



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)

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Editorial

Welcome to 2017! When the pheasants fly off into the sunset after February 1st, the stage will be set again for volunteer activity on site. Planning for our monthly maintenance and weeding sessions (dates below) is under way. We also hope to be working with Nick Croxson of Heritage England and the Estate to begin the project of reassigning spoil to preserve crumbling masonry etc. An exciting prospect aimed at making our volunteering more manageable in the future. Other events in the year include a celebration of Tancred Borenius (see below) in London in late March, taking part in the Salisbury Museum Festival of Archaeology again, and of course the Annual lecture in November. Looking forward very much to being back on site!

Tom James

The Corner Chair

Welcome to what, unbelievably, is our seventh biannual newsletter. We have come a long way since the first edition in Spring 2014, and now even have our own 'uniform' (T-shirts), gazebo and feather flag, which all help to raise our profile at local and regional events. The intervening years have been full of ups and downs, among which we heard with great sadness in January this year that Colin Anderson, one of our most dedicated volunteers at the site, had died (dedication below). Colin would have been pleased at the news – received in the same month - that the work he and others did at the palace site has paid off. That is, Historic England has made an offer to the estate for a two-stage grant over three years. This will cover project development followed by repair and conservation work. But in a classic case of ups and downs we have since heard that due to the exceptional circumstances of Clarendon being both a Scheduled Ancient Monument and also a Listed Building the tender must have an archaeologist and also a historic architect. This therefore requires a further tendering process, which we await with fingers crossed. A unique site indeed!

Of course we haven't been at the palace site now since last summer, but things have gone on behind the scenes. The successful conference on the Assize of Clarendon last September, and especially the hugely popular Annual Clarendon Lecture delivered by Carezza Lewis in November have raised our profile in the region. Not only that, but the blue plaque unveiling

to Tancred Borenius due to take place in London in March 2017, followed by a seminar at the Finnish Ambassador's residence, should raise the Palace's profile at both national and international levels. This can only bode well for the future. *Mandy Richardson*

Celebration of Tancred Borenius



Professor Tancred Borenius (1885-1948) initiated and oversaw the excavations at Clarendon Palace between 1933 and 1939 when war brought the project to an end. A Finn by birth with a base locally at Coombe Bisset, Borenius was a leading art historian and the first professor of the history of art in England, at University College London. He had read about the medieval wall paintings at Clarendon Palace which attracted him to the site

not least because of the connection with Archbishop Becket in 1164. He had published a book on Thomas Becket in *Art* in 1929. He was also a noted diplomat, adviser to Queen Mary and to Sothebys on antiques and paintings and has been credited with persuading Rudolf Hess to fly to England in 1941 among much else.

On Thursday afternoon 23 March 2017 the Finnish Ambassador will be unveiling a blue plaque to Tancred

Borenus by the Finnish Society, at 28 Kensington Gate, where he lived for a time. This will be followed by a Borenus-themed seminar at which Tom James and Mandy Richardson will be speaking. The unveiling will be from 3.00 - 3.30pm after which those attending the seminar will make their way on foot to the Finnish Ambassador's Residence. The seminar will then be from 4.00 - 6.00pm.

Suggested topics include:-

1. His academic career at UCL, creation of the Durning Lawrence chair for the History of Art; Borenus's appointment as the first professor in 1922 and his legacy as an academic teacher.
2. Journalistic work at *The Burlington Magazine* and at *Apollo* (one of its founders in 1925 and also a prolific contributor).
3. Contribution to the cultural life of the UK, cataloguing important collections and contacts with the Bloomsbury group.
4. Setting up and maintaining links with art collectors and art establishment in Finland.
5. His interest in English medieval art and his involvement with the excavations at Clarendon Palace.

The Anglo-Finnish Society is promoting the event as one of the events to mark the centenary of Finland's independence next year.

If anyone can and would like to attend the unveiling and seminar please contact Paulus Thomson via this email paulus.thomson@btinternet.com

Tom James & Mandy Richardson

Colin Anderson

Whilst Borenus is an almost mythic figure to most of the Friends, Colin Anderson was known to many. They have been saddened to learn that he died recently in January 2017, aged 85 years. He was an ever-present helper at Clarendon in the late 1990s and early 2000s.



