Battle and District Historical Society

JOURNAL

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BATTLE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1950 to encourage the knowledge and study of local history within Battle and the surrounding area, through:-

A Winter Programme of illustrated lectures by specialists in their subjects. Lectures take place in St. Mary's Church Hall in Battle at 7.30 pm on selected Fridays from October to March.

A Summer Programme of day or half day visits to places of historic or architectural interest.

An Annual Commemoration Lecture of the Battle of Hastings 1066 and participation in a service in St. Mary's Church.

A free annual Journal with reports on lectures and visits.

Free admission to the Battle Museum of Local History, and access to the Society's Library that is housed in the museum.

Membership of the Society's Research Group in the active study of all aspects of local history. No experience is necessary, new members are especially welcome.

Publication of local history guides.

The Society is affiliated to the Battlefields Trust and the Sussex Record Society.

To join the Society complete the application form on the end page.

Battle and District Historical Society

Charity No.292593

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Miss M Miller M.A.

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Chairman's Report

This last year of the Society has been one of consolidation, the Committee was strengthened by Nick Hollington who joined in October 2005.

In December 2005 the Battle Town Council sought the Society's views on the Draft Battle Conservation Appraisal prepared by the Rother District Council. It is encouraging that the Society's role in the community is recognised.

The task of arranging the 2006 Summer Visits programme was undertaken by my wife Ann and Diana Beswick for this year only. A report on the visits is included in this issue of the Journal. Although enjoyed by those attending, in view of the poor support by members of the visit's the Committee has regretfully decided to cease them in the future.

As announced at the last AGM the Society sponsored an Historical Essay Competition open to pupils age 15-16 years attending local Secondary, Community and Independent schools. Letters were sent to the schools asking that the competition be brought to their pupils attention. No replies were received from the schools and follow up telephone calls only succeeded in speaking to two head teachers. The impression from these discussions was that essay writing was not a requirement for GCSE pupils. This has been borne out as by the submission closing date only seven essays were submitted by two schools. The entrants were permitted to choose their own subject, but not withstanding this the essays received were generally disappointingly poor. The judge's decisions will be announced at the AGM in November.

July 2006 saw the launching of the " History Matters" Campaign by English Heritage, National Trust and National Heritage Fund, designed " to raise awareness of the importance of history in our lives".
On the basis of the results of the Society's competition the campaign is long overdue. The competition and the lack of response from the schools was the subject of a paragraph in the Spectator (8 July), highlighting the shortcomings of the present day teaching of history in our schools.

The Winter Lecture Programme 2006-7 promises that it will maintain the quality and variety of last year, (I particularly enjoyed the robust defence of Richard III). By popular request the next episode from the Sussex Film Archive is to be shown on the 9th February, thank you Julie Ede.

May I also thank all those who help with the refreshments and stacking the chairs away after the lectures. The bookstall originally intended to be a short term arrangement has proved to be very popular, members are invited to donate books on historical subjects to boost the Society's funds.

It is now five busy years since I was privileged to become the Society's Chairman, during that time I have enjoyed working with members of the Committee and made many new friends. However it is time for change and I have decided to resign as Chairman at the AGM in November 2006. My best wishes to the next incumbent and to the continuing success of the Society.

Malcolm Stocker
Chairman

Editor's Note

ANGLO-SAXON TERRITORIES

Prof. David Dumville 14 October 2005

Prof. Dumville opened by reminding us that Saxon England was much larger than modern England, as until the end of the ninth-century what we now know as southern Scotland was part of the Saxon kingdom of Northumbria.

The key problem when dealing with this subject is the general lack of evidence. Language evidence is a very important source - place-names and the names for concepts or institutions - however a plethora of languages (Latin, Saxon, High German, Breton, Cornish, Welsh, Celtic and Early Old Norse) make this a complex subject and a hazardous minefield, not least when searching for appropriate words in modern English. Prof. Dumville cited by way of example the common translation up to the 1960s of the Latin 'dux'. This was a term used by the Romans to denote a military leader, but for the Saxon/Mediaeval period was translated as 'duke'. In fact 'dukes' did not exist in the Saxon period, a dux being an alderman or leader of what we now call a county. Similarly 'provincia' should be translated as 'kingdom', not as the Romans used it 'province'. Thus traditional translations led to dukes ruling provinces, rather than kings ruling kingdoms, but the terms 'king' and 'kingdom' in modern English are themselves encumbered with historical baggage which changes their original meaning. The general state of scholarship in this area is, Prof. Dumville believes, "pretty appalling." because it has not received serious attention since the first world war - later historians concentrating on other aspects of Saxon society. It is in fact to a group of twenty Swedish philologists that we owe almost all of our knowledge of local government in Saxon England.

Documentary evidence is very patchy in the seventh-century (the first with written records, i.e. created as the Saxons were Christianised and learned to read and write Latin texts), but by this time we are already confronted with a series of kingdoms and political systems evolved over the preceding 150 years: Over-kingdoms such as Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia and Wessex, and sub-over-kingdoms. In total the written source material for Saxon England would only occupy a couple of shelves. Bede's 'Ecclesiastical History of the English Speaking People', published in 731, and the 'Anglo-Saxon Chronicle', originally published in 892, are the two documents which dominate this period. There are also approximately 1,500 charters giving grants of land and Rights from the seventh- to the eleventh-centuries, a quantity of royal law codes, some letters and poetry -

the dating of which is itself very contentious: Beowulf now being ascribed to the tenth-century). The Viking invasions mark a watershed in the documentary evidence, and from the late ninth-century there is very much more that was written or has survived. Another difficulty has been the attempt to bring political correctness into mediaeval history by denying a 'territorial' dimension. Such an approach is wholly at odds with human nature and explicit historical evidence. Similarly modern historians have shied away from the study of 'territories' because these, by definition, require boundaries and boundaries need to be policed/guarded. It has thus become fashionable to describe any such boundaries as 'fluid', i.e. changeable and therefore not worthy of serious study. In fact there is an abundance of evidence to prove that boundaries did matter and were fought over - Offa's Dyke being a very obvious marker.

Prof. Dumville rejected the revisionist argument of politically correct cultural assimilation in favour of the traditional concept of conquest and domination, in which the Saxons imposed their culture on the Romano-British populace or took over existing institutions. By commencing with the original Saxon invasions of Britain, he argued that we need to focus on population groups rather than land, and pointed out that on a map of Saxon England only the name 'Hwiccae' relates to an authentic population group (occupying what is now Worcestershire, south Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and western Oxfordshire). The other names traditionally given to the major kingdoms - Wessex, Mercia, East Anglia, etc. - whilst originating as population groups, are the products of a later period and have subsumed the original population groups. This suggests that there were multiple levels of 'kingship', in which 'king' is merely a term used to describe the leader of a group of people, and that over time some became more powerful whilst others disappeared, but generally coalescing in a hierarchy of kingship that is found elsewhere in the Europe of that time, but became problematic for historians in the period of Nation States: it was not until the ninth-century that Saxon kings began to hold ambitions of uniting England under a single ruler, after the Vikings had destroyed many of the rival kingdoms. When describing newly discovered peoples, writers of the sixteenth- and seventeenth-centuries often used terms such as 'petty', 'mesne' and 'major' kings. Turning to Ireland, Prof. Dumville explained that it has a considerable historical literature dating from the seventh-century which shows there to have been a minimum of 600 - 650 kingdoms which, if applied in proportion to the size of the relative land masses, means we should think in terms of there having been approximately 1,000 kingdoms in England.
But from whence did the concept of 'kingship' come? The Germanic language has no word for 'king' and so no prior tradition of it can be

found. English kingship may therefore have evolved on the boat or upon landing as being the leadership of a boat or group of boats during the initial invasion stage as they identified a military and social leader to more easily establish themselves in their new land.

