



Newsletter of The Friends of Clarendon Palace

'...that noble and pre-eminent mansion, the king's own, from its name and prominent position called Clarendon...' (Herbert of Bosham, 1164)

Patrons: Marc and Lucie Jonas, Clarendon Park

Honorary President: Tom Beaumont James MBE

Editor: Tom James

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Autumn 2015

Editorial

Welcome Friends to our fourth Newsletter. As the contributions below describe we have had a busy Summer: hosting visitors to the site, establishing links with external statutory bodies such as Historic England (formerly English Heritage) and with Natural England. We have greatly benefited from discussions with the Estate, on matters such as the woodland context of the site, and from the visit of the ecologist David Clements to help with conservation proposals for wildlife, woodland and the wider ecosystems in Palace Field (where the ruins are) and in the adjacent environments especially along the Inner Park Pale which runs in a rectangle north and east of the ruins. Other surveys, for example of butterflies have been conducted and there has been a bumper flowering of orchids this year. Our key activity of keeping the site looking good has continued with generous support from an increased range of volunteers. Managing the weeds across the site is now enhanced by becoming a fixture in the Estate calendar so that spraying is done in the Spring making our work less onerous. Work has begun on removing clusters of nettles. Other major achievements include the completion of a 3D Laser scan of the ruins, while the recent decision by the Environment Agency, to make freely available LiDAR materials across the country including the palace and its environs, will prove useful in the future. We are much blessed by many and varied inputs and initiatives, all of which are predicated in the existence of the Friends. We look forward to a busy Autumn and to events and diary dates already being established for 2016. Thank you Committee and thank you Friends!

TBJ

The Corner Chair

A very warm welcome to our Autumn newsletter. Once again the friends have had a very busy few months successfully raising the profile of the palace and park.

As well as interested locals and tourists, we have also welcomed academic visitors over the summer, including c.15 people taking a landscapes course at Salisbury Museum led by Bill Moffat (Wessex Archaeology) and Steve Hannath in July. They were keen to see the palace in its landscape setting and they were of course not disappointed! Last but not least, in August Mary entertained James Wright (Museum of London Archaeology) at the palace. Since 2004 James has been project leader at Kings

Clipstone, Nottinghamshire, a very similar royal house which, like Clarendon, was built in stone by Henry II, embellished by Henry III and ruinous by the early 16th century. We look forward to future collaboration, and it has been suggested that James would be a good candidate for a future Clarendon Lecture.

On which note, on Thursday 19 November we will be lucky enough, for this year's Annual Clarendon Lecture, to hear Dr Paul Seaward, director of the History of Parliament, on *'Clarendon's Clarendon: Edward Hyde (1609-74) and Wiltshire'*. Other exciting forthcoming events include a day-conference celebrating the 850th anniversary of the Assize of Clarendon planned for Saturday 17

Committee members: Mandy Richardson (Chair) A.Richardson@chi.ac.uk; Cindy Wood (Secretary) Cindy.Wood@winchester.ac.uk; Mary South (Treasurer) mary.south@btinternet.com; Tom James (Editor); Ruth Newman (Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum liaison); Bridget Chase (Committee member); Sylvia Jobson (Committee member); Rosalind Johnson (Committee member); Mike Webb (Committee member)

September 2016, at which we have been lucky enough to secure further distinguished speakers: David Carpenter, Antony Musson and Nicholas Vincent. I am sure that this will be a fitting follow up to our very successful conference for the 850th anniversary of the Constitutions of Clarendon in 2014.

Mandy Richardson

School Visit

Spring 2015, saw a local school visit when Year 5/6 pupils made good use of the palace for their local history studies. As well as having the Clarendon display boards at school for a week, they visited the site and compared it with a model showing how it looked in the 1250s. Back at school they were able to discover just how tough medieval life was by playing the medieval survival game, devised by a member of the Friends of Clarendon Palace.

If you know of other schools interested in arranging a visit either to school or on site, please contact clarendon850@btinternet.com



More shoulders to the wheels?

