

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

Editor: Tom James

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Editorial

Tom James, our Editor, has unfortunately broken his right arm/shoulder, which means he has not been able to write the editorial for this edition of the Newsletter, so the Assistant Editor will try to fill the gap instead.

As you can see from the Corner Chair comments it has been a busy summer, but we are already discussing plans for next year, and thanks to Henry III, we will have another topic to celebrate. This time it is the 800th anniversary of the Charter of the Forest, a revision of the forest law in 1217; a topic of direct relevance to Clarendon due to its impact on the surrounding landscape and parkland. The influence of the forest law on various aspects of community life, provides us with the opportunity to explore its significance with another conference in 2017. Also, as part of the programme to mark this anniversary we are looking at potential venues to exhibit our display again, next summer. If you feel that your community or school would enjoy hosting the display for a few days next year, perhaps to help mark a significant event in its own history, then please contact us via the email address: clarendon850@btinternet.com. And of course, discussions about the Annual Lecture 2017 are also under way. So another busy year ahead it seems.

Don't forget the AGM will take place in the Museum Meeting Room at 6pm before this year's Annual lecture on 17 November. We are all very sorry that Tom's accident will probably prevent him from joining us for the AGM and lecture; everyone is hoping that he will make a good recovery from this latest setback.

Mary South

The Corner Chair

A very warm welcome. Despite varying levels of adversity – wonky body parts, strange bugs (the medical type!), house movings, children's nuptials, holidays accidentally taken at the worst possible time (don't ask!) and so on - we have kept on top of much of the weeding, (as shown below) aided by enthusiastic new - and not so new – weeders. More than once they declined the pub at lunchtime, prompting very red faces after the August committee meeting overran and we were confronted by the results of their toil under the burning midday sun while we tucked into our baguettes and glasses of lager. Our special thanks go out to all of them.

I'd like also to thank everyone who helped with various events. I haven't got space to mention them all, but they will be reported on below. However one visit stands out because it was par for the course for this rather discombobulating year. We hosted the Royal Archaeological Association during their 3-day annual summer meeting in Wiltshire in July and they later reported that Clarendon - a site few of them had visited - was one of their highlights – no mean feat up against



Above, Mandy and Liz about to embark on their challenge for the day.

Left, Mission completed!

Avebury, Old Sarum and Stonehenge! We were especially glad that the visit went off so well after a surprise announcement in the Spring that they would

arrive in a 40-seater coach! Cue Mary South driving up to the park to test the state of various roads, search out possible overhanging trees and scurry around with a tape measure!

At the time of writing we are about to host our conference on the 850th anniversary of the Assize of Clarendon. I am sure that it will be as successful as previous events, particularly since most of the Friends will be baking cakes and biscuits for the coffee breaks (having failed my cookery O Level, this won't include me!). There is also the Annual Clarendon Lecture to look forward to, in which Carenza Lewis of Time Team fame will deliver a talk on Wiltshire settlements and the Black Death. See below for further details.

Mandy Richardson

Our Historic England Bid

A great landmark this year has been that in August the estate submitted the grant application, for some maintenance of the palace site, to Historic England.

As part of the process the site has been temporarily returned to the Buildings at Risk Register. Although this may initially seem to be a retrograde step, we are advised that this is necessary in order to gain the best possible outcome from Historic England.

The next step along the way will be a meeting of the major stakeholders, to be representatives of the Estate, Historic England, Natural England and the Friends. Ultimately the aim is to secure the funding and the best conditions for the continuing consolidation and preservation of the site in its landscape setting. At the present everything is looking very positive, with support and goodwill from everyone involved.

Tom James

Festival of Archaeology - 23-24 July 2016

This year we took part in the Salisbury Museum archaeology festival in the grounds of the Museum. In preparation for the event we applied to South Wiltshire for a small community grant, so that we could buy some polo shirts and a feather flag to literally 'flag up' our presence at this, and other future events. We did obtain the grant and purchased thirteen polo shirts, of assorted sizes, embroidered with our logo, together with a splendid feather flag also emblazoned with the logo. Flushed with our success we then took the decision to invest in a pop-up gazebo from our funds, which will no doubt prove to be a useful investment for the future.

