

Clarendon Palace News

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

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Spring 2015

Editorial

Welcome to 2015! Among the anniversaries this year is the 750th of Simon de Montfort's 'parliament' begun in January of 1265. De Montfort was defeated and killed at Evesham in early August by Henry III's forces. So Henry's mind was elsewhere that year resulting, for Clarendon Palace, in almost a record low of fewer than five barrels of wine being delivered to the cellar in that year, compared with nearly 90 in the best years, the 1240s. With de Montfort gone, in the last years of the reign wine flowed once more, some 40 barrels delivered to Clarendon in 1270.

If Henry had much to celebrate so have the Friends. Suddenly before Christmas an approach was made by English Heritage and Natural England for competitive tenders for a project design for the future management and conservation of the palace site. Working with ARCA (Winchester University's archaeological consultancy), the Estate and Chris Gerrard at Durham, a bid was rapidly prepared over Christmas, delivered on 7 January with the good news on the 9th that we had been selected. Work is now in progress together with archaeologists, ecologists and surveyors to prepare a document which lists all previous interventions at the site and make prioritized proposals for future conservation and management in association with the Estate's countryside High Level Stewardship agreement. One area of interest for the sponsors is the future role of the Friends. ***Please let me have your views, and any offers of help in the immediate future towards the report. Deadline for submission of the report is 16 March.*** TJ.

The Corner Chair



The speakers and officers of the Friends on site 20 September 2014 (L → R, Cindy Wood, Mandy Richardson, Anne Duggan (King's College London), Michael Staunton (University College Dublin), Tom James, Mary South).

A very warm welcome to the Spring 2015 Newsletter. First of all, congratulations! The Friends have had a very busy few months, successfully raising our profile and, most importantly, that of the palace and park, due to the enthusiastic efforts mentioned in previous newsletters and to our successful speaker events, held in collaboration with the Salisbury Museum. The Annual Clarendon Lecture, delivered by David Carpenter on the Salisbury Magna Carta, sold out almost immediately! I am sure that 2015's Lecture, to be given at the Museum on **Thursday 19 November** by Paul Seaward, on Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon and his Wiltshire connections, will be similarly successful and enlightening.

Another unqualified success was the two-day conference in September commemorating the 850th Anniversary of the Constitutions of Clarendon. It attracted around 60 delegates, several of whom asked when our next conference would be! The highlights were talks from Anne Duggan, Michael Staunton, and of course Tom James; a garrulous Round Table session

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ably chaired by Cindy, and guided tours of the palace site. The buffet, provided by the Friends and largely organised by Sylvia, also deserves a mention. It was a culinary delight – probably the best conference food I have ever tasted. The speakers enhanced everyone’s knowledge by presenting somewhat contrasting views of what went on at Clarendon, and led us to question how we think about Henry II and Becket as protagonists. The event’s success concealed the usual glitches; one of the three original speakers pulling out, sudden 11th-hour mass anxiety over whether we needed an alcohol licence, a very last minute panic regarding transport to the site, and finally Professor Duggan’s expert objections to the (rather old) translation of the Constitutions printed for distribution. Another of Anne’s concerns was whether she could negotiate the palace site in her high-heels! But thankfully she was persuaded that she could manage (even having a go at water-divining in the Great Hall) - and she and Michael were blown away by their first ever visit to the setting of the events they are so familiar with. Michael highlighted the site’s remoteness in the 1160s, before even Salisbury existed, and how that may have impacted on Becket’s sense of isolation. They afterwards thanked us for our friendliness and hospitality and said they had learned a lot. So I’d like to thank all of you for making the event such a great occasion. I will sign off in the inimitable style of Anne Duggan. Saluti!

Mandy Richardson

The Borenius Visitors Book: Nikolaus Pevsner.

Borenius, a Finn partly educated in St Petersburg where he became a Russian speaker, was a cosmopolitan instigator of the excavations at Clarendon in 1933. Among those who came to see the site was Nikolaus Pevsner who, with his Russian-Jewish heritage and interests in architecture and Italian art had much in common with Borenius.