In drawing his lecture to an end, Prof. Dumville gave attention to the origin of Saxon administrative units. The Tribal Hidage is a document surviving from around 1000 but originating from a seventh-century text. In it are listed numerous groups of people and the land they are assessed as holding, expressed in 'hides'. It appears to be a taxation document. Bede explains the term 'hide' as being the land required for a family and thus the Tribal Hidage records the South Saxons at 7,000 extended families. Shire (Saxon 'scir', i.e. a part of) first appears around the mid eighth-century in Wessex and describes an area rules by a petty king under a major king. It then follows the expansion of Wessex into the rest of England and its boundaries are often rivers. In the late ninth-century, Alfred the Great (NB king of Wessex, not England) devised the concept of the 'tithing', which was a unit of ten families and devised to extract pledges. 'Hundreds' - first attested as a unit of local government in the early 940s - may have evolved from the tithing, although this is far from certain and it may be considerably more ancient. However in this context the 'hundred' whose presence in modern England was preserved in the Magistrates Court system, was part of a duodecimal system and thus represented 120 hides, not 100.

Prof. Dumville closed his lecture with two final points:
Firstly, the term 'Anglo-Saxon' was invented by the Franks to distinguish those in what we know call England from those in mainland Europe. It was Alfred the Great who took the phrase out of context and described himself as 'King of the Saxons and the Angles', so king of the Anglo-Saxons, and this is where the term dates from in English history. However it only lasted until 927 when Athelstan became the first king of 'England';

Secondly, the term 'Heptarchy' with which we all grew up was invented by a Norman historian in the late eleventh-/early twelfth-centuries to explain early English government, but the concept died in 1989. By using the term, what historians lost was the complexity of Saxon government in favour of concepts of 'big government'.

Neil Clephane-Cameron

HISTORY OF BEXHILL

Julian Porter 28 October 2005

Mr Porter introduced himself by explaining that as curator of Bexhill Museum he had access to all the stored archives, objects and photographs, so his talk would be a whistle stop tour of the historic town of Bexhill.

His first slide showed a fossilised dinosaur's footprint from the beach at Bexhill, proving there were dinosaurs walking around 130 million years ago. The whole of the Weald at that time was a very low-lying freshwater environment.

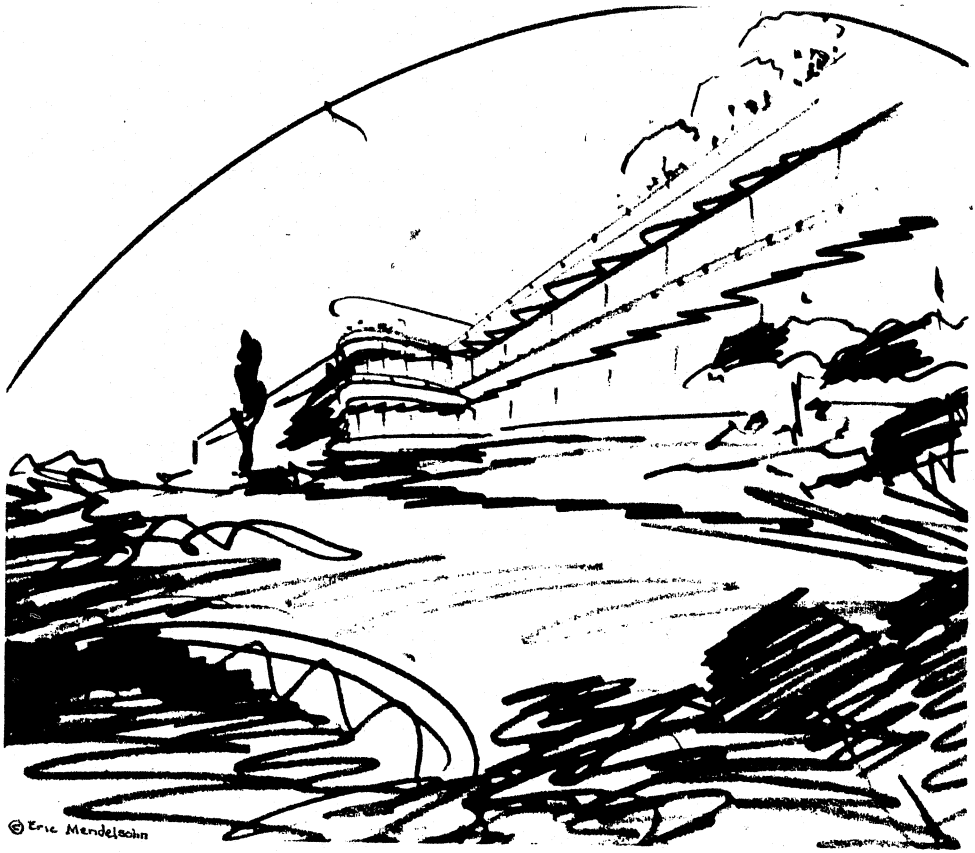
The earliest inhabitants would have been semi-nomadic wanderers, later they settled down to farming, but no finds have ascertained the exact site of the settlement, as unfortunately much of the archaeological record has been destroyed as the town developed.

The first writing relating to Bexhill was in 772 indicated by a silver penny of King Offa of Mercia. It is known King Offa took over part of the South Coast when he defeated the "people of Hastings by arms". The Hastings area probably extended from Pevensey to Rye. In order to establish himself he built a new church on the site of which it is assumed stands the present day St. Peter's the oldest church in Bexhill. This was a Minster Church and was given to Bishop Oswald whose successors became the Bishops of Chichester. In 1878,during Victorian restorations to the church the famous Bexhill Stone was uncovered. Initially it was assumed to have been a Saxon grave slab, but is now thought to be a lid of a reliquary containing holy relics. Domesday indicates that Bexhill virtually disappeared after the Conquest, with the Count of Eu given Hastings Castle and the church, the bishops ceased to be landlords of Bexhill until between 1240-50 when it was reclaimed.

Bexhill stayed in church hands until 1570 when Queen Elizabeth I gave it to her friend and supporter, Sir Thomas Sackville, the first Duke of Dorset and his descendants. The Dukes of Dorset were not resident in the area but held it to the middle of the nineteenth century.

A watercolour showed Bexhill as a small agricultural village on a hilltop, quite a distance from the sea. The population consisted mainly of farmers supported by various trades and industries, with smuggling boosting the economy. A delightful story was that Napoleon received his English

Mendelsohn and Chermayeff
De La Warr Pavilion 1933-35
Bexhill on Sea



newspapers by courtesy of the Bexhill smugglers! Because of the war with France, Bexhill gained an army camp in 1798, some two and half thousand Hanoverian soldiers encamped there in what became a garrison town, bringing in many traders. The army moved out in 1814.

A delightful slide showed a programme dated 1819 for a dinner given to commemorate the birthday of George III. The dinner was for gentlemen of the Parish in their eighties, waited on at table by gentlemen in their seventies while the church bells were rung by gentlemen in their sixties! These gentlemen were selected from the whole male population which did not exceed a thousand. It would appear to indicate many well-preserved and healthy people living in Bexhill in the pre-resort phase.