The Festival weekend was very useful for us, with a great deal of interest about the palace from both local and national visitors. Saturday was a busy day with many knowledgeable historians and archaeologists plying us with questions. Sunday was quieter being mainly family groups with young children. Nonetheless, we did gain some new members and a small number of people joined us the following weekend to walk up to the palace. These were delighted with their almost exclusive access to Dr Mandy Richardson's fund of

knowledge and expertise about the site and park. Our participation in the Archaeology Festival was very worthwhile and certainly repaid the effort needed.



Sylvia and Steve manning the stand, and modelling our new shirts and flag!

Clarendon Palace on the Georgian tourist trail

Most tourists coming to Salisbury today would visit the Cathedral, probably Old Sarum and Stonehenge and perhaps Wilton House. The ruins of Clarendon Palace, reachable only on foot, would be unlikely to make it onto most modern itineraries. But before motor cars travel was different and the ruins no less accessible than many other local sights. Local printer James Easton published a *Salisbury Guide*, which detailed many local antiquities, including those in city itself, as well as Old Sarum, Stonehenge and other sights, including Clarendon Palace. It was a successful venture; by 1799 the *Salisbury Guide* had reached its twentieth edition.

The 1799 edition devoted three pages to Clarendon Palace, much of which is an account of notable events during the years when it was in use as a royal palace. The 'famous' 1164 Constitutions of Clarendon are mentioned, and the work on the Palace in the following century by Henry III. It is suggested that Henry, with his court, may have attended the dedication of Salisbury Cathedral in 1258 while staying at the Palace. Plague in London in the summer of 1357 led to Edward III spending time at Clarendon, hunting with several noble prisoners, including John, King of France and David, King of Scots.

Easton, or his contributor, appears to have been a well-read antiquarian; he references Stukely, Leland and Stowe. It is possible that the entry was written by, or from the notes of, James Harris (1709-1780), Salisbury politician and writer, who in 1769 had surveyed the site with his friend Thomas Warton. A very similar account to that of 1799 appears in an earlier, fourth, edition of 1777.

Modern scholarship would question some of what was taken to be historical fact in the late eighteenth century. Tom Beaumont James and Christopher Gerrard, in *Clarendon: Landscape of Kings* (2007: 48, 200), comment that the tale of Edward III hunting with captive kings is 'tradition'. Modern tourists would also take issue with the lack of directions to Clarendon

Palace, or to any other sight in the *Guide*. But as a potted history, the *Salisbury Guide* is a fascinating short read, and an insight into the interests of the educated Georgian tourist. *Rosalind Johnson*

Well, Well, Well! Water Provision at Clarendon

During a sweltering weeding day this summer, my mind turned to how the inhabitants of the medieval palace obtained their water. The answer lies in a feat of medieval engineering befitting a major royal palace.

The earliest reference to a well at Clarendon comes during Henry III's extensive works on the royal apartments following his marriage in 1236 to Eleanor of Provence, although calls for its 'repair' in 1237 indicate it was already old. In January that year Henry ordered a 'sufficient gin [engine/device] to be made for the king's well... to draw water with'. The contraption – almost certainly a great wheel – seems to have been in place by December, when an iron chain and bucket were ordered to be made.

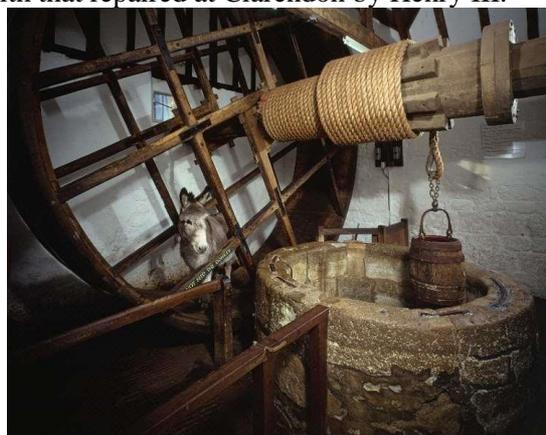
Shortly after Edward I's accession in 1273, a survey records that the c.35-year old wheel was in need of repair. It is mentioned alongside the king's hall, pantry and buttery, the king's kitchen and the king's chamber, while the Henry III documents refer to 'the well in the court'. One must therefore presume it was near the king's apartments, either in the great courtyard or a smaller court within the royal complex. As for its appearance, a 'house over the well' (apparently close to the cellar, the 'tower' and the king's and queen's garderobes) is first mentioned in 1356, when its roof was being tiled.

