob’s note in *Bulletin* 431.

Woking Palace excavations 2012

With most of the funding for the fourth season of excavations now promised, we are moving forward with planning. Although in previous years the excavations have taken place in July it is expected this year that the excavations will take place in the second half of September, although the exact dates have not yet been fixed.

Members of the Society who would like to dig at Woking Palace this year are invited to register their interest with Richard Savage. Please contact Richard, giving contact details and availability and for newcomers an indication of their excavation experience.

Cambridge Conference on Moots and Meeting Places

Rob Briggs attended this conference in April 2011. He has commented that the most interesting observation relevant to Surrey was made by Dr Stuart Brookes (who has agreed to speak to us next year), who noted that, when looking at the national map of English hundreds and their boundaries, much of Surrey is dominated by a surprisingly regular, almost cellular hundredal pattern that has the strong air of deliberate imposition, possibly an innovation of the late Anglo-Saxon period, although he did not produce direct evidence to support this thesis. Rob comments that the disappearance of Eashing as a centre could be seen as supportive. This is an interesting topic, and any thoughts on Surrey hundreds would be most welcome.

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:

Wednesday 14 March at 1315 Pattern and Purpose in Anglo-Saxon and Viking Swords, gallery talk, free;

Friday 20 April at 1830 Anglo-Saxon Art: tradition and transformation, a lecture by Leslie Webster, £5.

Events further in the future will appear on: http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/events_calendar.aspx.

Book Review

Attached is a review by Brian Creese of *Abelard: a medieval life* by Michael T Clanchy, Emeritus Professor at the Institute of Historical Research. This sounds like an interesting read. Other contributions of this kind would be welcome.

Committee Members

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