Another slide was of the Duchess of Dorset with her children including Elizabeth Sackville who in 1813 married the fifth Earl De la Warr (Mr West) who introduced the name Sackville-West. The seventh Earl, who had been chaplain to Queen Victoria, with his son decided to develop Bexhill as a spa town to encourage tourism, while the establishment of several boarding schools brought people to the town all the year round. The eighth Earl who became the town's first mayor, married Muriel Brassey, who later divorced him for his infidelities.

In 1881 the Metropolitan Convalescent Home was constructed and in 1896 a Cycling Boulevard on the seafront as part of the entertainment area. Later in 1902 it was developed for use as the first 1 kilometre Motor Car Race for which Bexhill became famous. Also that year saw the opening of a new railway station to cater for the increasing number of visitors to the town, (since the decline of town as a holiday resort the station is now is neglected and run down). In 1933 the ninth Earl and mayor persuaded the Council to hold a competition for a seafront pavilion which was won by Eric Mendelsohn a famous architect of the modern movement, with a design that was the first steel welded steel frame building in the country. Opened in 1935 the De La Warr Pavilion, the building has recently undergone a major refurbishment that included the reinstatement of the roof terrace.

Bexhill after the end of the Second World War declined as a resort as cheap travel enabled more people to take their holidays abroad. The Museum has just obtained Lottery funding which will bring the Museum of Costume and the Motor Racing Group under one roof.

Diane Braybrooke

THE HISTORY OF FIRST CLASS CRICKET AT HASTINGS AND EASTBOURNE

Chris Westcott — 11th November 2005

The talk covered a hundred years of County and Festival Cricket played at the Central Ground at Hastings and The Saffrons at Eastbourne.

The earliest reference to a cricket match being played at Eastbourne is in 1738 between eleven men of the parishes of Eastbourne and Battle, though where it is not recorded. Three matches were played at Bourne Links in 1788-9 on a site adjacent to the present day Royal Golf Course.
In 1858 the Field in the Marsh became the cricket venue, but as it was centrally situated, on the site of the present Arndale Centre, it was soon replaced in 1874 by the Devonshire Park ground. This too had a limited life, cricket ceasing in 1903 as other sports prevailed namely croquet and tennis, where the latter is still played.

Two games played in 1868 at the Field in the Marsh are of interest, one the match between a team including W.G. Grace and his brother G. F. against eighteen men of Eastbourne, and in September of the same year a match against the first Colonial Touring side comprised of Aboriginal Australians.

The Saffrons ground was laid out in 1884 on land that was part of the Duke of Devonshire's Chatsworth Estate with cricket commencing in 1886. The ground's name came from the orange yellow crocus that was originally grown on the land for the yellow saffron dye. It was an attractive ground surrounded by tall mature trees with the pitch at right angles to the town's roofscape dominated by the Town Hall. The pavilion was built in 1889 at a cost of £500, but over years it suffered many fires, the last in 1977, and also had been rebuilt and extended.

The inaugural County match was played in July 1897, in a drawn game the legendary Ranjitsinhji became the first to score a century. The first double century recorded on the ground for Sussex was made by C. B. Fry in 1901. John Arlott the well-known radio cricket commentator was introduced to county cricket at this ground in 1927 when a boy.
A game played in 1972 saw a remarkable bowling performance when Pocock for Surrey took seven wickets for two runs in eleven balls.
The speaker gave details of other memorable games played at the Saffrons the last fixture was in 2000 against Northants, which Sussex lost.

THE CENTRAL CRICKET GROUND c. 1910

Festival matches played at the end of the season were enjoyed at the Saffrons between 1907 and 1978 with matches against the touring sides from overseas including the famous 1921 Australians and the 1950 West Indians, which had to be abandoned due to a snowstorm!

Cricket was first played at Hastings in 1740 on a field on the Collier Estate. In 1785 a ground was leased for cricket on the America Ground and the early 1800s saw matches played on East Hill. In 1840 Hastings C.C. was founded. By 1860 regular matches were proving a great attraction and with this the need for a more accessible ground, this was found at Priory Meadow which became the Central Ground. The opening match was played in 1864 between teams from Hastings and St. Leonards and by the 1865 season saw the first County match between Sussex and Kent.

The ground presented a bowl-like appearance set between the tall houses of Devonshire Road to the north with other houses to the roads either side that ran downhill to Queens Road to the south. The axis of the pitch was north to south and with short boundaries that were an open invitation to batsmen to hit out resulting in many high scoring individual performances. On this ground in 1902 Sussex made their highest score of 705 for 8 dec. with Ranjitsinhji 234 not out. In more recent times Underwood playing for Kent took 9 wickets for 28 his best bowling performance.

Hastings Festival Cricket Week attracted large crowds swelled by the holidaymakers who came to see famous cricketers playing in a more adventurous way in the Festival games. Cricketers such as W.G. Grace, Ranjitsinhji, Duleepsinhji, Bradman who made his last century in England at this ground, Compton and Dexter were just some of the participants. The last County game was played in 1989 and the ground sold in 1990.

There were no slides to accompany the talk and only a few photographs laid on the speaker's table which made it difficult for those in the audience who were not already familiar with them, to visualise the grounds. The subject matter had sounded promising but regrettably too much emphasis was placed on cricket statistics.

Malcolm Stocker

MUSIC OF THE TUDOR COURTS

Shirley Carey 8 December 2005

After a short introduction setting the musical scene at a Tudor Court, the founder and conductor of the Queen's Consort Players introduced the performers to the audience. They in turn explained the instruments that they were to play, these were either blown, struck, plucked or played with a bow, the keyboard had yet to be invented.

The range of music possible within the capabilities of the available instruments was demonstrated by the Queen's Consort Players who performed a number of short pieces either as an ensemble or as a solo. These ranged from the stately dance to sprightly peasant tunes.

Music was considered as an essential part of a gentleman's education and King Henry VIII was an accomplished musician. The courts of the European rulers all had professional players and vied with each other to have the best.

The recital ended with a performance of Henry VIII 's composition Greensleeves. It was a most enjoyable evening where the musical subject spoke for itself and the atmosphere of the Tudor Court came across well. Afterwards over a glass of wine or coffee the audience were able to inspect the instruments and talk to the musicians about them and the music of the period.

Malcolm Stocker

CAST-IRON FIREBACKS

Jeremy Hodgkinson 13 January 2006

Mr Hodgkison began his lecture by saying that he was surprised to be invited to talk about firebacks as it had the potential of being an extremely dry subject but he would do his best to make it interesting.

He went on to give a brief explanation of how it was that firebacks came to be cast in the first place. Their introduction coincided with the development of the chimney which made firebacks necessary and also the introduction of cast-iron. Cast-iron was made in an iron furnace and these were introduced in to the Weald in the late C15. When the government carried out a survey in 1574 there were some 50 furnaces in the Weald. He went on to explain that firebacks were created from an open mould in front of the furnace into which molten iron was ladled.