As well as playing its part in building works at the palace the well was cranked into action ahead of royal visits, its water no doubt used to fill the royal bathtubs for the duration of the stay. In 1317, ahead of Edward II's first visit, four men extracted rubbish and water from the 'great well in the manor', their endeavours lit by candles, and (presumably the same) four men '[extracted] water from the great well for the... works' throughout Edward's building campaign of 1317-19. Later, in 1356 three men received wages for raising water 'against the coming of the king and queen'.



Near Wuerzburg, Feb 2010

We get little idea of what these men were actually doing until 1487-8, when an unspecified number '[ran] in the Great Wheel through the Vigil of St Lawrence'. It was thus a giant treadmill similar to those used in builders' cranes. (Look carefully and you might see a familiar figure in the photo of a reconstructed example near Wuerzburg, Germany!) The well-house and donkey-driven treadmill at Carisbrooke Castle perhaps give an idea of its appearance. These date to the 16th century but almost certainly replaced earlier structures (perhaps minus the donkeys!) since the Carisbrooke well existed from c. 1150 and was thus perhaps contemporaneous with that repaired at Clarendon by Henry III.



The well wheel, Carisbrooke Castle

The palace well continued to receive attention into the final round of building works there in 1482-97 when 'hoops to bind and hang the wheel of the great well' were made. Alongside cleaning it out, new cables and buckets were a frequent expense, for example the 'bucket for the great well' purchased in London in 1377. Throughout the accounts someone descended with monotonous frequency to retrieve recalcitrant buckets, one apparently on a seat (*cathana*) in 1487-8 with 'great candles' providing the light – no doubt a deceptively glamorous description!

At least by 1445-51 another well existed at the ranger's lodge, where a carpenter 'set up right' its 'lytyl house' and mended its windlass. Work was also carried out on the 'king's well', presumably that at the palace. The final reference to a well at Clarendon was in 1603-7, when James I's surveyor noted "A ffayre well house wth a great wheele and troffes for water... standing upon the playne and used by the kep(er)s for water for there necessarye use in ther lodges as also for ther deere at sommer..." Whether this was the great well at the palace is unclear. Although it sounds more impressive than the 1445-51 'lytyl house' its location 'upon the playne' suggests otherwise.

Nature Notes

Land Snails

Whilst undertaking the annual butterfly count in July, I noticed these two snails on adjacent nettle plants; perfect examples of camouflage and polymorphism. These can both be identified as *Cepea hortensis*, or the Pale Lipped Land Snail, from the pale lip edge of the

shell, just visible in the right hand picture. As might be expected there is a dark lipped version, *Cepea nemoralis* or Grove Snail, which appears to be identical but the two versions are separate species and never hybridise. Both species exhibit enormous variation in their colouring, ranging from being completely pale cream, yellow or pinkish brown to a total glossy dark brown (apart from the pale lip in *C. hortensis*). Between these colour extremes are individuals each apparently with a unique combination of bands, ranging from very thin to very broad, sometimes with both thin and thick stripes on one individual. This provides them with a variety of camouflage patterns and the snails were the subjects of a classic study on Darwin's ideas of Natural Selection, with only the best camouflaged snails surviving predation, on different coloured backgrounds, as demonstrated by our two Clarendon snails below.



Like all slugs and snails they are hermaphrodite, and during the mating process they fertilise one another, so every individual is capable of laying eggs! During courtship prior to mating, they fire calcareous 'love darts' at one another. This has been known for several centuries, but only recently has it been shown that the mucus on the outside of the dart increases the favourable disposition of the recipient's female component towards the sperm of the donor. It is very likely that this behaviour was first observed by the ancient Greeks, and helped give rise to the myth of Cupid's arrows.



Basilica Patriacale in Aquileia

It has long been known that the Romans enjoyed a tasty snack of *escargots* and imported the big blond snails into England, whose descendants can still be found grazing on the grass of Surrey and Kent. So why have the English never adopted the habit? We have no compunction about eating their marine molluscan relatives like oysters, squid, mussels, winkles and cockles - so why not snails?