In 1933 Pevsner had been excluded by the nazis from his university lectureship at Göttingen and had taken refuge in England. Already interested in English architecture, he was awarded an Academic Assistance bursary at Birmingham University for 1934-5. He found aspects of English life and culture depressing, the drab and uniform houses of outer-Birmingham, and the Spartan conditions the English tolerated, where you could see your breath inside the house during cold weather! In 1935 he took a job as a furniture buyer in a distinguished London establishment in Wigmore Street, providing some income. He came to Clarendon during the Summer excavations. Pevsner was so poor at this stage that Borenius had to pay his return fare! Pevsner put his visit to the site to good use, publishing an article

on what he had seen in *Der Burgwart* in 1937. As many of the records of Borenius’s excavations are lost, Pevsner’s text and plan are especially valuable. He identified various spaces by name (Cellar of the King’s Wines, Queen’s Garden etc) in print, and he had a crack at phasing the medieval remains he saw. Much later, in 1966 he returned to the subject of Clarendon.



In the course of a series of radio talks he made the astonishing proposition that Clarendon should be rebuilt. Such a rebuilding at Clarendon, or at Silchester, he argued would provide a resource for the public, while providing the government with a sense of achievement, as he suggested had been the case for the Yugoslavian government in rebuilding works carried out at the Roman palace at Split (‘News from Split’ BBC Third Programme 3 March 1966. ‘...we have a lot to do at home before we can match up to the achievement at Split. Think of Clarendon ... when visiting Split as an English tourist, and you ought to be thoroughly ashamed...’). However, it is clear that nothing was further from the minds of ministers and civil servants. Pevsner’s rebuilding proposal may be seen in the light of a continental tradition of conservation and preservation. It is a commonplace that areas of continental Europe were devastated by wars in the 20th century, this encouraged rebuilding of medieval structures in a similar manner to that carried out during the 19th-century Gothic Revival in England. However, in England the William Morris tradition embodied in the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings triumphed: Clarendon remains a ruin with strong historical associations, rather than a replica.

Tom James

Brown Butterfly Bonanza

Every year at the end of July there is a national butterfly count for the public to record the numbers and species of butterflies that they see in their gardens, or nearby area. For the last three years the Friends have used this as a basis to record the butterflies at Clarendon. Needless to say this can hardly be regarded as definitive, but it’s certainly interesting and the vagaries of an English summer cause some extreme effects.

Summer 2014 gave exceptionally disappointing results, with only 59 counted whereas 2013 had produced 154! The 2014 early spring meant that the main flowering period and its related feeding time for butterflies, had shifted from mid July to mid June. When we were working on site in June there were plenty of Chalk Hill Blues and Marbled Whites, but at the end of July, coupled with a rather cool, cloudy day, the Marbled Whites had disappeared and the blues were scarce. A disappointing result as these are both considered to be indicator species for typical chalk grassland. Nonetheless we know they are there and this helps to confirm our belief that ‘the Boys’ (llamas) are doing a good job for the site.



Female Chalk Hill Blue - Clarendon July 2014



Small skipper - Clarendon July 2014

Next time any of you are on site, whether weeding, walking or wandering, see how many of the ‘brown butterflies’ you can sort out. These are mainly grass loving species and a quick brush/wander through the dried grass usually produces a cloud of

them: Meadow Browns, Ringlets and Gatekeepers, with the occasional Speckled Wood. With their camouflage colouring they disappear back into the grass as suddenly as they appeared. One which you are sure to notice is a small golden-brown butterfly that flies along in short jerky bounces - hence its name; Small Skipper. You can see from the photograph that its wings are arranged differently from other butterflies, hence its curious flight pattern. Last but by no means least of our brown butterflies is the little female chalk hill blue. Whilst her mate has upper wings the colour of a clear winter sky, hers are a dull brown, but they both share the same vibrant underside colour scheme.

In 2013 there were national concerns about the health of the small tortoiseshell butterfly (one of the commonest butterflies of my childhood) their numbers had plummeted and we recorded none at Clarendon that year. We were therefore delighted to find three sunning themselves in the Great Hall, when we did the 2014 count.

Ecology will be an aspect of the palace site which will be under consideration for the Management Plan (see Editorial) so any observations, information or photos that you may have about Clarendon, could be very useful.