Continuing the theme of the need for firebacks Mr Hodgkinson explained that the earliest house had open fires for heating and cooking. The smoke went out through a hole in the roof, filling the room with smoke. Later a chimneystack was inserted either in the middle of the room or built on to the side of the house. All these early fireplaces were huge but helped to divide up the house and also enabled fireplaces to be built on the first floor. They were initially built with soft bricks which were damaged by fire so having an iron plate resting against the brickwork helped to reduce damage and also reflected the heat back into the room. Ironbacks were then cast with some decoration on them. The shape and size were made to fit the fireplace and changed quite considerably over the succeeding centuries

Mr Hodgkinson then produced many illustrations to show the development and decoration of firebacks. The earlier designs were made by pushing pieces of rope or carved wood into the sand before pouring the iron. Any simple objects for example a dagger scissors and even a hand were used. Later prepared motifs were made by carving a wooden pattern using heraldic designs a lion a shield letters and numbers etc. which could be used over and over again. Today an old fireback is often used as the pattern for a replica. Royal Coats of Arms were often used which helps with dating the fireback. If you were rich enough you could order a personalised design. Historic events biblical and classical motifs were introduced from Holland


1629

Mr Hodgkinson is very interested in the provenance of fire backs. He believes he can prove manufacture in the same furnace by comparing similar designs in what he calls "specific series" To this end he photographs every fireback he comes across so that he can compare it with other illustrations in his collection A selection of motifs was available at an individual furnace which enabled them to mix and match to the requirements of an individual customer. Several of his illustrations he believes came from a Royal Works possibly in Ashdown Forest.

Several individual series have been identified by comparison eg a sunburst Rose with a crown motif, patterned rope work, wooden mouldings. Another seriesAyloffe with shields was very prolific from 1627-9 but it has still to be discovered why so many were made at this furnace. Firebacks were also made with borders and pictures.

In 1636 there was an important and famous furnace and gun foundry at Brede. The speaker believes that there was a very able carver living near this furnace making patterns for fire backs. One of the best and largest made here can be seen at Squerries Court Westerham. It shows Joseph and his famous coat and is almost a cartoon on a fireback.

Ashburnham was another important local furnace but it closed in 1813 after casting its last four firebacks. In C17 stoves were made (particularly in Holland and Germany) from cast-iron plates with rebated edges fitted together to make a box-like stove.

When asked how he became interested in firebacks Mr Hodgkinson replied that his mother had seen a fireback on a skip which she bought and then gave it to him.

He recommended a visit to Hastings Museum to see the collection of firebacks and also to Anne of Cleeves' house in Lewes which houses the Wealden Iron Group's collection

The members enjoyed the talk and did not find it a 'dry' subject as the speaker had suggested

Diane Braybrooke

CRUSADER CASTLES

Dr. Richard Eales 27 January 2006

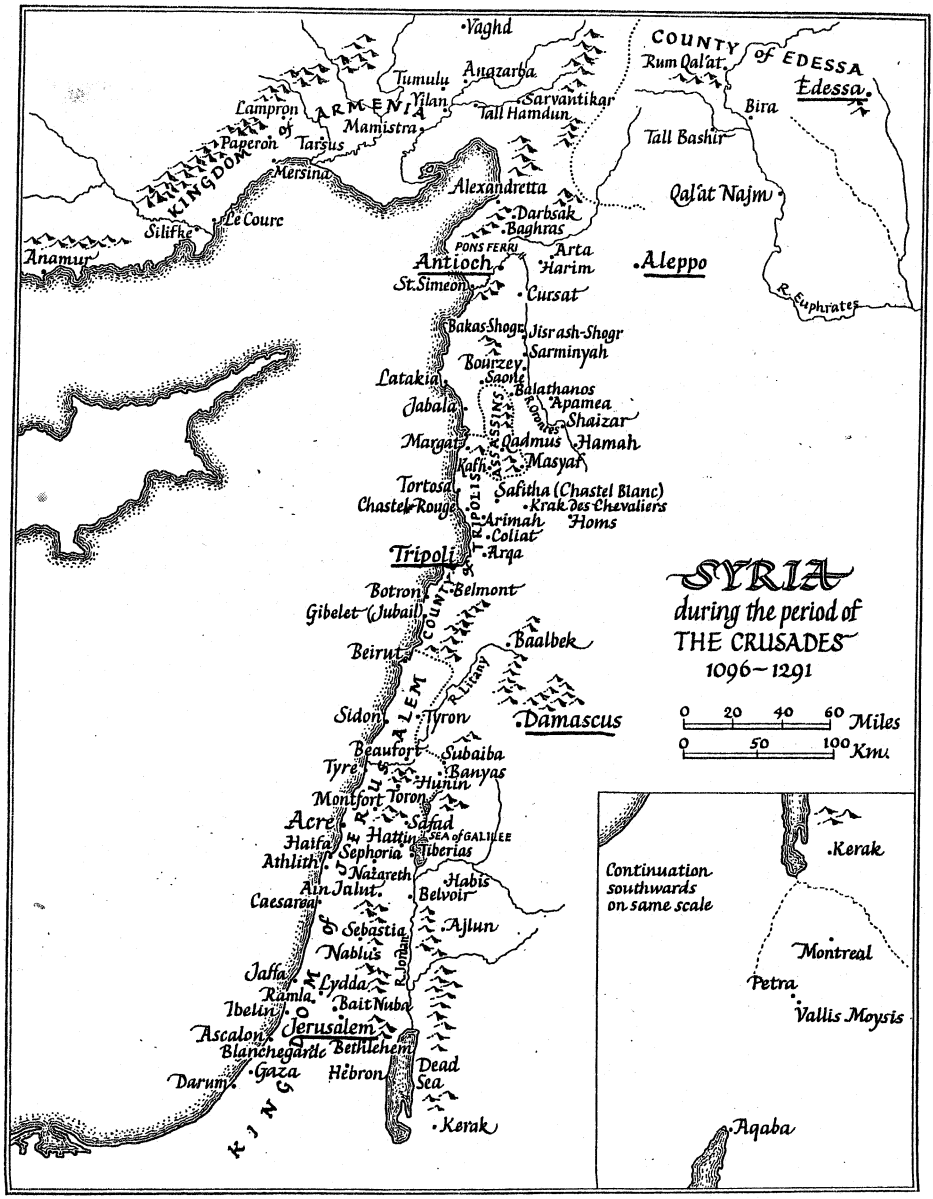
The word Crusade is derived from the cloth cross that was sewn on the surcoat worn by those who answered the call by Pope Urban II for a Crusade to recover the Holy Land from the Muslim Seljuk Turks. Drawn mainly from France and Germany the armies of the First Crusade progressed by land through the Byzantine Empire and Western Turkey into the Holy Land, capturing Antioch in 1098 and Jerusalem in 1099. On the coastal strip they established four Crusader Kingdoms of Outremer, the Kingdom of Jerusalem, the Principality of Antioch, the County of Tripolis and the County of Edessa, whose natural boundaries were the Mediterranean Sea to the West and deserts to the East and South.

The First Crusade had succeeded in marching across a thousand miles of hostile territory and defeat a more numerous Islamic enemy because of a power vacuum caused by the religious divide between the Shia and Suuni factions in the Islamic world. However they never succeeded in capturing the two most important Muslim cities, Damascus and Aleppo resulting in the borders of new Christian lands being contested and hence thickly sewn with castles.

By 1170 Saladin, a usurper, had become ruler of Egypt and Damascus reuniting the different Islamic factions. He conducted a successful military and religious campaign against the Crusaders and in the Battle of Hattin 1187 inflicted a major defeat upon them resulting in the loss of castles and the land they controlled. By now the overland route via the Byzantine Empire was closed and increasingly the Crusaders depended upon supplies and reinforcements brought in by sea conveyed, at a cost, by the Venetian and Genoese fleets.