The Spring Newsletter Editorial reported that ARCA Archaeological Consultancy (University of Winchester), working with the Estate and the Friends had in January won the tender for the future management and conservation plan for Clarendon Palace and its inner park pale (Scheduled monument 1002996, see plan). Hurrah! A report of some 70 pages, accompanied by 270 pages of appendices and two CDs was submitted in March and after reflection was discussed at a joint meeting of the Estate, Historic England (formerly part of English Heritage) and Natural England (formerly English Nature) in mid-August attended by our Patron Lucie Jonas and Tom James (Friends).

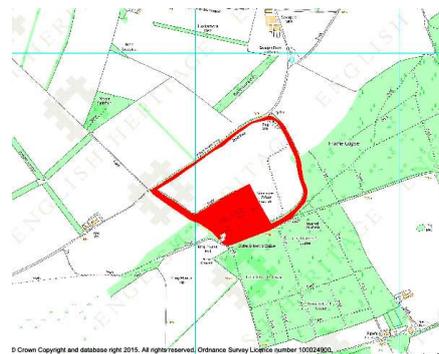
The report and appendices were prepared by Tom James (warmly supported by a range of Friends, as requested by that Spring Editorial) and Philip

Statsney (ARCA), with many specialist inputs from those familiar with all aspects of the site – the standing remains, the ecology (from bats and owls, to reptile refugia and wild flowers etc), the woodland, scrub and arable management



Nick Croxson (Heritage England) and Tom James on site July 2015.

around the site and Inner Park Pale (the boundary north and East of the fields bordering the palace



and its adjacent woodland) which are included in the Scheduled Ancient Monument Area.

Scheduled Area outlined in red, Palace Field is blocked red.

This report-production exemplifies parallel enterprises to those directly involving Friends and volunteers at the site.

The palace site, with its unique setting and ambience, is continually improved by the efforts of the Friends and the volunteers who give their time to Clarendon Palace and to raising consciousness about its past and present history and are devoted to securing its future. This on-site work is invaluable. The report reminds us that there are many issues which the Friends cannot directly address, whether because of human resources, skills in for example masonry conservation techniques, addressing landscaping and ecological issues and so on. So we are delighted that these supporters beyond the Friends, in the form of the

Estate, Historic England and Natural England, are prepared to work in parallel with us – and on occasions together with the Friends providing resources for particular enterprises at Clarendon Palace – to ensure the survival and enhancement of the ruins as well as the unique surrounding landscape. Thanks to the Friends, and watch this space!
Tom Beaumont James

3D Laser Imaging

As part of the successful management and conservation plan tender, Nathalie Barrett from ARCA, spent three crisp, clear and chilly February days carrying out the 3D Laser survey which



would form part of our submission. It's a tedious and painstaking procedure, with each 360° sweep of the laser (Nathalie is shown in the photograph setting it up) taking between

8 and 30 minutes, depending on the amount of detail required. To ensure the sweeps can be correctly located in relation to one another, each one has six ceramic spheres that it needs to locate, with three of these appearing in adjacent sweeps as well, so ensuring. One ball is in the foreground another is circled in red, on the end of the dais. The other four were placed across the other side of the Great Hall and the kitchens. Moving objects can ruin a scan, so extra helpers were needed to keep both llamas and walkers at bay, whilst the machine was running!

Now we've got the data, but no means to analyse it yet. . .
Mary South

Hunting at 14th-century Clarendon

In the spring newsletter Henry III's itinerary featured strongly in the section on medieval Christmases. Like his Angevin forebears, Henry (d.1272) spent few of his relatively long stays at Clarendon in summer, preferring to visit during the doe season (today 1 November to 29 February). But by the 14th century the main reason for royal visits seems to have been buck hunting, when the court would have been visible in the local community, as demonstrated by Edward

II's (d.1327) visit of 11-27 August 1326. The wardrobe and its staff – invariably sent ahead – first sojourned at Grimstead, arriving at the palace by 9 August, two days before the king and his entourage. Like most 14th-century monarchs, Edward and his court would wend their way towards Clarendon during the medieval fallow buck season, from late summer until Holyrood Day (15 September).

