



Newsletter of The Friends of Clarendon Palace

Number 13

Spring 2020

Patrons: Marc and Lucie Jonas, Clarendon Park

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

Honorary President and Editor: Tom James MBE, FSA

Editorial

What a year in 2019! Much to look forward to in 2020. The excavations produced more than we dreamt of including evidence of another, third(?) kiln at the site together with much pottery, tile and evidence of medieval high status living. Given the loss of so much archaeology, unrecorded, at Westminster palace and at Woodstock (Blenheim) archaeological work at Clarendon is uniquely important. It is becoming ever more apparent that Clarendon Palace was and is 'the most important secular building in medieval Wiltshire' and we, as Friends are doing our best to secure its future and to unravel its past. The fire at Notre Dame in Paris has opened the door to a treasure trove of medieval archaeological research there. Clarendon is at last beginning to give up its secrets through similar archaeological work and scientific approaches. The Friends have worked unstintingly in many capacities to realise funding to dig, wash finds and to keep the site in order so far as possible. We are working hard on Public Engagement with successful events in 2019 and more planned, as well as the launch of a website in 2020. Our brilliant Twitter feed has approaching 500 followers and its 'On this Day' feed of events at the palace and in its records by Mandy Richardson is drawing in comments and illustrations from all over. Our conference 'Hunting, Feasting and Pottery at The Palace in the Forest', is set for April 18-19 at the Salisbury Cathedral School, and the Clarendon Lecture at the Museum by the leading authority on Becket, in the 850th anniversary of his murder following his falling out with Henry II at Clarendon in 1164, is set for 5 November . . . not to mention intended appearances by Friends at a medieval event in Pitton; at the Salisbury Museum Archfest and at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre at Chippenham. A programme of annual weeding and site conservation is in place. Have a look at the last page of this Newsletter for dates of events, especially if you want to join the free Conference in April. Please help out and join us on these occasions and our regular weeding/maintenance days on site!

Tom James

Corner Chair

Dear Friends

I write this as the new Chair of the Friends Committee and wish you all a rather belated Happy New Year. I would like to thank Mandy for her efforts since the setting up of the Friends as the previous Chair and wish her well as she takes over the role of Secretary.

Like Mandy I am also a medieval historian with an interest in material culture. I have also been connected to the site since 1999 when taken there as an undergraduate student by Tom James – a fateful day. I love the site and especially the gravel, which Mandy, myself and Liz Eastlake have moved around the site with our trusty wheel barrows. A powerful trio!

This year is going to be another interesting one with post excavation work continuing, the conference in April, the Annual Lecture and the normal weeding days. Please do join us for any of these, while the work is as hard as you can manage, the company is great. I hope to see as many of you there as possible and otherwise

please do say hello if our paths cross at the many events on offer.

Cindy Wood

Excavation Update

Following the excavations in June and July finds processing is in full swing. Ceramic finds and bone have so far taken precedence in washing – towards 1200 sherds have been washed and context labelling is under way. At a glance the bulk of pottery is thirteenth century as in the past, but as we look more closely into contexts we are hopeful that we may be able to identify some dated contexts which may unlock something of this intractable problem. If the palace was occupied at least from the eleventh to the fifteenth centuries, why is the pottery so bunched in a single period? Table wares for wine etc are there, as well as many highest quality floor tiles and roofing materials including crests (ridge tiles), glazed roof tile, and what appears to be remains of a large roof louver or chimney pot. These high status elements confirm the quality of the palace environment. Among the bone assemblage there is much evidence of

fallow deer from the park, venison being an elite food with permission for parks coming uniquely from the King. Dog, bird and other bones and teeth will cast light on the vertebrate environment as work get under way on soil samples etc. Further analysis of finds – including glazes, fabric and pigment analysis as well as of metal, ashlar and sculpture, will tell us more as we proceed with post excavation work with specialists. Likewise small bones from fish and mollusc evidence will be for the first time attached to archaeological contexts. Charcoal and seed analysis will tell us about the special environment of this unique site. *Tom James*