If you would like more information about butterflies and/or moths, try www.butterfly-conservation.org or www.bigbutterflycount.org/about

Mary South

Annual Clarendon Lecture 2014

17 November 2014, at Salisbury Museum

Friends of Clarendon Palace and Friends of Salisbury Museum were fortunate to welcome another distinguished guest to the annual Clarendon Lecture. Professor David Carpenter, professor of medieval history at King’s College London and co-investigator on the AHRC-funded Magna Carta Project, spoke to a capacity audience on ‘The Salisbury Magna Carta in Context’. Local interest in the ‘Great Charter’ is high, since Salisbury Cathedral holds one of only four surviving copies of the Magna Carta, and will be marking its 800th anniversary with a number of events in 2015.

Of the four copies of the Magna Carta which survive – one in Salisbury, one in Lincoln, and two in the British Library - the Salisbury copy could be said to be the least authentic; it contains a far larger number of errors than the others, and the writing is not in the Chancery hand that would be expected in such a document (and which is used in the other three copies). Having teased the audience that the Salisbury copy might be inauthentic, Professor Carpenter then went on to explain that it is, almost certainly, an original 1215 copy. Mistakes were common in medieval manuscripts, the handwriting is consistent with a 1215 date, and the Salisbury copy shows evidence of having been sealed, though the king’s seal itself is now lost.

The process of compilation and agreement that went into the Magna Carta was not straightforward. David Carpenter explained that the original royal draft did not mention the Church, an omission which was corrected with the involvement of Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, during the discussions at Runnymede.

Once the text had been agreed, scribes set to work making copies; it has been estimated that it would take seven to eight hours for one scribe to copy the entire text. Unofficial copies of the Magna Carta were made, but David Carpenter argued that the four surviving copies represent four of what is likely to have been thirteen official, sealed, copies (or ‘engrossments’) sent

to the thirteen dioceses. One of the British Library copies is likely to have been from Canterbury Cathedral; this copy survived a fire in the eighteenth century, only to suffer badly at the hand of a nineteenth-century restorer, but fortunately an accurate representation is known from an engraving made shortly after the fire.

David Carpenter's translation of the Magna Carta, with extensive new commentary, is now available in the Penguin Classics series.

We would like to say an especial 'Thank you' to Rosemary Pemberton, the Museum Friends and Museum authorities, who arranged a special opening of the gallery containing Clarendon material for the evening, so enabling our speaker to see the artefacts for himself. The support of the Salisbury Museum is greatly appreciated.

Rosalind Johnson

Medieval Christmases at Clarendon

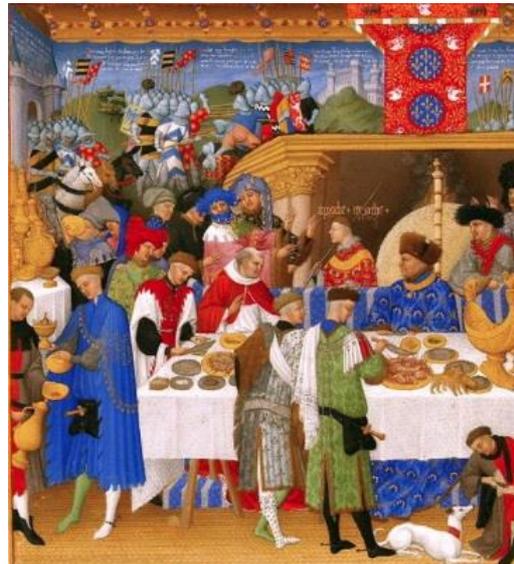
Having just emerged from the festive season my thoughts turned to Christmas at Clarendon, particularly since the Council that produced the Constitutions with which we are now so familiar took place from 13-28 January 1164, exactly 851 years ago at the time of writing. Believe it or not, this was technically within the medieval festive season, which began with the 40 days of Advent and could continue until Candlemas on 2 February. (And there was I thinking that Christmas was protracted nowadays!)

A sojourn at Clarendon around Christmas was not unusual for 12th- and 13th-century kings. It featured particularly in the festive itineraries of Henry III, although Winchester (his birthplace) was preferred around Christmas Day itself. In 1256 Henry moved from Guildford via Winchester to Clarendon, staying from 1-14 December, before returning again to Winchester. In 1264 he was at Marlborough from 16-22 November, then spent almost a month at Clarendon (24 November-20 December), afterwards moving on to Winchester. In 1268, he again stayed at Clarendon from 28 November-10 December, before repairing to Winchester via Beaulieu and Southampton. His final Christmas stay in 1269, aged 62, ran from 8-20 December, before arriving the next day at Winchester for a week. It is not too fanciful to posit that the long stays late in the reign, at a place he loved, meant comfort for the ageing king.