In 1885 a Mr V.M. Holt produced a little booklet entitled *Why not eat Insects?* The term 'insect' was expanded to include all manner of invertebrate organisms, and the book contained a whole series of mouth-watering recipes such as Snail or Slug soup; Stag Beetle Larvae on toast; Moths sautés in butter or if you fancy something a little sweeter, Gooseberry Cream with Sawflies. This may all seem like a joke, but it was a genuine effort to raise awareness of the abundance of free nutritious protein available to everybody and that no one need go hungry.

So why **not** eat snails? If you feel tempted, Gordon Ramsay has a recipe for our striped land snails on his website!
Mary South

Butterfly Count

During our early July weeding day, it was apparent that the numbers of butterflies were increasing from last year's low results. However, when the count was taken at the end of the month (as recommended by the Butterfly Conservation organisation) numbers had sunk to last year's levels. A similar situation had arisen then (2015) with seemingly healthy numbers in early July, but lower figures at the end of the month. It may be that Clarendon flowers tend to flower earlier and the butterflies 'peak' around the same time. It may be more accurate to carry out our count in early July in 2017.

One thing is certain, the Marbled Whites have returned to the site and the Ringlet has made a dramatic recovery this year, from a single specimen last year to fourteen this year (2016). Curiously no Speckled Woods were recorded this year, not even in the garden area of the site. The trees at the bottom of the slope usually attract a few each year and this was in a year when nationally the Speckled Wood butterfly saw an incredible increase in numbers. As an example, a half hour walk in my local Hampshire wood, produced 200 Speckled Woods and no other species at all, in August 2016.
Mary South

Borenius's Visitors Book: Kenneth Clark *Art historians in Wiltshire*

Kenneth Clark

The unique Visitors' or Guest Book compiled at Stocks Bridge Cottage the Borenius home in Coombe Bissett records a remarkable cross-section of the society in which they moved. In 1929, three years before Tancred Borenius began excavating at the ruins of Clarendon

Palace, he had purchased Stocks Bridge Cottage as a bolt hole without telephone from the family home in Kensington Gate. However, if he had hoped to be left in peace that was not to be as the steady stream of more or less eminent visitors appeared and signed the book which began in 1930 when repairs on the cottage had been completed and visiting became possible.

Borenius had since 1922 been Durning-Lawrence Professor of the History of Art at University College London. The first chair in art history in England. Now in his forties he was busy writing - his *'Thomas Becket in Art'* was published in 1929, for example; he was a founder and edited the art magazine *Apollo*, he advised Sotheby's and catalogued various key art collections as well as writing *English Medieval Painting* with Professor Tristram.

Thus he was much in demand among both the establishment and aspiring scholars. Among these was the youthful Kenneth Clark (1903-83), at that stage a relatively unknown young scholar twenty years younger than Borenius and aged 27 with one book to his name on the *Gothic Revival* (1929). Kenneth and Jane Clark were among the earliest to sign the Guest Book on April

15th 1930. Their elder son Alan, the Conservative MP and political diarist, was born in 1928.

Kenneth Clark studied art history at Oxford where he met his wife, and where Borenius had been cataloguing Christ Church's art collection. Among Clark's



early positions was fine art curator of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford before at the uniquely early age of 30 he became director of the National Gallery in 1933... the consummate national aesthete. Beyond that they had much in common with a wealthy life style in London and connections at Court where Borenius advised Queen Mary on art and antiques. Clark became Surveyor of the King's Pictures in 1934. Both Borenius and Clark had a keen interest in and knowledge of Italian painting among many other common interests. How interesting it would have been to be present at those discussions at Stocks Bridge Cottage in April 1930!

Clark's career continued to flourish, he managed the relocation of the National Gallery art works during the war, he became Slade Professor of Fine Art at Oxford from 1946 to 1950. Borenius died in 1948. Clark was always a clear and outstanding lecturer who set himself a mission of spreading knowledge of fine art widely across society. He chaired the Arts Council in the 1950s. His television series *Civilisation, western civilisation as seen through art*, was a significant success both in Europe and America. He was dubbed 'Lord Clark of Civilisation' by the satirical magazine *Private Eye*.

Borenius would have been amused to know that Clark bought Saltwood Castle in Kent in 1955, the base from which the knights who murdered Thomas Becket had set forth for Canterbury in 1170. *Tom James*

Dates for Weeding 2017

Still to be arranged

Annual Clarendon Lecture 6.30pm for 7pm

This lecture will follow our AGM on **Thursday 17th November 2016** at the Salisbury Museum.