Brief lives: Isabella de Coucy, Countess of Bedford

On 30 November 1331, Edward III ordered the sheriff of Wiltshire urgently to go ‘to the manor of Claryndon... to survey the defects therein, and to cause the hall, chambers and other buildings necessary for the stay of Queen Philippa [of Hainault] therein to be repaired by view and testimony of [local] men... as the king has ordained that the queen, who is pregnant, shall stay in that manor until her delivery’. For reasons unknown the birth eventually took place at Woodstock (Oxon) rather than Clarendon, although a document produced after 1327 records that the queen’s wardrobe alone was almost ruinous and lacked a roof, while the ironwork on its windows had decayed. In addition the great chapel and the ‘house of the canons’ had burnt down. Perhaps the defects were too great to be rectified in the timescale, although Philippa must only have been two months pregnant since the baby, Isabella, later Countess of Bedford (1332-79), was born the following June.



Philippa of Hainault and one of her daughters, probably Isabella, from the wall painting of St Stephen's Chapel. Reconstructed by Ernest William Tristram

Isabella was the second of Philippa's 13 children, and is reputed to have been her father, Edward III's, favourite. She was a pampered infant, sleeping under a fur blanket in a gilded, taffeta-lined cradle. Her gowns were of imported Italian silk, fur lined and embroidered with jewels and her household included a personal chaplain, musicians, a noble governess and three ladies-in-waiting, plus grooms, esquires, clerks, butlers and cooks. When she was just three, her father tried to arrange her marriage with Pedro of Castile - prompting this writer to remember one of Tom James's undergraduate lectures; 'what was he thinking, marrying off his daughter to someone known as "Pedro the Cruel"!'. But Isabella escaped her likely fate, remaining unmarried till the relatively ripe old age of 33, despite a betrothal aged 19 to Bernard, son of the Gascon Bernard Ezi, sieur d'Albret. This time she refused the match immediately before boarding the ship intended to carry her to her new husband.

Isabella eventually married Enguerrand de Coucy, one of the hostages for the fulfilment of the 1360 Treaty of Brétigny, who was about 8 years her senior and had won Edward III's favour. It seems to have been at least partly a love match. Once freed, Enguerrand took Isabella to Coucy, where in 1366 she gave birth to a daughter, Mary (Marie), followed by a second daughter, Philippa, born in 1367 at Eltham Palace. To escape his conflicting loyalties as England and France moved toward renewed war, Coucy went to fight in Italy in 1368, while Isabella stayed in England. They were briefly reunited in 1374 and again in 1376, but Coucy was now firmly committed to his Valois lord and in August 1377 he courteously resigned his English lands and honours in order to serve France. Isabella returned to her daughter Philippa in England but Mary remained in France with her father, becoming heir to his French possessions. Philippa went on to marry Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford (d. 1392), favourite of Richard II, who caused a great scandal in 1387 when he rejected her for a Bohemian woman.

Despite her marital adventures Isabella was a notable figure in her own right, receiving the robes of the Order of the Garter in 1376 and again in 1379 after her husband's resignation - the only female so honoured bar her mother Philippa. Her eventful life included witnessing the naval engagement off Sluys in 1340 and the siege of Calais of 1346-7. A frequent spectator at tournaments and an enthusiastic participant in the hunt, she was much involved with the martial and chivalrous pursuits that characterised the Edwardian court, and it is testament to her close relationship with her father that she remained a fixture at court even during Alice Perrers's ascendancy in the 1370s. She was at his side when he died on 21 June 1377.

Isabella died in 1379, aged 47 and, like her grandmother and namesake Isabella of France, was buried in the Greyfriars Church in London. Her figure, along with those of her siblings, graced the tomb of Edward III in Westminster Abbey, but it is not among

those that survive. Enguerrand de Coucy erected her statue alongside his own at Soissons, but it is also now lost. She must have known Clarendon well, having spent more time with her parents than any of her siblings, and it is a shame that we only narrowly missed out on a closer connection.