Henry may have inherited this pattern from his forebears, although his father, King John, travelled about so often that it is hard to identify patterns. However, he was frequently at Clarendon around Christmas, especially early in his reign, for example 7 December 1201; 30 November-3 December and 28-30 December in 1204; 31 December-1 January in 1205, and 15 and 21 December in 1206. There was a longer stay from 14-17 January in 1207, followed by 8-9

December in the same year, and he turned up on 18 Dec 1209 (before moving on to Winchester) and 13 December 1212. His final 'Christmas' visit took place on 2 December 1214. From Edward I onwards, kings were more likely to visit Clarendon in the summer months, although their surviving itineraries are less comprehensive. Yet Edward I was there on, and around, 11 December 1305, and Edward II arrived in 1317 for a two month stay from Candlemas eve. Candlemas was an important feast day on which everybody processed to Mass with a blessed candle, so we can imagine the palace and its many chapels glowing with candlelight. Edward III also authenticated letters with his privy seal at Clarendon from at least 24 November-2 December 1331, and from 18-21 November in 1333.

What happened during these visits is unknown, although if the court arrived in Advent they would have expected to fast rather than 'eat, drink and be merry'. St Nicholas's day (6 December) provided some respite since the saint traditionally brought fruit, nuts, sweetmeats and spiced cakes. This was a time when the harvest was in but animal feed was scarce, so if they were not to be kept over winter Advent was a good time for their slaughter, resulting in a glut of food over Christmas. In 1213, for example, King John ordered 24 hogsheads of wine, 200 pigs, 1,000 hens, 50 lbs of pepper, 2 lbs of saffron, 100 lbs of almonds, and 10,000 salt eels for a Christmas feast.



The Duc de Berry and the New Year gift giving probably in the hall of Poitiers Castle! (The army in the background is actually a tapestry).

And in 1377 under Richard II, a royal feast included 28 oxen and 300 sheep. The meal was probably served to large numbers of people, as at Christmas 1482, when Edward IV fed more than 2,000 each day at Eltham Palace, so we can surmise that the much larger Clarendon would have been crowded and raucous. The rich would also have eaten goose or swan, and woodcock and venison - both abundant at Clarendon.

Medieval Christmases were a time for subverting the normal order, and there were complaints even about the behaviour of royalty. At Richard III's court in 1484 there were mutterings about excessive singing and dancing, and 'vain exchanges of clothing' between Queen Anne and her similarly-sized niece Elizabeth of York. Presents were not exchanged until 1 January, but pastimes included dice-playing and backgammon, and



January 1 was The Feast of Fools (Pieter Breughel the Elder)

at Christmas 1511 Henry VIII allowed his servants to play them despite banning them during the rest of the year. Although there were no Christmas trees as we know them, trees were decorated with apples on Christmas Eve, although they remained outdoors, and the antiquarian John Stow unearthed a 1444 document describing a 'tree...set up... in the ground, nailed full of holme and ivie, for disport of Christmas to the people [of Cornhill].' He tells us that in London every house 'was decked with holme, ivie, bayes, and whatever the season... afforded to be green.' So it is likely that Clarendon became even more of a forest palace at Christmas! It is also probable that the Great Hall, and other public chambers, burned Yule logs, which were placed in the hearths of communal rooms on Christmas Eve. They were lit with the end of the previous year's log and burnt continuously for the Twelve Days of Christmas, providing much-needed light and warmth for the entire household.

Mandy Richardson

Weeding and Maintenance on the Palace Site

Over many years a dedicated band of workers has descended on the palace site a few times each year to keep the site (and especially weeds) under control. This job has been much easier in recent years as the estate now sprays the weeds for us on the site, and our dates are set for a whole season in advance.

So this year's dates are below, and September will be allocated soon. We would hope that some of the Friends (and THEIR friends) would like to join us. We work in areas, so it is very sociable, and stop for coffee, lunch and tea! It is surprising how much we can get done in between. Work varies depending on levels of

fitness as well, so no one need feel they can't contribute. Generally this is a lovely day in a beautiful setting, so please consider joining us – you would all be very welcome.

We do like to take 'before' and 'after' photos so we can pat ourselves on the back at the end of the day.



Before we started...