'Revisiting settlement contraction in Wiltshire – new approaches to reconstructing the impact of the Black Death' - Carenza Lewis

Tickets for these popular events are available through the Salisbury Museum. Order yours early as we are often sold out.

Salisbury Museum Lectures in the New Year 22 February 2017 18.30 -20.00

Water meadows and Landscapes in the Five River Valleys - Hadrian Cook

8 March 2017 18.30 - 20.00

Unexpected Treasures: Archaeology and Botany - Ruth Pelling

And finally . . .

Seen in the king's chambers at the end of the day



'King Llama'

Full report of the conference attached as a supplement.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

CONFERENCE 2016

850th Anniversary of the Assize of Clarendon

Dr Amanda Richardson briefly introduced the delegates to Clarendon palace, and the Friends of Clarendon palace, who had organised the conference, before introducing the first speaker, Professor Nicholas Vincent whose paper was entitled *Henry II: Why Clarendon and Why 1166?*.

Professor Vincent started by describing the Assize as the first piece of law issued by a post-conquest king (Henry II). It exists only in two extant copies, one as an appendix to the contemporary Roger of Howden's chronicle. Early clauses cover investigation, prosecution, and judgement of murderers, robbers and thieves. Later ones deal with the position of the stranger under the law, with detention and punishment, and with those charged with administering justice. The terms of the Assize acknowledge certain already-known concepts of law, such as frankpledge and tithings, and their translation into a more recognisable modern form. Thus tithings or local police groups become juries of twelve given countrywide responsibility for enquiry into serious crime such as murder, robbery and theft under the direct authority of the king rather than local lords. Itinerant justices tried these offences at the 'eyre' and fledgling gaols were extended countrywide to provide places of detention for offenders

The Assize was described as the first proper intervention by the king in the bureaucratization of English justice and the formulation of criminal law and procedure. Anglo-Saxon kings had set aside jurisdictions in which the king had an interest and the idea of the king as justice-maker and facilitator was embedded in monarchical institutions. Indeed contemporary images reinforce kings as transmitters of God's law but the prevalence of parallel jurisdictions amongst local magnates had increased during the anarchy of the mid-12th century civil war. But the Assize was unlike modern legislation as it was not considered definitive in its written form which may explain the paucity of written copies. It is likely that the Assize and others which followed it were read out at each session of the 'eyre' as part of the 'Articles of the Eyre' sent to every county.

With the establishment of gaols, responsibility for the detention of criminals was no longer that of the locality but of the king. The king's jurisdiction for serious crime operated throughout the kingdom and powers were exercised against those denied the law's protection such as outlaws and heretics. But juries only operated as inquisitors at this stage and did not decide on guilt or innocence. Their findings would be reported to the 'King's Justices' who would use for example, trial by ordeal to establish guilt or innocence and then

pronounce sentence on offenders. All fines and forfeiture in respect of these serious crimes were passed to the king

Why was Clarendon chosen for promulgation of the Assize? It was with nearby Old Sarum an important centre of royal power and the scene of the great dispute about secular and ecclesiastical power between Becket and King Henry just two years previously. The Assize might be seen as a means of reasserting Henry's authority. There may have been other earlier such attempts but the Assize may have survived precisely because it followed the Constitutions.

John McNeill followed with a fascinating look at the other local contemporary centre of royal power Old Sarum, with a session on *The Stones of Old Sarum*. He began with an introductory lecture linked to a selection of rarely seen stonework from Salisbury Museum store demonstrating the variation of stonework decoration at Old Sarum - amazingly one piece still showed a considerable painted area intended to enhance the stonework design. Going through the main types of stone used, he pointed out that the local Hurdcott greensand, being considered of inferior quality was used for the lower foundation levels of the buildings. A feature also clearly demonstrated in the wine cellar at Clarendon. (*This also has the advantage of acting as a damp course due to the poor capillarity of the sandstone. MS.*) Delegates then had an opportunity to handle some of the stones on show before being taken into the Wiltshire gallery of the Museum to view and discuss the Old Sarum material displayed there. The use of recycled materials at both sites caused considerable interest.

