

Surrey Archaeological Society

Medieval Studies Forum

Newsletter No. 6

January 2010

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year

**Next meeting of the Forum:
12 June 2010 - please note the change of date**

Due to circumstances beyond our control the meeting planned for 20 March has had to be rescheduled and will now take place in June. We will be meeting at the Surrey History Centre in Woking for a full-day Forum on Saturday 12 June 2010, when we shall concentrate on communication between settlements in medieval times. We are fortunate that both John Blair and David Harrison have agreed to give presentations. John needs no introduction to members of the Forum. David was a contemporary of John at Oxford and in 2005 published "The Bridges of Medieval England: Transport and Society 400-1800". We shall be considering roads, lanes, causeways, fords and bridges and the variety of documentary and archaeological evidence that can be adduced to reconstruct the communication system. As notified earlier, it is intended that this meeting of the Forum should be more of a workshop than a Conference of set-piece presentations. We encourage members to let Peter Balmer 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.

Volunteers Needed! Surrey Tithe Records Project

Surrey History Centre is coordinating a cooperative project to digitise Surrey's tithe records. This will protect the originals and make their content more readily available. Volunteers are needed to transcribe the tithe apportionments for each parish onto spreadsheets.

Tithe maps and apportionment schedules produced under the Tithe Act of 1836 are a unique national resource, possibly only surpassed in value by the Domesday Book. They provide accurate data on the geography, ownership, occupation, use and economic productivity of the land. Researchers of local and regional history, archaeology, economic history and genealogy will all find them invaluable.

Very high resolution, coloured digital images of the tithe maps have recently been created, funded by the Surrey Wildlife Trust, the Surrey Archaeological Society, the Surrey History Trust and Surrey Heritage. Now, the second phase of the project, to transcribe the apportionments, is getting under way. The apportionments record the ownership and occupation of each parcel of land, what it was used for and the tithe rent-charge due.

If you would like to volunteer to help transcribe the apportionments please contact Sally Jenkinson at Surrey History Centre (sally.jenkinson@surreycc.gov.uk or 01483 518760). You will be able to work at home using digital images of the apportionments; and at the end of the project you will receive a CD containing the

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tithe map and apportionment of the parish you transcribe. Sally would also be very interested to hear from you if you have already transcribed the tithe apportionments for your parish.

If you would like to know more about the project, please contact either Sally Jenkinson at Surrey History Centre or David Young of Surrey Archaeological Society (david.young@skylark.me.uk or 020 8940 7360).

“Revisiting New Towns of the Middle Ages” Fri 21 to Sun 23 May 2010

This conference focuses on the continuing legacy of Professor Maurice Beresford's 'New Towns of the Middle Ages' and draws together both academic and general audiences of his book to reflect on the recent advances in research on the topic of medieval new towns and their planning.

Key speakers include:

- Professor Chris Dyer (University of Leicester)
- Professor Jean-Loup Abbé (University of Toulouse)
- Canon Dr Terry Slater (University of Birmingham)
- Dr Patrick Ottaway (Archaeological Consultant)

The conference will take place over the weekend of May 21-23 2010 in Winchelsea (East Sussex), one of the most renowned examples of a medieval 'new town'. Specialists will give lectures and lead discussions on how historical, geographical and archaeological research has changed our views about 'New towns of the Middle Ages', building upon Professor Beresford's important work yet at the same time challenging some of his ideas and pointing towards new research directions.

Conference speakers will explore the societies, landscapes and material cultures of medieval 'new towns', placing them in an international comparative context, as well as their own local settings. To this end, Winchelsea itself provides an important case-study, as Professor Beresford had recognized, so the conference programme includes lectures on the town's medieval archaeology, history and planning, as well as a field-visit around the impressive remains of 'New Winchelsea'.

Further information at: <http://www.winchelsea.net/conference.htm> or e-mail: was@winchelsea.net<mailto:was@winchelsea.net>

The conference registration fee is £25 (cheque payable to 'Winchelsea Archaeological Society').

To register please send your name and address details plus a cheque by April 30 2010 to:

Winchelsea Archaeological Society, c/o Firebrand House, Winchelsea, East Sussex, TN36 4EA, UK

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New Anglo-Saxon Titles and Great Deals from Oxbow Books

The following notice has been received from Oxbow Books and may be of interest to members of the Forum:

“This week we have some great Anglo-Saxon titles for you. Recently arrived is the new book on the Staffordshire Hoard from the British Museum Press. This small volume tells the story of the find, summarises the contents of the hoard and shows these spectacular pieces in full colour throughout. A snip at just 4.99 GBP and 1.00 GBP from the sale of every book will go to the Staffordshire Hoard appeal fund.

We also have some great special offers for you, including 10.00 GBP off the forthcoming *Aldhelm and Sherborne* by Katherine Barker and Nicholas Brooks; all four *Flixborough* volumes for just 20.00 GBP each and 20 percent off the recent book by Tom Williamson on *Sutton Hoo*, as well as the EAA volume on *Bloodmoor Hill*.

Another new arrival is the long-awaited *Excavations at Mucking Volume 3*, detailing the Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries, which represent the burials of over 800 individuals from the 5th to early 7th centuries. This volume includes detailed illustrated catalogues, comprehensive analysis and discussion of the burials, their relation to the excavated settlement evidence and wider context.

We also have past volumes of *Anglo-Saxon Studies in Archaeology and History* at just 5.00 GBP each.

Many offers will only run until the end of February so get your orders in today!

Hilary Schan, Oxbow Books, +44 (0)1865 241249”

Committee Members

Mary Alexander

Peter Balmer

David Hartley

Richard and Pamela Savage
e-mail: medforum@hotmail.co.uk

Phil Stevens