

Surrey Archaeological Society

Medieval Studies Forum

Newsletter No.11

February 2014

Welcome again to the Newsletter, and apologies for it appearing a little later than planned. The delay, as those members who were at our last meeting on 30 November will be aware, is at least partly the result of work to meet our commitment to review the 2006 Surrey Archaeological Framework (SARF) for the medieval period and contribute to the new Surrey Historic Environment Research Framework (SHERF). We are now seeking members' inputs to assist with the first part of this (more below).

Forthcoming meetings

Cobham Village Hall – Saturday 15 March 2014. This meeting will include talks by Dr John Baker of Nottingham University on “Place Names and Local History”, by Raphaele Schwarzburg, a PhD student at LSE on “Mobility in Surrey in the Sixteenth century: evidence from wills”, and by Paul Sowen, member of the Forum, on mining tunnels at Merstham. The cost will be £10 (repriced from £12 as advertised in *Bulletin* 443). Details have been circulated to members.

Visit to Portsmouth – 21 June 2014. Following on from our summer visits to Winchester and Southwark in the last two years, this day out will include a visit to the new Mary Rose museum.

We are also planning a further meeting in September.

SHERF

The meeting on 15 March will need to discuss the next steps on the SHERF Review. We are currently working on the Anglo-Saxon period, but from March will need to move on to the post-Conquest part of the Middle Ages. For the earlier period, two drafts are attached as **Annexes 1 and 2** to this Newsletter. The first is a review of developments since 2006, including some reflection on why possible projects did not happen as suggested. The second is a suggested updated text to the 2006 SARF, produced with many thanks to Rob Briggs for his extensive and thoughtful inputs. (The text of the SARF can be found on the Society's website.)

There are two main areas in which these drafts are deficient. The first is in the listing in **Annex 1** of what has been discovered since 2006. Information would be gratefully received on other excavations in Surrey with Anglo-Saxon content that have been carried out in the last seven or so years, and also on published information on Surrey in the Anglo-Saxon period, based on historical or archaeological sources (including place-name and landscape studies).

The second major gap is in the draft in **Annex 2**, where no suggestions for possible projects are included yet. We do not wish to repeat our earlier experience 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.

Please send comments on these areas to Peter Balmer so that they may be taken into account at the meeting on 15 March. We would also, of course, welcome comments on other substantive matters.

Parish extensions

Annex 3 to the Newsletter is an interesting piece from Rob Briggs, addressing the important question of how the boundaries of parishes were crystallised. He would welcome comments on this topic.

Woking Palace excavations 2014

Excavations for what will probably be the penultimate season at Woking Palace will take place from 8 September to 6 October. A short notice about how to apply is published in Bulletin 443.

At the British Museum

Many members will already be aware of the forthcoming major exhibition at the British Museum – *Vikings: life and legend*. This will run from 6 March to 22 June and is the first exhibition to be held in the BM's new Sainsbury Exhibition Centre. The focus is on the period from the late eighth century to the early eleventh. Among many important items on display will be the conserved remains of one of the Viking ships from Roskilde, Denmark, the Vale of York Hoard, and the Gnezdovo silver hoard from Russia.

Next Newsletter

With apologies for getting out of the cycle of the Newsletter coming out twice a year in spring and autumn, we will need to follow up with a further edition after our March meeting to take the SHERF process forward into the later medieval period.

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