This session took the programme seamlessly into the lunch break and afterward Professor Anthony Musson took up the theme again with his contribution, *The Changing Face of Local Justice*. Emphasising continuity with the past he pointed out that gaols which had existed and been used previously now had more general application, particularly to house political prisoners and those awaiting trial, and so underpinned the new regime. The general 'eyre' too was already in operation for breaches of the King's peace, homicide and the relief of marriage portions, and the king's Exchequer officials already sat in some shire courts. Sworn juries were already in force under Henry I for reporting on wrongdoing and for providing oath-helpers where the accused sought exculpation by oath from them to secure his innocence.

The difference post- Assize, during the period of stability and reform in law and administration which followed, was that local shire and hundred courts under the auspices of the local lord lost out as sheriffs appeared to be willing to accept the shift of power from local lord and its centralisation on the king. A new breed of purely judicial official emerged in the shape of the 'Royal Justice', a professional who received Roman and Canon law training with some common law. Also

of increased importance were the sheriffs who could accept or reject presentments of juries and pass them for hearing before the justices. Their role in co-ordinating personnel across shire boundaries increased in significance. There was now advantage and status to be had from living within the rule of law as opposed to the insecurity of life without it. The canon law concept of 'reputation' was to be preferred over 'notoriety'. But at this stage the offences covered were limited, and with their inchoate offences of e.g. aiding and abetting, were undefined. Private, local jurisdictions remained for other criminal offences and also for the backlog of an overworked and slow Assize court. However the success of the system was demonstrated by its extension e.g. Assize of Sheriffs, 1170, Assize of Arms 1181, as well as the institution of coroner in 1194 and the shift of local cases to JPs in the 14th century. Royal courts were equipped to show mercy and also to provide professionals to arbitrate between parties.

But it became increasingly clear that a royal 'Writ of Right' was also needed to deal with the inequity of local civil jurisdictions when dealing with family and inheritance matters, and these soon followed the Assize.

Dr Cindy Wood acting as chair during the afternoon, then invited everyone to continue the many stimulating discussions over tea and cakes provided by the Friends themselves. (*Sylvia Jobson's lemon drizzle cake was the hit of afternoon tea, with one delegate sheepishly returning for a third slice! But who was counting? MS*)

Thus, suitable fortified Professor David Carpenter took up this latter theme in his paper *From the Assize of Clarendon to Magna Carta: is there a link?* examining the relationship between the Assize and the 1215 Magna Carta. The parallel procedures for civil litigation proved to be of great interest to the barons who wanted their coverage and availability to be more universal. At least one of these civil writs was probably introduced at Clarendon but they do not appear in the extant texts of the Assize. Thus while it may be thought that the Magna Carta represented a retreat of royal justice (and therefore royal power) in favour of an increase in local, baronial power, in fact the barons in 1215 recognised and appreciated the establishment of a nation-wide rule of law and wanted its extension.

The differing nature of the documents was emphasised by the choice of their places of inauguration: Clarendon a great royal palace reflecting royal power and Runnymede a liminal and ancient meeting site reflective of neutrality and compromise. In the Assize Henry II took exclusive power over the exercise of the frankpledge to prevent its private use, and gave the sheriffs power of entry everywhere in pursuit of miscreants. By 1215 it was clear that such exclusive use of royal power had broken down and that John had sold or given the privilege to his barons. But also by 1215, it was accepted that those 'pleas of the crown' established by the Assize would remain in the crown's jurisdiction. Thus Magna Carta does not touch

forfeiture of a convicted murderer or outlaw's property, which remained a big source of crown revenue.

Conversely, there remained a number of liberties where the king's writ did not run. But it was the post-Assize development of the common (civil) law which had become the most popular part of Henry's reforms by 1215, especially the right of all free men and women to writs concerning property and inheritance and the right to bestow livings. These gave access to cheap and (relatively) impartial justice.

After a brief final summing up the conference closed with many thanks to all those concerned and delegates departed feeling stimulated and enlightened, with many discussions still continuing. *Bridget Chase*

Postscript

James Wright, who visited Clarendon two years ago, has recently published his book on King's Clipstone palace in Sherwood Forest. Entitled *A Palace for our Kings*, it makes several comparisons with Clarendon. His work there has now come to a close, and he is now working at Tattershall Castle in conjunction with the National Trust. For more information about the book contact James at jpwareology@hotmail.co.uk