In 1140 there was a Second Crusade, followed in 1189-92 a Third which Richard I Coeur-de- Lion took part in the unsuccessful attempt to recapture Jerusalem. After two hundred years the Muslims regained the Holy Land in 1291, though they allowed pilgrims to visit a few remaining Christian churches including the iconic Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

However the idea of Crusades continued though extended to include other causes with the Popes calling for them against the Moors in Spain, the Slavs in the Baltic States, and the Albigensian heretics in Southern France.


Vaghd
COUNTY of EDESSA
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Tarsus
Tall Bashir
Mersina
Alexandretta
Qal'at Najm
Darbsak
Baghras
Silifke
Le Coure
Anamur
PONS FERRU
Antioch
Arta
Harim
Aleppo
St. Simeon
Cursat
R. Euphrates
Bakas-Shogr
Jisr ash-Shogr
Sarminyah
Bourzey
Latakia
Saone
Balathanos
Jabala
Apamea
Shaizar
Margat
Qadmus
Hamah
Kafh
Masyaf
Tortosa
Safitha (Chastel Blanc)
Chastel Rouge
Krak des Chevaliers
Arimah
Homs
Coliat
Tripoli
Arqa
Botron
Belmont
Gibelet (Jubail)
Beirut
Baalbek
R. Litany
Sidon
Tyron
Damascus
Beaufort
Subaiba
Tyre
Banyas
Montfort
Toron
Hunin
Acre
Safad
Haifa
Hattin
SEA of GALILEE
Sephoria
Tiberias
Athlith
Nazareth
Habis
Ain Jalut
Belvoir
Caesarea
Sebastia
Ajlun
Nablus
Jaffa
Lydda
Ramla
Bait Nuba
Ibelin
Jerusalem
Ascalon
Blanchegarde
Bethlehem
Gaza
Hebron
Dead Sea
Darum
Kerak
SYRIA
during the period of
THE CRUSADES
1096–1291
0 20 40 60 Miles
0 50 100 Kms
Continuation southwards on same scale
Kerak
Montreal
Petra
Vallis Moysis
Aqaba

Turning to the Crusader castles, Dr. Eales defined them as a seriously fortified residence that projected the status and power of the lord a place for administration and entertainment in peacetime and a strategic military stronghold in times of war. During the two hundred years these castles changed hands many times and were rebuilt and extended by both Muslims and Christians as their designs show, the concentric walls and towers as at Constantinople, and the Muslim sloping talas.

Christians settlers were always in the minority and therefore the Crusaders continually suffered from a manpower shortage, castles were built to defend themselves and to hold down the Muslim majority.

The first academic studies of Crusader castles was undertaken by the French in 1870 and later in 1920 when they reconstructed the Krak des Chevaliers. The British became involved in 1880 with the Survey of Palestine and in 1909 T E Lawrence wrote his university thesis after surveying them.

Although the Crusaders had limited manpower resources they were heavily financially subsidised by Western Europe enabling them to build the most impressive castles of the Medieval world.

Dr Eales concluded by showing his own photographs of major buildings and sites in the Holy Land including;
The Dome of the Rock 700AD an enormous Islamic building far greater than any being built in the West at that time.
The Church of the Holy Sepulchre
The Crusader castles at Tripoli, Kerak and Montreal (the latter built by Baldwin I the first King of Jerusalem)
Krak des Chevaliers the greatest medieval castle with massive storage areas, a windmill on one of the towers of the massive concentric outer and inner walls; it was never taken by storm.

Malcolm Stocker

WEAVING THE UNICORN TAPESTRIES

Caron Penney 10th February 2006

Caron Penney, who is Head of the Tapestry Studio at West Dean College, began with a short history of the Unicorn Tapestries. Inventories taken at Stirling Castle in 1535 during the reign of James V show there was a set of tapestries made in Brussels depicting the 'historie of the unicorne'. This set appears to have told the same story as the magnificent medieval tapestries also made in Brussels, of exactly the same period that hang in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Historic Scotland decided to commission copies of the tapestries for the refurbishment of the castle, as it would have been in the 16th Century. It was decided to do the work at two sites, one in a specially built studio at Stirling Castle and the other at the West Dean Studios, both sites being open to viewing by the public. It will be a twelve-year project and before work could start there was lengthy and painstaking research into medieval techniques, palettes and materials. Teams visited New York to exactly match colours, which were mostly done from the back of the work where the colours had faded less. The yarns were then naturally dyed and exact cartoons of the works were produced.

For practical reasons the new tapestries are slightly smaller than the originals, so that they will fit into the proposed hanging sites. The warp setting of 8–10 per cm on the originals has been reduced to 4 per cm on the new works to take consideration of time and budget and needless to say the new works will be brighter than the much faded originals The New York tapestries were worked from the back but the new ones are done on 'stand-up' looms from the front.

The looms were set up and the weavers at West Dean started work in 2002 on the first of the tapestries called 'The Start of the Hunt' At the same time the weavers in Stirling started on 'The Unicorn in Captivity, which is the last of the series. These each took two years to complete and now hang in the castle in the Queens Presence Chamber, part of the project to refurnish the castle. In March 2005 the weavers in Stirling started work on 'The Unicorn is killed and brought to the Castle' due to be completed in 2007 and in July 2005 the West Dean weavers started on 'The Unicorn is Found' with a scheduled completion date of early 2008.

Joanne Lawrence

BOSWORTH 1485 REVISITED

Dr Michael K. Jones 24th February 2006

Dr. Jones began by stating that Bosworth and Hastings were both battles where a reigning king was killed, in both cases fighting bravely, and that following the defeat there was a change of dynasty and destiny, making a dividing line in terms of history and a sense of nationhood. After the Battle of Hastings we went from an Anglo-Saxon to an Anglo-Norman world, and 1485 resulted in a move from the Yorkist to the Tudor dynasty and it is often referred to as the end of the Middle Ages. So much of our national identity is based on the Tudor dynasty, for example if the strongly pious Yorkist's had won at Bosworth there would probably been no Reformation.

History is the story of winners and it was generally necessary to prove that the deposed ruler was a bad ruler. The stories of battles would be very different if told by the loser. Sources of the battle of Bosworth are but few and are biased towards the winner. We do know that Richard's army was just under 12,000 strong but 4000-5000 of his men were commanded by the Lord Thomas Stanley and his brother Sir William Stanley and his reserves were commanded by the Earl of Northumberland. The Stanley's loyalty was suspect and when they changed allegiance to Henry and his much smaller army, Northumberland followed, swinging the numerical advantage in Henry's favour. The story of the battle that most people know is from Shakespeare's Richard III. Shakespeare wrote it, nearly one hundred years later, as a morality play with bad Richard losing and good Henry winning with the help of God. At first the general view among the populace was that Richard was a king who had lost the confidence of his people and that his army did not know the real reasons for the fight. However Dr. Jones pointed out that although the first rumours were of a chaotic body of troops, when, after the battle, facts began to be known, it appeared that Richard had staged a dramatic ceremony before his men, processing with full royal regalia and carrying high Edward the Confessor's coronation crown 'the most precious crown of England'. The unifying power and symbolism of this action created a lasting effect even on Richard's opponents, who were moved to mention it. This act was not, however, enough to counter the Stanley brothers and the Earl of Northumberland's treachery.

However there was one important and yet curious thing. The battle took place on the 22nd August 1485 and yet Henry dated the start of his reign from the 21st of August. This was done so that any person who had joined Richard's army, obeying a summons from a lawfully anointed king, could

Portrait of Richard III, a copy made about 1513. It is thought to be the most authentic surviving portrait with no signs of any attempt to make the king appear deformed. Once owned by the Paston family.

be charged with treason after either one year, five years or fifty years, and this hung like a sword over the heads of anyone who had served under Richard. This was a vindictive and very unpopular act but was done by the otherwise pragmatic Henry because there was beginning to be a growing admiration of the very brave way that Richard had fought and died. Despite the rancour against the defeated King, who was having all this invective poured on him, people were starting to realise that he had fought and died at the end of the battle in a brave and extraordinary way and it was important to Henry to quash these ideas.