Mandy Richardson

Expanded from 'On this day at Clarendon', Twitter, @ClarendonPalace

Annual Lecture -1 November 2019, at Salisbury Museum

Beornwyn, Byrtferth, Burials and Burhs:

The Clarendon Environs in the Early Medieval Period

Dr Alex Langlands, from Swansea University.

The environs of what is now modern Salisbury, far from being sparsely populated, were densely settled in the early medieval period, with evidence of industry and road networks. But the evidence is not straightforward, and work on the environs of early medieval (Anglo-Saxon) Salisbury is still ongoing. Early medieval research is multi-disciplinary in its focus; it includes both archaeological investigation and documentary research, as well as the work of scholars in the fields of folklore, place-name studies, and other disciplines.

William Camden, in *Britannia* (English translation, 1610) recorded a legend of Ivychurch Priory, close to Clarendon Palace. A grave containing the corpse of a man 12 ft high was found, and with the body a book, the leaves of which crumbled to dust on the grave being opened. It is a common folklore trope that a corpse when exposed to air turns to dust, but the introduction of a book to this version implies some historicity.

Despite the legend of the Ivychurch book, early medieval documentary evidence for Salisbury is lacking, unlike Winchester, which has a far greater survival of records. Nevertheless, there is evidence for early medieval settlement. Pottery from the 7th and 8th centuries has been found in the area, and mills were recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, including one at Stratford-sub-Castle. A question posed by Alex concerned the church of St Thomas in the modern city centre – why does it not have a chequer? Salisbury is a medieval grid town, and as such the church should have its own chequer. This suggests that there was an existing settlement at New Sarum (modern Salisbury) before the cathedral was founded in 1220. St Thomas's is next to the marketplace, which may be significant. John Blair, at the University of Oxford, has stated that early medieval markets were next to minster churches. Could there have been an Anglo-Saxon minster church on the site of the medieval church we know today? A stone bowl in the present church is pre-13th century and may have been the font of an earlier church.

The evidence for early medieval settlement around Salisbury is fragmentary, if intriguing. We know almost nothing about the individuals Beornwyn and Byrtferth. A charter describes the boundaries of what is now the parish of Laverstock, and 9th to 10th century pottery has

been found there. Roman roads traverse the area; from Salisbury to what became, post-1066, the New Forest. Others roads ran between Winchester and Salisbury, and onto the Mendip lead mines. Stone boundary markers are known, such as Beornwyn's Stone which was on a major road. Such stones were often stone crosses, very visible as route markers.

The church of St Peter at Britford is known to have been on an important river crossing, lost to sight through the development of the water meadows. A quiet village today, in the early medieval period it was probably a 'bottle neck' for traffic, not unlike the modern A36.

Evidence for this lost early medieval world can be found along the modern Southampton Road. Romano-British pottery has been found at Petersfinger, near the present park and ride, and an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery with at least 70 inhumations discovered. Excavations at the park and ride site found a sunken-featured building, dating to the post-Roman period. Situated at the confluence of rivers, as was the Wilton settlement, the early medieval site at Petersfinger was clearly an important settlement.

While the settlement at Petersfinger was later deserted, that at Laverstock grew into a medieval parish with its own church. This church was demolished in the 1850s when the present St Andrew's church was built. Curiously, later excavations found a skeleton under the walls of the medieval church; probably it was there before the medieval church was built – could it indicate an earlier church? The burial was aligned east-west, so would have been a Christian burial.

Much of Dr Langlands' recent work has been with the Old Sarum Landscapes Project. The ongoing project has shown through archeological investigation, using both excavation and non-invasive methods such as geophysics, that there was a sizeable settlement around Old Sarum in the early medieval period. Old maps of the land around Old Sarum suggest an early medieval town. The name Kingsbridge, found in the field name of Kingsbridge Meadow, where the Portway crosses the Avon at Stratford-sub-Castle, is of Anglo-Saxon origin, and suggests an important crossing at this point, though no evidence of a stone bridge has been found. There is still much to be discovered

Rosalind Johnson



Archfest 2018 - the moment Mandy signed Alex up to do the 2019 lecture!