Hunting was a resplendent affair even without the court. In summer 1313 Edward II sent the royal huntsman to take venison from Clarendon, accompanied by two masters of hounds, four greyhound handlers, 24 running dogs, a scent hound and 16 greyhounds. Indeed Edward, who enlarged the park c.1317, is the only medieval king recorded as hunting there, killing '88 great bucks and 14 [young bucks]' in the park in 1326. The numbers suggest bow and stable hunting, in which archers – both female and male according to the early- 15th-century *Master of Game* - took up stations called 'trysts'. The game was then driven towards them by beaters and dog handlers, probably including the Heyras family who kept the royal hunting pack from the 12th century, perhaps at what is now Dog Kennel Farm, Alderbury.

For most of Edward III's reign (1327-77), summer visits remained the norm. Among other sojourns he was at Clarendon in July-August 1343, and from 22 August to 6 September 1334. According to legend he took the captured David II of Scotland hunting there in 1347 in which case a summer visit is also likely, and in 1349 the court was present for a month until 12 August. In this period Edward built the high-status Lodge on the Laund (probably the precursor to the present Queen Manor), made ponds, ordered extensive repairs to fencing and almost certainly laid out the extant coppices.

Richard II (d.1399) visited rarely, although in 1377, when he was 10, the palace and the Lodge on the Laund were repaired 'against the king's coming at hunting-time'. But Richard did not grow into a great hunter and like later kings (apart from Henry VI who famously went mad at Clarendon in August 1453 – the buck season!) he spent his summers elsewhere. The park as we know it today therefore grew from the preferences of earlier kings, especially Edward III who enjoyed summer hunting at Clarendon from his early twenties until well into his twilight years.

Amanda Richardson



Medieval hunting scene by Alfred Overton (1949), which decorated the nurse's dining room at Salisbury Infirmary and was transferred to Salisbury District Hospital in the 1990s.

Borenium Visitors' Book

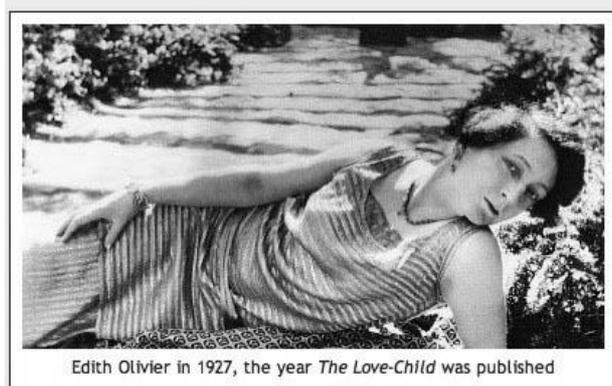
Edith Olivier (1872–1948)

Edith Olivier

(whose surname ending was pronounced 'err' in contrast to the branch of the family which produced her young cousin, Laurence who used the more Francophone pronunciation) signed the Visitors Book at Tancred Borenium's Stocksbridge Cottage, Coombe Bissett on 30 August 1937, together with the Gilbert and Maud Russell family of Mottisfont Abbey, Hampshire (see below), a merchant banker family and like Olivier patrons of the arts. Olivier was a long-time friend of the Borenium family from before Tancred began his excavations at Clarendon Palace in 1933. In 1932 she had brought the teenage composer William Walton to visit, although this was before excavations at the palace began, and it is doubtful he visited the site. She was a regular visitor, from The Daye House, Wilton, allowed to her by Reginald, 15th earl of Pembroke in the grounds of his estate, where she remained until her death. Sometimes the earl, signing himself with a firm, aristocratic hand 'Herbert' in the Visitors' Book, accompanied her. Sometimes her favourite niece Rosemary signs, who shared her house and looked after Edith until her death and became her literary executor.

The Herberts had a long association both with antiquity and Clarendon Palace, where a predecessor earl was depicted by the Antiquarian Willam Stukeley in August 1723. Wilton House, home of the Pembrokes was where Philip Sidney