Driving out to the site in his soft-top BMW, Colin would return with his boot bulging with unwashed finds which he then soaked and dried in his kitchen in Winchester. He brought some welcome order where hitherto chaos had reigned and was ever keen to help out on all aspects of the project and to instruct students in the dark arts of

finds labelling and sorting. We will forever remember

him amidst piles of stones recovered by Tom James' teams, looking by turns baffled and slightly frustrated by the morning which lay ahead, but tempered by the promise of a fine lunch in Pitton. *Chris Gerrard*



Liz Eastlake emailed; 'We have such happy memories of Colin and it still makes me laugh to think of the expression on his face when we presented him with yet another bit of tile!'

Clarendon Palace and Game of Thrones?



This at first glance is an unlikely combination. However during my recent hospital confinement I have pressed on with Marcel Druon's seven volume historical fiction *The Accursed Kings*, generously given to me to pass the time. This massive work written half a century ago but only more recently translated into English (Druon was a French Academician and a stalwart of the wartime resistance) covers the period from the cursing of the Capetian Kings, from his funeral pyre by the Master of the Templars in 1308, to the end of the reign of John II in 1364.

On the Bathurst plaque of 1844 there is reference to the visit of Philip of Navarre to Edward III at Clarendon during the early years of the Hundred Years War, which began in 1337. On p 209 (of 341) in volume seven Druon brings this scene at Clarendon "Castle" to life as Philip was exploring the possibility of an alliance with England against John.

The books are hugely exciting and larded with

aristocratic murder and lust, together with the exchange and poisoning of royal French babies. They echo the criticism of royalty which formed the basis of Michelet's peasant centric history of medieval France, including the likes of the heroine Joan of Arc, which has dominated French school history for well over a century.

The dramatic tale written up by Druon is hailed on the cover by George R.R. Martin creator of *Game of Thrones*, as the true origin of his work. The books by Druon are every bit as realistically blood curdling as *Game of Thrones* which is what makes the HBO series so compelling. Read on. ^[1]_{SEP} *Tom James*

Tasks in Your Garden (or Park) in Winter



As I write I look out on bushes in sore need of attention before the sap begins to rise, while birds scabble for food on my lawn. Winter is hard for wildlife, and at early-modern Clarendon care of the fallow deer was the top priority. If allowed to breed without effective culling or frequent hunting, as was apparently the case after the demise of the palace c.1500, disease would have been a constant threat. When deer populations are out of balance with the environment body weight is affected, resulting in 'winter death syndrome' caused by a mixture of cold and lack of food. This is why deer-houses were erected in parks, whose launds might afford little natural shelter. At Clarendon a thatched haybarn, first recorded in 1372 and surrounded in 1486-7 by a wattle and daub pale which encircled 15 acres by the early seventeenth century, is among the best documented of the park's pre-modern buildings. In the early modern period and before, it received 30 cartloads of hay each winter. The purpose of its pale was to prevent cattle from eating the hay, provided to sustain the deer. The latter would, it was predicted in 1603, be greatly relieved.

As Camden commented c.1590, 'the extensive park of Clarendon is well calculated for breeding and feeding deer'. It seems likely that this was the post-medieval park's main function given the considerable investment of time represented by the annual cutting of winter browsewood, supplementing the hay stocks. This duty

fell to the park's six keepers, who prepared 5,400 bundles for the 1570 season alone. A 1566-7 order required them to swear annually that the browsewood would be used not for their own profit but only to 'releve the deer in harde wether'. Only if thorns, maple and hazel were unavailable were they to use oak, and even then the boughs must be small enough for a buck to turn with its antlers.

But winter, when the keepers garnered their customary fuel allowances and surrounding settlements did the same, was also harsh for humans, leading to both tensions and temptation. In 1570-1 the queen's officials reported that 54 trees had been taken by the keepers 'which...they should burne in there lodges, but some of them selleth every sticke'. The following year they complained that contrary to the rules some keepers removed browsewood and faggots before they could inspect it, to which one retorted that he made up his deer-browse as soon as he had cut it because the poor of Salisbury would otherwise 'carrye [it] away as fast as he doth browse the same'.