Some historical links between Clarendon and Laverstock

Clarendon forest was extensive with its boundaries changing over time. The close proximity of the estate to Laverstock must have affected population growth and settlement patterns but lack of direct evidence in the early years makes conclusions difficult. Domesday records lands in Laverstock and Milford as being in the king's forest, which extended as far as the River Bourne.

The perambulations of Clarendon in the 13th and 14th centuries recorded the western boundaries as following the River Avon to Mumworth, and then the Bourne to Milford Bridge and on to Ford Mill and east along the Roman Road. So Laverstock & Ford, east of the Bourne lay within the park. But a survey of 1650 shows that the area within the park had decreased by this time with Ranger's Lodge gate (slaygate) now the boundary line (park pale). Laverstock lies to the west with the Cockey Down chalk ridge to the north where you can still see parts of the massive bank and ditch of

the outer park pale or boundary of 10.2 miles (16.5 km), designed to keep in the deer.



Curfew or fire cover, displayed in the Salisbury Museum, drawing by Jenny Hayes, 2019

Records of building work suggest that the palace, park, and forest would have contributed to Laverstock's economy with demand for labour, especially through the thriving pottery industry.

The local kilns, just on the boundary of the park, provided most of the palace's pottery in the 13th century and beyond, and this trade may well have partially accounted for Laverstock's relatively high population at this time.

The close proximity of Laverstock and Clarendon brought both prosperity and conflict. The local forest courts from the mid-13th century enforced restrictions which affected Laverstock. Fines were levied for taking dead wood, and for dogs straying on to the king's land. Later in 1327 the park buildings had fallen into disrepair and valuable woods and coppices ravaged. Game was stolen including two bucks by Richard de Toulouse, a wealthy forester at Milford, and a further buck by William Cole of Laverstock who brought heavy lifting equipment to remove it. Those accused argued that they were accustomed to taking the king's venison but this was disputed.

By 1500 Clarendon was ruinous and no longer a royal residence although the Tudors and early Stuarts continued to enjoy the hunting. In the mid-16th century, conflict became more common. Margaret York of Laverstock claimed that park officials had illegally enclosed her land. She persuaded her servants to resist the keepers and to hunt within the park and even invited

local gentry to join her in opposition. But during the 17th century, the number of deer declined and the park finally passed out of Crown hands in 1664.

Clarendon House, the fine early 18th century mansion,¹ was built for Peter Bathurst, a central figure in



Laverstock, whose family vault was first discovered in

Five lead 18th century coffins of members of the Bathurst family of Clarendon Park, including Peter, were discovered in the brick lined family vault. Photograph 2009

St Andrew's churchyard in the village in 1969. His engaging memorial may be seen in the church porch.

Clarendon only became a civil parish in 1858 and before that it was never recognised as such. Long after the decline of the palace, the estate fell into several parishes including Laverstock. Some residents could claim that they were in the 'liberty of Clarendon' and as such were in an 'extra parochial place' under the jurisdiction of the Dean of Salisbury. Thus it was that on 10 December 1827 David Rattay (Rattue) of Laverstock, was entitled to marry Mary Erwood, of the Liberty of Clarendon, in the grandeur of Salisbury Cathedral.

Clarendon, with its remote, ruined palace, remains a secret place. Llamas keep down the shrubbery, and a small group of 'Friends' weed tirelessly to maintain this very special neighbouring site. *Ruth Newman*

First produced in a reduced version in *Laverstock and Ford, Chapters from Local History, Sarum Studies 6*.

Lordship on the March-the restless life of the early Plantagenets

The courts of Henry II and John were constantly on the move. In this the 800th anniversary year of the foundation of Salisbury's cathedral, when the theme for discussion is 'movement', it seems appropriate to look at how often a 12th century court moved, how and what was moved and why.