was staying when he composed *Arcadia*, and he, like Edith Olivier was a great lover of that Wiltshire landscape. Sidney described Clarendon as 'that delicious parke (which was accounted the best of England)' – *Arcadia* indeed. Edith Olivier was a great lover of Wiltshire and wrote a book on the county, also publishing novels and biography. Rosemary was enthusiastic about archaeology and made efforts to join excavations abroad. In 1937, the famous floor tile kiln was being discovered at the palace site, and John Charlton the excavator had written '*De tegulis faciendis*' in the Visitors' Book just two days before Edith and the Russells visited. In her *Country Moods and Tenses* (1942, dedicated to Reginald Herbert) Edith Olivier included a section on archaeology, where she referred to the steps up from the kitchens to great hall, the pavement still in situ in the queen's apartments and 'what most excited the experts was the discovery of the only medieval tile kiln not associated with a religious house'. She characterized archaeologists in general as 'the most combative of men, and as I assume they exist in every country, I have often wished that all quarrelsome statesmen could be forcibly made into excavators. The fighting instinct would then have full scope. Swords would be beaten into spades, and spears into pickaxes, the Bren gun would give place to the sieve and the tank to the wheelbarrow. The Molotoff bread basket would drop the first two words of its name and would be occupied in carrying "finds" . . .*' Of Clarendon excavations she wrote enthusiastically, praising 'Professor and Mrs Borenium', the 'expert' John Charlton (who led the excavations on site), and the owners, the 'Christie Millers' who 'were among the keenest of the searchers'. She also noted the other excavators, University undergraduates, working men from the surrounding villages and the 'masterly diggers' the unemployed miners from South Wales.



Edith Olivier in 1927, the year *The Love-Child* was published

Edith Olivier was a woman of parts, appointed MBE for her work in establishing the Women's Land Army during the First World War, she was a staunch supporter of the Women's Institute, a devoted Anglican (there were many clergy in her family) and also became a Mayor of Wilton.

But there was another side to this outwardly conventional woman's life. She was a patron of many artists and poets of the time including Cecil Beaton (photographer), Siegfried Sassoon (author and poet), Walton already mentioned, and in particular the artist Rex Whistler, over 30 years her junior with whom she conducted a devoted yet platonic love affair for nearly twenty years, until his death in the war in 1944. She always hoped he would return. Whistler painted brilliant portraits of her, one lounging on a chaise longue in the garden of the Daye House, another seated in her armchair. Like Olivier he was a devoted lover of the landscape, and his work is found locally for example his medieval *trompe l'oeil* at nearby Mottisfont Abbey House in the Test Valley. A flavour of these Bright Young Things who she championed in the 1920s and 1930s and whose wild lives is highlighted in Evelyn Waugh's *Vile Bodies* (1930) – a book dedicated to Bryan and Diana Guinness, who also appear in the Borenius Visitors' Book..... *Tom Beaumont James*

- The Molotov Bread basket was a Russian bomb which was used on the Finns, Borenius's countrymen, in the war of 1939-40. Russia's Foreign Minister claimed they were distributing food to starving Finns, hence the Finns' ironical name for this cluster of high-explosive and incendiary bombs.

Nature Notes

Stones of the Past

When the Friends met up for the weeding day in July, they were delighted to find 32 orchids flowering on the palace site. These were Pyramidal orchids which prefer chalky soil, and by appearing in July, are one of the later flowering orchid species.

The photograph (top right) was taken by Sylvia Jobson on her camera in 2015, the painting was done by Hans Weiditz (before 1500–c.1536) for a German herbal published in 1530. Weiditz was the first true botanical artist, who produced pictures drawn directly from nature. His work is so beautiful and so accurate that it is sometimes wrongly ascribed to his colleague Albrecht Dürer.



In previous centuries orchids were known as 'stones', due to the bulbs' resemblance to testicles or 'stones' (clearly shown in Weiditz's painting). At this period such likenesses were deemed to indicate the plants' usefulness for the resembled part of the human body; the bulbs of orchids became the Viagra of their day guaranteed to stir up lustfulness. Moreover, a man could ensure a son and heir by eating the upper juicy bulb, while a woman eating the lower shrivelled bulb would only produce a girl. Nothing is said about a man eating the shrivelled bulb or vice versa.

Today the medical term orchiditis (or orchitis) refers to inflammation of the testes so gentlemen, be aware that a query about the health of your orchids, may not be referring to your horticultural prowess!

Butterflies 2015

This year's butterfly count was a bit later than in previous years, but despite the lack of Marbled Whites again, some newcomers were spotted. These included the milky ghost-like Wood White, which like many of the others found on the site, feeds on Horse Shoe Vetch. An exciting identification was the smallest British butterfly, the sooty brown Small Blue, which is becoming increasingly scarce in many parts of the British Isles, probably due to its dependency on Kidney Vetch as its food plant.