Other winter tasks included maintenance of the park's many coppices. Here, seventeenth-century workmen seem to speak directly to us from the pages of the Crown inquiries, also hinting at practices stretching back centuries. In 1640 the forest officer William Wimbleton complained that coppice-hedges were now made too late in the season when the wood was green 'whereby [they] cannot last soe longe'. If made with stronger wood 'as anciently they have byn', the park's coppices might be better preserved. Henry Hayden of Salisbury, employed to sell coppice-wood, agreed that the wood was not felled 'in due season, nor the ditches upon which the hedges are made, settle and stand soe firme as they would doe if... made sooner in the winter'.

I really must get out and prune my buddleias!

Mandy Richardson

Gilbert Kymer



At the junction of the north aisle and north transept of Salisbury Cathedral, is the tomb believed to belong to Gilbert Kymer (1380s?-1463), Dean of the cathedral from 1449-63. Gilbert was also a respected doctor, having been household physician to Henry VI's uncle, Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, until the duke's death in

February 1447, when Kymer immediately returned to the chancellorship of Oxford University.



Leaving that position in May 1453, Gilbert appears to have returned to the house allocated to him as Dean of Salisbury Cathedral, Leaden Hall in the Close, built by Elias of Dereham for himself and bequeathed to the cathedral to house their officers. In August 1453, Henry VI visiting Clarendon Palace

suffered a prolonged attack of his debilitating illness, now thought to have been catatonic schizophrenia, which kept him at Clarendon until mid-December 1453. Although no direct evidence has been found so far, it seems reasonable to suggest that being so close to the palace, Gilbert would have been called to treat the king. Already used to treating royalty Gilbert's discretion would have been assured, whilst the relative isolation of Clarendon provided the seclusion needed for the sick king. During this prolonged seizure in 1453–54, Henry's household physicians, John Arundel, John Faceby and William Hatclyf were augmented with two surgeons. Therefore it seems reasonable speculation that Gilbert Kymer, ex-physician to the king's uncle, could also have joined the medical team at Clarendon.

Physicians were not allowed to touch their patients, but relied on astrological omens, observation of the patient and examination of urine for colour, clarity, smell and taste. The physician would have required an apothecary to make various remedies or a surgeon for bloodletting, but more often treatment was a combination of diet and exercise to restore the humorial (chemical) balance of the patient's body. The one surviving medical document from Kymer is his regimen for the Duke of Gloucester. Produced in 1424, when the duke's household was in Hainault Flanders, it was intended to restore the duke's humorial balance. It seems likely that Henry VI came under similar scrutiny and adjustments to his diet and exercise routines. If the king's condition was the bi-product of a chemical imbalance such an intervention may have been beneficial. However, reports of his illness stress that he became totally unresponsive even when apparently awake. For Gilbert and the king's other doctors, this may have seemed like a sleep problem and various materials used to rouse Henry. Burning hair or powdered antler would produce ammonia fumes, similar to the 'smelling salts' used in recent centuries, while fennel was also regarded as a useful revivifying aid. Alternatively natural sleep could have been deemed necessary. There were a variety of dubious cures available. Of these the least damaging was a drink made by boiling barley in water with lettuce and a few poppy

seeds, while a syrup produced by boiling down poppy heads in wine was possibly the next least dangerous. After these the insomniac patient could have been subjected to more questionable mixtures of deadly nightshade, bittersweet or henbane.

In June 1455 the king had another major seizure at Windsor and personally summoned Gilbert to treat him 'as nedeth the Helpe, Entendance, and Laboure of suche expert, notable, and proved Men in the *Crafte* of Medicines, as ye be, in whom, among alle other, our affection and desire right especially is sette . . . oure singuler Trust is in you'. Perhaps this should be taken as direct evidence that Gilbert had been involved previously and that Henry considered his methods the most successful.

Whatever means Gilbert Kymer employed, Henry VI survived his ministrations and a hint of gratitude may be seen in 1456, when Gilbert Kymer, John Faceby and William Hatclyf were each awarded a royal licence to practise alchemy. The fact that Gilbert is included with the household physicians for this accolade, apparently underlines his importance in the king's recovery on both occasions.

Mary South

Report on the Friends of Clarendon Palace Annual Lecture, 17 November 2016, at Salisbury Museum

Friends of Clarendon Palace and Salisbury Museum were delighted to welcome to the 2016 Clarendon Lecture Carenza Lewis, Professor for the Public Understanding of Research at the University of Lincoln, and well-known to many for her appearances on Channel 4's *Time Team*. Her talk 'Wiltshire settlements and the Black Death: new approaches to reconstructing the impact of the plague' was based on recent research by thousands of test-pit diggers across East Anglia and elsewhere into the distribution of potsherds across medieval settlements.