Walter Map writing 1190-93 said of Henry 'he was impatient of repose...even on his travels, moving by intolerable stages like a courier and in this respect (he) showed little mercy to his household which accompanied him'. Unlike say John or Thomas Becket he was impatient of pomp, careless of appearance and travelled at great speed with only a small escort. Herbert of Boshum said he was 'like a human chariot, dragging all after him. Indeed Louis VII of France was amazed at

how Henry popped up everywhere in his territories without any warning! It seems that he never sat down except for meals and read and conducted meetings standing.

Peter de Blois describes the itinerant life of Henry's court as the 'death of the soul': the unpredictability of the day or time of a journey's start, its route or its ultimate goal, each of which might change several times during the day. Often it was only the court prostitutes who had any accurate idea of the timetable and only the king who had a roof over his head by evening!

During the 34 years of Henry's reign he spent Christmas in 24 different places and crossed the channel 28 times, often waiting weeks for suitable weather. John was even worse: he moved approximately 13 to 14 times a month, only spending 2 to 3 nights in the same place. Such journeys were hardly surprising as Henry's 'empire' stretched from Scotland to the Pyrenees and its unity, in so far as it existed at all, depended solely on Henry's peripatetic court. Not only did he travel to undertake numerous campaigns to secure his disparate empire, e.g. to subdue the Welsh, secure the borders of Anjou and Scotland, to deal with revolts by English and Norman barons and even his own sons, but also to manifest his physical presence. Twelfth century politics was a personal business as, when most were illiterate, the physical manifestation of power was vital to ensure order and obedience. So the king must be accessible to petition directly, to confirm charters and to limit abuse by local officials by assuming responsibility for justice in the area in which he was staying for the period of his visit. It was important to give ostentatious presents to local abbeyes, and stained glass or building materials to a cathedral, but also to make contribution to the local economy, while being careful not to stay too long and exhaust local resources.



A travelling carriage circa 1300

The itinerant court was very expensive unless the king was staying at one of his many residences (20-30 in England alone) with extensive stocks of game, fish and cereals from their adjoining estates and even pre-stocked wine cellars! The king would use these residences particularly to accommodate the larger numbers who arrived for religious feasts such as Christmas and Easter, for councils and synods, for births, marriages and coronations and for the reception of visiting foreign sovereigns or important diplomatic embassies.

Contemporary chroniclers offer glimpses of the excitement of a full court arrival at a royal residence such as Clarendon. Often the cortege would be several hundreds of metres long. First in line would be members of the royal household or 'familia': the bearer of the king's bed complete with his own cart, packhorse and servant; the king's tent keeper, similarly equipped; the royal chef and his cooks with carts full of table linen and dishes; chambermaids and washerwomen with the royal bed-linen; grooms with hunters, hounds and falcons to assuage the royal passion for hunting; the royal dairy, larder, food and wine. Further carts would typically contain chests of clothes, jewels, tapestries and, most important a large proportion of the royal treasury to pay for food, weapons, soldiers etc. as required on route. Officials of the chancellery and the military would be present together with clerks and scribes to prepare documents, squires, armour, weapons and horses. Members of the royal family would travel on horseback or in litters. Bakers went on ahead to ensure that bread was ready on arrival. The whole procession would be attended by courtiers, frequently making music, singing and dancing and would have provided enormous enjoyment to local people who would turn out in their hundreds to watch the spectacle. Since progress of these long trains was very slow-typically only 12 -15 miles a day if the going was good- the entertainment lasted many hours and provided something of a holiday for its audience!

Bridget Chase

Rare plant in Georgian Clarendon Park?

Thomas Cox, in *A Compleat History of Wiltshire* (1730), mentions the ruins at Clarendon, although his description focuses on the politics of Henry II's reign, followed by a brief history of Edward Hyde and subsequent Earls of Clarendon, rather than the site itself. But in a note (p. 165) he includes short descriptions of rare plants found wild in Wiltshire, including the following:

'Polygonatum Vulgare, Solomons-Seal; in a bushy Close belonging to Alderbury Parsonage, near Clarendon-Park, two Miles from Salisbury.'