When we'd finished - a good day's work

Weeding Dates for 2015

Wednesday 25 March
 Thursday 9th April
 Friday 8th May
 Wednesday 10th June
 Thursday 9th July
 Monday 10th August

But please be aware that toilet facilities are non-existent and we bring our own flasks and coffee! The llamas like to join us for our breaks, and are very friendly. They can also be counted on to eat whatever weeds we pull up from the wheelbarrows – it saves them reaching down and pulling them out themselves. See you there.

Cindy Wood

Events for your Diaries

Cindy has brought us neatly into a list of dates for your diaries - so have them at the ready for the next page...

Harnham Water Meadows

Tim Tatton-Brown, one of our founder members, has put us in touch with the Harnham Water Meadows Trust and we are arranging reciprocal visits to our respective sites.

The website tells us that the Harnham Water Meadows, within the city of Salisbury, are part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and are an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). They incorporate a surviving part of the irrigation system once widespread across the Wessex chalkland, and are owned jointly by the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury Cathedral and the Harnham Water Meadows Trust. The tasks of the Trust are to manage the meadows as a single entity and to restore and operate the historic irrigation structures, all consistent with the modern requirements of an SSSI.

The management of water meadows to provide early grazing for livestock, is an ancient skill and this will be a great opportunity to understand one of the most important ways of ensuring the survival of animals like sheep and cows during the medieval period.

We have booked **16 May 2015**, for our visit and will meet at **Rose Cottage at 2pm**. See the website <http://www.salisburywatermeadows.org.uk> for a map and location.

The Trust is also providing tea and homemade cakes when we return to Rose Cottage after our walk. If we are fortunate enough to be visiting on a day when the shepherd isn't competing in various national sheepdog trials, we hope he will be able to give us a demonstration of the dogs working with the sheep.

Because the Trust relies solely on donations, we will need to know numbers for tea, so we are asking you to book in advance and are making a modest charge of £6 for FoCP and £7 for non-members. This means we can give numbers in advance and make a donation from the FoCP on the day.

Please make cheques out to Friends of Clarendon Palace and send them to Mary South, 88, Hamilton Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh SO50 6AN. Any queries please use the email: clarendon850@btinternet.com

Salisbury Festival Walks

We thought we'd try providing something for the Salisbury Festival, so there will be two walks up to the site, from the Duck Inn, on **28 May 2015** one at 11am the other at 2pm.

There are two things you can do to help with this little project, firstly let people know that it's happening, that details are in the Festival programme and that they can book through the Festival Booking Office.

Secondly we need two Friends to accompany the walkers up to the site to meet Tom and/or Mandy on

each occasion i.e. four helpers altogether. So please can you contact Mary South if you are willing and able to undertake one of the walks either 11am or 2pm. This is purely a 'sheepdog' role, you won't be expected to provide any information about the site - we'll leave that to the experts! Many thanks.

Museum talks

The Friends of Salisbury Museum have asked us to draw your attention to a couple of talks they have planned:

'Wine & History' – Talk and Wine Tasting in the King's Room. Salisbury Museum.
Wednesday March 25th 6.30pm.

'Catherine the Great, Wedgwood and the Frog Service'. Lecture by Deborah Lambert.
Wednesday May 7th 6.30 pm

Book through the Museum please.

They both sound pretty good to me!

So a complete list of dates looks like this:

Weeding dates:

Wednesday 25 March - could go on to the wine tasting at the Museum afterwards.....

Thursday 9th April

Friday 8th May

Wednesday 10th June

Thursday 9th July

Monday 10th August

Harnham Water Meadows - Saturday 16 May

Salisbury Festival Walks - Thursday 28 May, 11am and 2pm

Museum Lectures - Wednesday 25 March, Wednesday 7 May

Annual Lecture - Thursday 19 November

LAST BUT NOT LEAST!

Those of you who are annual members and joined up at the end of 2013, especially at the Annual Lecture, can I remind you that subscriptions are now due. Those of you who joined at the Conference or the 2014 Annual Lecture, are alright until November 2015 and this year's lecture. As agreed at the AGM, the subscription is still £5 single or £8 for a couple, per year.

Thanks to those that have set up standing orders, if anyone else would like to do the same thing, please contact the treasurer for our bank details and a suitable form for your bank.

Otherwise please make cheques out to Friends of Clarendon Palace and send them to Mary South, 88, Hamilton Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh SO50 6AN