Bosworth Field was the penultimate act of the interminable Wars of the Roses, there was just one small skirmish later. Henry Tudor became Henry VII and a new era began in English history.

Joanne Lawrence

THE SUSSEX FILM PIONEERS.
Mr. Frank Gray. **10 March 2006.**

The talk was given by the Director of the South East Film and Video Archive based at Sussex University. The object of the archive is to collect and restore moving images gathered from the South of England. Moving into the digital age, its purpose now extends beyond film but, for the moment its main objective is the preservation of fragile negative.
Most of the films in its collection come from libraries,museums, town halls and private sources (usually home movies) and many of the donors have no idea what is on the film and, more particularly, what to do with them. Left alone, the films will deteriorate and disappear and this will mean the loss of images of rural life, community events , places and industries. Sometimes, the donations include film from the earliest days before the end of the Victorian age.
Interestingly, the early commercial films in England came, not from London, but Brighton, primarily because of the activities of two local pioneers, George Albert Smith (b.1864) and James Williamson (b. 1855). Brighton in the 1890's was a centre of popular entertainment, far ahead of most seaside resorts, and an obvious place for pioneer cinematography.
Smith ran a pleasure garden , St. Anne's Well Garden in Hove which specialised in outdoord theatricals and magic lantern displays. He was an expert on the subject of photography.
Williamson was also a magic lanternist but, in addition, was knowledgeable on the subject of photo chemistry. He was a Kodak agent and had founded the Hove Camera Club. He sold magic lanterns, film and chemicals for home processing. Both men would have seen and realised the potential of the pioneer showman Robert Powell who, from 1896, showed primitive moving pictures to visitors on Brighton's West Pier.
In the early days, side shows and music hall were the venues for film projection. Purpose built cinemas date only from about 1910 , once the film actually had a story to tell.
The earliest films were shown in Europe in 1895 . All were very basic,single view and lasting for only a minute, because one minute was the length of the 35mm film. The camera was used in much the same way as in everyday photography;-find a view, frame it, cap off lens and turn handle. The result was purely the image of a single scene and was usually of people dancing or, literally, falling about.
The development of film in the South East was illustrated during the talk by actual one minute films and we were able to see progress from single shot to the actual introduction of a story.
A film from 1897 showed Brighton West Pier and a crowd of holidaymakers

organised by the cameraman to walk around the camera, so that the observant viewer could spot the same person two or three times.
About the same time, a film by Smith , with the self-explanatory title "The Kiss Behind the Clothes Line" introduced a narrative plot , shortly to be followed by a three shot film "Professor with Telescope" which introduced the concept of editing.
In 1900 "Grandma's Reading Glasses" ,introduced more sophisticated sequences and cutting. Again, in the same year, "Let Me Dream Again" pioneered the technique of the "fade".
Williamson, much influenced by Smith, produced in 1900 a short picture of four shots in real time action entitled "Attack on a China Mission" based on the Boxer Rebellion. Although the ending is lost , it is recognisably a narrative film in which the audience can participate.
Finally, in 1901 the process of "telling a story" was completed by Williamson with a film called simply "Fire" in which a number of genuine Hove firemen were employed.
Smith made few films after 1900 as he was more interested in film technique and developing (unsuccessfully) a colour system. In 1903 he invented Kinemacolour , an additive system which used black and white film with a revolving wheel with alternate green and red filters. The system was franchised in 1910 but soon fell foul of William Friese-Green , another early pioneer, who believed that his own colour system , Biocolour had been pirated. The ensuing Court case went as far as the House of Lords, who ruled against Smith in 1915. Smith was bankrupted and never made another film. He died in 1959.
Williamson was more successful. He continued filming and, by 1909 was recognsed as one of the greatest film producers. In 1910 he turned to the manufacture of cinema apparatus and produced a camera that was used world wide.
Sadly, few British films of the period 1896-1900 survive, possibly only 12%, as compared to 48% of Lumieres work in Paris and 90% of Edison's in America. The reason is neglect and the lack of British official interest either in the making of film or its preservation.

David Sawyer.

1066 & A NEW BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

Prof. David Bates 24 March 2006

Prof. Bates distributed copies of extracts from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle D Manuscript and the Gesta Guillelmi, to which he would be referring. He explained that he had written a biography of William the Conqueror fifteen years ago but would not now recommend it! The basis of tonight's lecture is a classic example of what happens when one returns to a subject in the light of new interpretations and scholarship, and ways of thinking about mediaeval politics – an attempt to penetrate from the public image to the private individual and discover some of William's inner thoughts. Most books about William were written in the 1960s as a result of the 900th anniversary of the Norman Invasion and the task recently given to Prof. Bates by Yale University Press was to replace an earlier work by David Douglas, 1964, in the Eyre & Spottiswood 'English Monarchs' series.

Concentrating tonight on the period from the death of Edward the Confessor, Prof. Bates wished to focus more particularly on the political aspects of William's life and specifically how he sought to legitimise the Conquest of England, one of the great dramas and acts of political violence of the mediaeval period, when on 14 October 1066 a legitimately consecrated king was killed and thereby deposed. Such an act required all the legitimisation which the eleventh-century could provide.

William was physically strong, growing corpulent in later life. He could shoot an arrow from a bow whilst riding a horse at the gallop and was given to terrifying those around him with oaths. This is all well attested and can be taken for granted, along with his being a successful commander having never lost a major military engagement before he was about fifty years of age.

Quoting from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle extract:

> 'Archbishop Aldred and the citizens of London wanted to have Edgar Cild (the Aetheling) as king, as was his proper due; and Edwin and Morcar promised him that they would fight on his side; but always the more it ought to have been forward the more it got behind, and the worse it grew from day to day, exactly as everything came to be at the end.'

Prof. Bates pointed out that the passage goes on to explain that Archbishop Aldred and the others eventually came to terms with William

since, "God would not make things better, because of our sins." Here we have the link: Sin – Defeat – God's Judgement.

Moving further in the extract we come to William's coronation,

> 'And he promised Aldred on Christ's book and swore moreover (before Aldred would place the crown on his head) that he would rule all his people as well as the best of the kings before him, if they would be loyal to him. All the same he laid taxes on people very severely,'

and then come three further Important passages:

> 'Bishop Odo and Earl William stayed behind and built castles far and wide throughout this country, and distressed the wretched folk, and always after that it grew much worse. May the end be good when God wills!'

> 'And the king imposed a heavy tax on the wretched people,'

> 'But he made fair promises to them, and fulfilled them badly;'

These extracts show, at one level, a man who becomes king having made promises to rule justly and then doesn't. But if historians ask, as they should, "who wrote it?, why was it written?, when was it written?" then something else comes to light. The answer which was given to such questions fifty years ago (and largely ignored!) then persuasively revived in the 1990s in a new edition of the Chronicle is that this text was written in the circle of Archbishop Aldred, i.e. it was overseen by and written to justify the actions of one of the chief participants. Prof. Bates likened it to having a copy of Alastair Campbell's diary.