The plant may not have been as unusual as Cox or his correspondent believed. According to Geoffrey Grigson, *The Englishman's Flora* (1958), the herbalist John Gerard in his *Herbal* (1597 and

1633) wrote that it was good for mending broken bones and healing bruises, and furthermore that in Hampshire it was used not only by humans but on cattle as well. Another famous herbalist, Nicholas Culpepper, in *The English Physitian Enlarged* (1669 edition) was also enthusiastic about its healing properties. Could the plant found at Alderbury have escaped from the parsonage garden, rather than being truly wild? *Rosalind Johnson*

Solomon's Seal

To answer Rosalind's question above about the plant's possible escape from the parsonage: it is probably more likely that it had been taken from the wild into the parsonage grounds for cultivation. It is a lovely little plant, of shady places and hedgerows where it is easily overlooked with its flowers hanging modestly beneath the stem. The 'bushy close' of the parsonage would have suited it admirably. Of all the woodland flowers this is the one that delights me most of all, and I always look forward to seeing it in my local Hampshire woods. Amazingly it is now also growing at the Palace site, where it doesn't seem to hide under the bushes or taller herbage, but is creeping into the more open edges of the courtyard into the full sun.

According to folklore, King Solomon himself placed his seal upon the plant when he recognized its great value.



Solomon's seal at Clarendon

Using some imagination you can see the seal on the rootstock in the circular scars left by the stem after it dies back. In A.D. 130-200, the most famous physician of his day, Galen, recommended the use of Solomon's Seal root to remove freckles, spots and marks for a fair and lovely skin. In 1640 the apothecary John Parkinson, noted that Italian women used it for maintaining their complexions.

The root was the most useful part for herbal medicines (the berries and leaves are poisonous) and its effects were highly valued for healing wounds, cuts, bruises and even broken bones, when used as a poultice. John Gerard (c.1545-1612) was so impressed by its properties that he said, "Common experience teacheth, that in the world there is not to be found another herbe comparable to it." Of course, his praise may seem slightly hollow nowadays, when he continued by

especially recommending it 'for hasty wives who dashed upon their husband's fists'.

Mary South

Lime mortar - the stuff that holds the palace together!

Lime is a very old material dating back, at least, to Ancient Egyptian times. It was not superseded until the mid-nineteenth with the discovery of Portland cement. Lime, however, has very different qualities to Portland mortar, and these are being rediscovered and recognised again today. Lime is forgiving, can adjust in settlement and is also 'self-healing'. In contrast Portland cement hardens very quickly and is unforgiving (in terms of movement); sometimes it is not chemically compatible with the building stone, and often stronger than the material it is fixing. The soft and porous properties of lime mortar provide certain advantages when working with softer building materials such as natural stone and terracotta. The ease of use of Portland cement, its quick setting, and high compressive strength is valued as a modern material. However, for this reason, while Portland cement continues to be commonly used in new structures of brick and concrete construction, in the repair and restoration of brick and stone-built structures which were originally built using lime mortar, the use of Portland cement is not recommended.

The lime cycle is as follows:

- 1) Starting with calcium carbonate (CaCO_3) – the purest form of which is Chalk.
- 2) Heat it to 900 – 1200 degrees centigrade where carbon dioxide is given off.
- 3) You now have calcium oxide or quick lime (CaO) which is a highly toxic material.
- 4) This now needs to be slaked with water but quick lime and water react very aggressively so it is vital to add calcium oxide to water **not** water to quick lime. (If done as water to CaO , there is likely to be a very strong and dangerous reaction (explosion even) with much heat given off).
- 5) You now have the hydrate of lime following the addition of water – Calcium Hydroxide ($\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$). Slaked lime is the material that is required to use as a mortar.
- 6) It will need to be mixed with aggregates of sand etc. to bulk it out for use.
- 7) When the lime putty mortar is used it will be exposed to the air. This will cause it to lose water (H_2O) but also, critically, to absorb carbon dioxide (CO_2) so hardening the mortar by producing chalk again. $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2 - \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2 = \text{CaCO}_3$ – you are back to calcium carbonate and the cycle is complete. (*Remember school chemistry - blowing through limewater to test for carbon dioxide? The cloudiness produced with a positive test was chalk!*)