The Black Death killed millions as it swept through Europe in the mid-fourteenth century, but its impact in England has been debated by historians. By the 1980s the Black Death was seen as, if not insignificant, nothing like as devastating as earlier historians had believed. Where, for example, were the mass burials of all these alleged victims? By the early years of the twenty-first century there had been a shift in interpretation back towards the theory that the plague did indeed decimate the population, but the problem was proving it. Plague burials can be identified from the plague bacillus in teeth, but without associated artefacts it is not possible to date burials exactly, and so impossible to prove if a plague burial was associated with the Black Death or not. Other means of measuring the impact of the Black Death, such as manorial records and taxation records, also suffer from problems of interpretation, and can show wide variations in mortality rates from place to place.

Carenza Lewis's attempt to understand the extent of the havoc caused by the Black Death focused on

multiple test-pits dug across existing settlements, with the aim of mapping the volume and distribution of pottery throughout the Middle Ages. Pottery can be dated, and any changes in the volume and distribution of pottery after 1350 would indicate the effect the plague had on the population of the village. The study has focused intentionally on currently occupied rural settlements (CORS) rather than deserted or very shrunken settlements.

In the village of Pirton in Hertfordshire, in a test-pit study conducted over several years, the volume of pottery fell substantially for the years after the Black Death. This dramatically indicated that the population had been reduced to a quarter of its former size, and that it did not recover for more than 500 years. Around 90% of villages surveyed in East Anglia showed the effect of the Black Death, either a contraction in the population, or abandoned areas within the settlement, or both.

The test-pit surveys have shown that England's population may have been around 45% lower after that Black Death than before. Further studies are now taking place elsewhere in England to compare the East Anglian results with settlements in other regions.

Friends of Clarendon Palace would like to thank Prof. Lewis for a fascinating lecture on a study which looks to be totally revising our knowledge of the impact of the Black Death on the population. The Friends would also like to thank Rosemary Pemberton and all the Salisbury Museum staff and friends for making this evening such a success.
Rosalind Johnson

Dates for Weeding 2017

These have been provisionally arranged as follows, however, there may be changes later on if we are going to work in conjunction with HE volunteers. The October date could also change if there is a shoot that weekend. In the meantime pencil these dates into your diaries and ring fence them!!

Friday 31 March;^[1]_{SEP}

Saturday 29 April;^[1]_{SEP}

Monday 22 May;^[1]_{SEP}

Friday 23 June;^[1]_{SEP}

Saturday 22 July - Festival of Archaeology weekend

Friday 18 August;^[1]_{SEP}

Monday 11 September;^[1]_{SEP}

Friday 20 October

For anyone new to weeding days please be aware that there is a danger from deer ticks and therefore, Lyme Disease on site. Please be vigilant and take professional advice should you suffer from these pests. Please always check with us on site if you have a query.

We are hoping to have more volunteers on site this year, so could we lead by example and take care of our (now very ancient) tools. Please ensure these are always laid face down i.e. prongs facing downwards for forks and rakes; curved surface downwards for spades and trowels; blades for shears pointing down. This is in

effort not to maim either ourselves or anyone new who comes along!
Cindy Wood

Salisbury Museum Lectures coming up

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

30 March 2017 18.30 - 20.00

Making Giants - the Salisbury giant and his kin
Alix Bovey

All lectures need to be booked in advance either in person or via the Museum's website.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST!

Those of you who are annual members and joined up at the end of 2015, especially at the Annual Lecture, can I remind you that subscriptions are now due. Those of you who joined at the Conference or the 2016 Annual Lecture, are alright until November 2017 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, 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

STOP PRESS, STOP PRESS . . .

We've just heard the news that Professor Christopher Norton has agreed to be our speaker for the 2017 Annual Lecture. Professor Norton is the acknowledged authority on medieval tiles and has given us the provisional title of 'Clarendon, Salisbury and early Wessex tile production'. Date still to be fixed, but this is really exciting news, as tile production at Clarendon is generally considered to be the initiation of the medieval Wessex tile industry and style.