Prof. Bates suggested the turn-round in Aldred's behaviour is due not to his being a traitor, but rather an attempt to save the English people from sin. He gave three reasons why this may have been so:

1. William of Malmesbury writing in the early twelfth-century said that is what happened;
2. An anecdote from a twelfth-century history of the church of York records that in 1068/9 Normans started plundering Aldred's estates, whereupon he journeyed to William in Westminster and reproached him for the actions of his soldiers. William responds by prostrating himself before Aldred and begging forgiveness. Aldred replies he cannot forgive, but St Peter (patron of his church) will. This act of prostration is said to have shocked the Court, but it is not an isolated incident in William's life and ritual prostration is a common stock in mediaeval kingship;

3. Wulfstan, a former Archbishop of York, had negotiated terms upon the collapse of Aethelred the Unready and succession of Cnute. Wulfstan had also written extensively about how he achieved the settlement and integration of the Danish king into English kingship. These manuscripts were present at York and readily accessible to Aldred and his followers. 1066 was a repetition of the disasters of 1016 when the English had been redeemed and Cnute transformed ultimately into a respectable king.

We see, then, a picture of William in dialogue with the Church about good kingship, how to be transformed from a conquering king into a legitimate king – the legitimate successor of Edward the Confessor. He was concerned to authenticate/legitimise his rule in the eyes of his people and God through the authority of the Church.

Turning to the Gesta Guillelmi for the second part of his talk, Prof. Bates explained this is an account of William's life by one of his chaplains, William of Poitiers, and written in the 1070s. Described by this Society's President as 'nauseatingly sycophantic' and elsewhere compared to Joseph Goebbels, Prof. Bates nevertheless believes we can gain meaningful insights into William's personality from Poitiers' work. Quoting from Poitiers' account of the coronation, we see the English begging William to be king, but he is reluctant and there follows a lengthy account of how he is eventually persuaded to become king of the English. To the modern reader this seems incredible given the investment in time, money and life which William has made with presumably the crown of England as the objective, and there are very good reasons to regard this as rhetoric. Yet other sources tell us that humility is a necessary precursor for succession to kingship and eleventh-century accounts of contemporary coronations reveal a very slow, consultative process – that of the Emperor Conrad II in 1024 being a particularly good example. Similarly Canon Law texts, which would have been well known to Lanfranc and others around William, contain statements such as 'the people make the king'. So here is William constructing his coronation upon established principles of kingship – a further example of him as a man who follows the rules. But it is possible that the coronation is also an indication that William was facing criticism from his own side for being too eager to accept the crown early and thereby obligations toward the English, rather than imposing himself after a prolonged campaign of killing and plunder. Again looking at 1016, Cnute resisted an early coronation and elected to continue the killing.

Poitiers states, 'Many foreign knights were attracted to his cause, above all because it was a just cause but also because of his reputation for

generosity' and again, 'after the Conquest great wealth in gold and silver and other donations were given to churches in France and indeed to the Pope in Rome, but nothing was taken away from an Englishman or an English church which was not paid for or compensation given.' This contrasts markedly from the accounts given by English sources, which talk of a man who made promises which ultimately he failed to keep. However the rewards promised by William to his followers meant dispossessing the Saxon nobles and thus it is not surprising to find such different accounts. Nor is it that William necessarily delighted in, or even wanted, the violent repression which became the remembered feature of his rule in England, but rather after the invasion he found himself in too deep and the subsequent catastrophes and deaths were the consequence. This is not to suggest that he was simply the victim of circumstance, but rather an illustration of the logistical, idealistic, legal and political problems which confronted William as a result of the Great Enterprise of 1066 and out of which he was able to emerge as king of the English.

But what does all this tell us about William from the perspective of a biographer? To answer this we return to the prostration before Aldred. The last historian to mention this was Prof. A. E. Freeman, writing in the 1870s, and Prof Bates wondered whether its omission by subsequent historians was the result of a desire to portray William in a light which does not fit easily with that episode.

We thus have a picture of William as a man who played by the rules, aware of the responsibilities of legitimate kingship, who thought about politics and sought to find a route to acceptance in the eyes of God and the English people. Great statesmanship and skill in political negotiation is demonstrated by William's drawing together for his army men from the political elites of France. A pious king – all sources, both friendly and hostile, comment that he was a religious man – notably chaste in sexual behaviour and loyal to his wife. The preparations for the invasion are full of religious ceremonies, acts of atonement and conciliation such as the consecration of the nunnery of La Trinite, Caen in June 1066 when he gave one of his daughters as a novice in a sacrificial act compared with that of the biblical Jethro. Notable also for his appointments to ecclesiastical offices and a generous patron of the Church, all this is set as a paradox against his tendencies to violence. It is only when we bring together violence and piety that Prof. Bates believes we begin to see some of the other things which the biographer must take into account. He was self-evidently a great warrior; and finally an appeaser.

Neil Clephane–Cameron

SUMMER VISIT 2005 - SEPTEMBER

Our fourth and final visit for the summer season was on Thursday 15th September. We had a full day visiting Lambeth Palace and The Cabinet War Rooms. After such a long spell of fine weather, we had a very wet day, which combined with the very heavy traffic made our journey to London slow and tedious.

We were met at Lambeth Palace by Francis Neal, the Events Administrator who proved to be an excellent guide. We started the visit by watching a video made by Archbishop Carey in the year 2000, showing the varied happenings in the life of the Archbishop of Canterbury. We began our tour in the crypt which dates from the 13C has been used over the centuries for various things including being an air raid shelter in two world wars and is now used as a chapel for worship; it was here that a lamp was kept burning in the window while Terry Waite was held hostage. The rain eased long enough for us to admire the massive old fig tree as we crossed to another part of the Palace. We saw the Great Hall with its hammer beam roof, and the excellent library with its numerous books and manuscripts which provides excellent facilities for research, and where there was also an exhibition and cases containing many treasures. The Guard Room had another impressive roof dating from the middle of the 14C which contained portraits of early Archbishops. In the Picture Gallery we were shown portraits of more recent Primates, to which were added some amusing anecdotes. The last part or our tour was to visit the Lollards Tower and finally into the Chapel which was restored after the damage caused during WWII and rededicated in 1955 and where in the last few years the vaulted ceiling has been painted with scenes in the naive style which was not to the liking of many of our members.

After our tour the coach took us to the Methodist Central Hall, where we were able to have lunch and a short look around the building before we set out on foot to the Cabinet War Rooms. The underground rooms have been shown as they were during their use in WWII including the ones used by Churchill. Half way round the tour of the rooms was the newly opened Churchill Museum, which was very interesting with clever use of technology in the displays but slightly unusual in the layout, as there was no obvious route to follow. The coach left London just after 4.30pm.