Medieval masons lit fires under new construction work to speed up the drying process, **but** given that the chemistry was not then understood and it was not drying but the absorption of CO_2 that was needed, it had limited value. It was not a complete waste of time, as the burning process produced the needed carbon dioxide. In

a large building like a cathedral, it could take years for the lime to fully cure.

Vast quantities of lime mortar would have been required for the construction of Clarendon Palace. Fortunately, there was a ready supply of both chalk and timber available close to the site. The same is true for the supply of flint, the main building material used. The Clarendon walls are up to 1.2 metres thick! The quoins (corners) of the building were normally in stone, not so much to give tidy regular door and window openings plus corner returns but in order to cope with the sheer stresses acting on that part of the building. The use of stone would also add status and style to the building by offering a contrast to the flint. Today, one wonders where all those flints have gone and where the lime kilns were sited? The flints used at Clarendon were not knapped. Knapped flintwork is known as 'flushwork' whilst unknapped flintwork is known as a 'proudwork'. The construction of Clarendon Palace predated the acme of flushwork which was between 1450 – 1520.

Steve Hannath



Events

Hunting, Feasting and Pottery at The Palace in the Forest: Snapshots of Medieval Clarendon.

Two day conference 18–19 April, at Salisbury Cathedral School where we will be making use of the Bishop's Palace within the school. Tea and coffee will be provided, together with buffet lunch and an evening reception on Saturday. This is part of our programme of public events linked to our Heritage Fund grant.

The conference is free but booking is essential and we are using Eventbrite online booking agency, which will also give you more details, about the conference. This is the link for making a booking

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hunting-feasting-and-pottery-at-the-palace-in-the-forest-tickets-91785144839>

We need volunteers to help with stewarding, and directing delegates and getting them onto the minibuses

Sunday morning. Let Mandy, Mary or Cindy know if you can help. See footer on first page for contact details.

Medieval Day 17 May 10am–4.30pm

This is the last day of public events linked to the Heritage Fund grant. These will take place in Pitton village based in and around the Village Hall and Recreation Ground. Medieval Alliance will be in attendance, (some of you will remember them from the Green Dragon), together with a street theatre group, who I fear may be bringing Henry II's favourite jester with them (see Newsletter 11)!

Concert of Medieval Choral music 17 May 7pm

To finish the day and wind up the HF programme Cantores Michaelis will be performing in St Peter's church at Pitton. The programme will include some music from the late medieval period and Renaissance as well as Gregorian chant. FREE.

Stewards will be needed for both these events. Offers to clarendon850@btinternet.com

Archfest at Salisbury Museum - July (date to be finalised)

Maggie Navarette will be organising our stand this year, so please direct all offers of help to her at: DSFGRC@gmail.com

Clarendon Lecture: Thomas Becket - from Clarendon to Martyrdom

This will be the 10th Anniversary of our lectures in conjunction with Salisbury Museum and will take place on **5 November 2020**, at the Salisbury Museum.

Our speaker will be Michael Staunton, from University College Dublin, who is an authority on Becket, so this should be well worth attending. As usual tickets, will be available from Salisbury Museum, much closer to the time. We will send a reminder email when they are due to go on sale.

Weeding Days 2020

1) Concerted effort at start of season:

Weds 25 March, Fri 27 March, Weds 1 April, Fri 3 April, Sat 25 April (to accommodate possible extra walking tours after HF Conference)

2) Normal weeding days:

Fri 29 May
Thurs 25 June
Fri 24 July

Fri 28 Aug
Weds 30 Sept (subject to shooting dates)