One unexpected visitor was a solitary Clouded Yellow. These are a migratory species and are usually found closer to the coastline facing the Channel, but they do have a preference for 'unimproved chalk downland' with a good supply of leguminous plants. Apparently Clarendon fitted this one's requirements.

There was also a good supply of Valerian flowering on site (not the red variety which would possibly be a garden escape) and it was interesting to note how the vetch feeders were making use of it as an alternative when the vetches were beginning to die down.

Although the numbers were not large (70 individuals altogether) a total of 13 species was recorded, an indication that the variety is slowly improving from the initial 2012 count of 8 species - it might also just be an indication that the recorder is getting better at identification! *Mary South*

Salisbury Festival walks

Friends of Clarendon Palace were delighted to be able to host two walks to the Palace site on 28 May as part of the Salisbury Festival.

With a forty-minute hike from the Duck Inn at Laverstock up to the Palace, this was one of the more energetic events in the Festival programme. Coming up the hill from Laverstock village, we could imagine how impressive the Palace buildings must have been in the Middle Ages, not only for those who had business with the king's court, but as a constant reminder of royal power and authority for the villagers living and working in the village below. Clarendon Palace did not exist in isolation, but as part of the landscape. The view is now obscured by trees, but when the Palace was occupied, deer would have been hunted in view of the Palace.

On the site itself Tom James and Mandy Richardson, expert guides for the day, put the surroundings of the site in context, and took participants on a tour of the ruins. Talking to other walkers on the day, it was clear that many lived in the Salisbury area, but not all had visited the site before. A number had known of the site for years, but had been unsure how to reach it. Feedback was encouraging; a number of walkers were making plans for a return visit, and others asked if there would be further tours at a later date.

With this feedback in mind, Friends of Clarendon Palace are considering further guided walks to the

Palace in 2016. More details in the next Newsletter. *Rosalind Johnson*



Morning walkers striding out on their way to the palace site.

Events – Past and Present

The weeding days during 2015 have been solidly attended with an average of six people each time. For such a small number the results are amazing. Below are the dates for 2016, and we hope that more members and their families can join us to keep the site looking good. We seem to be winning the war with the nettles, thanks to some strimming and spraying but more willing hands are always welcome. We are looking at the possibility of buying our own brush cutter, which would produce more regular vigorous assaults on the nettles.

Dates for Weeding 2016

Wednesday March 23

Thursday April 7

Saturday May 7

Wednesday June 8

Thursday July 9

Monday August 8

Other Events

Annual Clarendon Lecture

This lecture will follow our AGM on Thursday 19th November 2015 at the Salisbury Museum.

Dr Paul Seaward '*Clarendon's Clarendon :
Edward Hyde (1609-1674) and Wiltshire*'

6.30pm for drinks followed by talk at 7pm.

Tickets for these popular events are available through the Salisbury Museum. Order yours early as we are often sold out. We are already planning the speaker for 2016 and hope to announce the title in November.

Conference - Assizes of Clarendon – 850th Anniversary

Following on from our successful first conference celebrating the Constitutions of Clarendon, we will be offering another chance to explore how Clarendon palace influenced legal history in the medieval period and beyond, by exploring the Assizes of Clarendon, 1166. This established the ideas that have underpinned the idea of trial by jury rather than by ordeal or compurgation.

The date for this conference is 17th September 2016. We already have some significant speakers booked, including Professor Anthony Musson (Exeter University), Professor David Carpenter (KCL) and Professor Nicholas Vincent (UEA) and hope you will join us for this exciting event. More details to follow next time. *Cindy Wood*

Some Talks at the Museum you might also like

Thursday 22 October, 6.30pm

'Monarchs, Monks and Boudoirs-The History of Chocolate Drinking'.

Rosemary Pemberton

Tickets £7 Friends of the Museum, £9 non-members, including a cup of Hot Chocolate generously supplied by Whittards.

Wednesday 4 November, 6.30pm

'Detmar Blow-Edwardian Architect in Wiltshire'.

Michael Drury

Tickets £6 Friends of the Museum, £8 non-members.