Wendy Roberts

SUMMER VISITS 2006

Maidstone, River Medway and Museum of Kent Life

On a fine May morning 21 members and guests set off for Maidstone where a guided tour began in the garden of the Archbishops' Palace. Originally a C14 manor house on the bank of the river Medway it has been added to and altered many times. As it is now a Register Office we were not able to go inside. Adjacent to the Palace on the south side is the magnificent All Saints church, rebuilt as a Collegiate church in 1395 by Archbishop Courtenay. Morning and evening prayer were sung there until 1549 when the College was dissolved and All Saints then became the parish church. An impressive Kentish ragstone gateway leads to the remnants of the College, south of the church. The fourth building in the group, the Tithe Barn is unfortunately now cut off from the other three by a busy road. The ragstone barn is now used as a carriage museum which we were able to visit. Then there was just time to see the remains of a hidden mediaeval bridge before we made our way to the quay to catch a river boat

A brief but interesting journey by boat down the Medway brought us to Allington Lock where we disembarked. A short walk up the hill brought us to our objective, the Museum of Kent Life where we had lunch in the cafe. The museum is sited next to the M20 motorway, which tends to destroy the pastoral feeling, however we all enjoyed visiting the buildings of different periods which have been re-erected on the site. Afterwards we found our coach waiting in the museum's car park for the journey home

Arundel Castle Church and Town, St Mary the Virgin Sompting

Arundel Castle presents a romantic view to the south, perched above the town, with the river Arun wending its way seaward below. The home of England's premier Duke, the Duke of Norfolk, the castle is not all it seems at first glance. We first visited the part of the church of St Nicholas inside the grounds. The Fitzalan Chapel is in fact the eastern half of the C14 building, separated from the nave by a wall. The chapel contains an eclectic collection of monuments and is basically a mausoleum of the Norfolk family. A series of brasses and monuments show details of the family and also reflect changing tastes and fashions in art and design over the centuries. We then walked up to the castle which was built after the Conquest by the Earl of Shrewsbury but only the gatehouse remains from this period. The few existing mediaeval ruins were added to in the late C18 early C19 but at the end of the C19 a complete re-building in

'Windsor Castle' style was carried out by the architect C A Buckler. Photographs and details illustrate the massive work in progress and we were able to appreciate the skill and craftsmanship involved. A series of impressive furnished rooms in appropriate style are on display.

There was no time to explore the park but we did visit the kitchen gardens and enjoyed seeing the peaches growing in the glasshouses (although warned not to touch them!) We re-boarded the coach and drove a short distance to St Mary's Church in Sompting. This church is noted for its Saxon tower capped by the so-called Rhenish helm. We were welcomed by local historian Colin Excell who gave us a talk on the various features which we then explored for ourselves. On the south side of the nave was once a separate building, built by the Templars for their own use, but during the Victorian period it was connected to the church to form a south transept. Members of the church kindly provided us with tea before we set off to return home

The Globe Theatre, Southwark Cathedral and the Borough

On another fine sunny day we met our 'Blue Guide,' Sarah, at London Bridge who took us to the famous George Inn in Borough High Street for coffee. One of the few remaining examples of a coaching inn with timbered open galleries it has Dickensian connections. Our visit to the Globe Theatre on Bankside began with an exhibition describing the original theatre built in 1559 and demolished in 1644. The design of the present theatre is based on detailed research and archaeological excavations. Opened in 2000, after years of frustrating opposition it represents the fulfilment of the dream of the American actor Sam Wanamaker, although sadly he died before it was completed. He worked closely with the architect Theo Crosby whose death mask is displayed in the foyer (rather an unusual feature!)

The theatre has been constructed in a traditional manner with oak framing, lime plaster panels and a thatched roof, as a replica of an Elizabethan theatre. Open galleries encircle the stage with an area below where the 'groundlings' stand. A young actor/playwright gave us an excellent explanation of how the theatre is used to present Shakespeare's plays in the setting which they were written for. Those of us who have not yet been to a performance at the Globe are now anxious to do so.

After lunch in a riverside cafe we had time to walk across the Millennium bridge with its fabulous views of St Paul's Cathedral, or even pay a short

visit to Tate Modern, next door to the Globe. Sarah explained how in the C16 Bankside was famous as an area for pleasure seeking which included visiting inns and brothels as well as the theatre. Now that the traditional mercantile industries have moved away it has, in part at least, become a place for similar enjoyments.

We walked along the riverside, passing the famous 'Anchor' (a much rebuilt C18 inn) and a replica of Drake's 'Golden Hind' Along Clink Street and among tall warehouses lie the remains of Winchester House, the town residence of the Bishops of Winchester from C12 to C17. The great hall 80ft x 36ft was built over an undercroft in C14. At high level on the west gable above three doorways can be seen a rose window of unique design, which was only discovered when an old warehouse was demolished. The window was restored in 1972.

The cathedral of St Saviour and St Mary Overie was founded in the early C12 as the Augustinian priory of St Mary Overie. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries it was sold to the parishioners by James I. Many alterations and rebuilding took place during the C19, including demolishing the parochial chapel in 1822, and removing parts of the east end for road widening in 1830. Fortunately after that the proposed demolition of the retro-choir was halted. The ruinous nave was pulled down and the present structure by Sir A W Blomfield was built in 1890-7. However the mediaeval eastern half of the church survives and there is a splendid Tudor reredos displaying C19 statues, (replacements of the originals). Despite all these events and also the restrictions of the site, bounded by the river, London Bridge and the high level railway the interior of the present building is attractive and inviting. In 1905 the church became the Cathedral of the newly formed Southwark Diocese. There is much to see and enjoy including a chapel dedicated to John Harvard of University fame who was baptised in the church in 1607. An amusing monument commemorates Lionel Lockyer, a quack doctor and his pills. Time passed quickly and there was just time to visit the shop and refectory before returning to the coach and home

Ann Stocker and Diana Beswick

WINTER PROGRAMME 2006-7

Commemoration Lecture — Friday 13 October
The reality of royal power in late Anglo-Saxon England
Dr. R Huscroft, Westminster School

Battle of Hastings Service — Sunday 15 October
11a.m. St. Mary the Virgin Church Battle

Social Evening Lecture with wine & refreshments — Friday 27 October
The History of Broadcasting, Mr. R Mears

The Somme Battle 1916 — Friday 10 November
Mr. L Milner, Senior Historian, Research Dept
Imperial War Museum

Annual General Meeting — Friday 24 November

Violent London, riots & revolution — Friday 12 January
Prof. C Bloom, University of Middlesex

Weald & Downland Open air museum — Friday 26 January
Mr. R Harris, Director

Sussex Film Archive — Friday 9 February
Mr Frank Gray, director

The Ringlemere Dig — Friday 23 February
Mr K Parfitt

Fighting the French — Friday 9 March
Prof. K Burk, University College London

Robertson Memorial Lecture — Friday 23 March
The Reformation, the consequences for Battle
Dr T Clifford-Amos Canterbury Christ Church
University College

RESEARCH GROUP

Members of the Society may recall that at the end of 2005 I spoke at one of the regular meetings about the Research Group's proposal to have an Open Meeting, concerning the document archive material currently stored there. This was duly held on the 25th March when eleven members attended. The outcome of that meeting was a resolution by the Research Group to concentrate on preparing an up-to-date index of the documents as quickly as possible.

To this end members of the group are reviewing the documents one by one and preparing an Archive Acquisition Form for each one. The forms will be the basis of a retrieval system which we hope will fairly quickly be computerised. Members will appreciate that this process will take time if it is to be done properly, however the existing index can still be referred to.

If any member would like to help to classify one or two documents please contact David Sawyer (tel.772373) or me (tel.774841). Special knowledge of the subject addressed would of course be helpful, but is by no means essential.

Peter Moore
Coordinator, Research Group.

Robertson Memorial Lecture

The significance of the dedication of the last lecture of the winter season may be unknown to members who have recently joined the Society. It is in memory of Miss J.E.S. (Jesanne) Robertson who was tragically killed in a road accident in September 1982.

Jesanne Robertson was elected to the BDHS Committee in 1959 serving to 1976 when she became a Vice President. She was greatly involved in all aspects of the Society and was Hon. Secretary of the Museum Trust. The full obituary appeared in the 1983 Newsletter (predecessor of the Journal).

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