

October 2016

Dear Members,

The Annual Dinner was held on July 21st at the Tudor Restaurant, Bridgwater. Beforehand Chris Sidaway gave us a lightening architectural tour of the Blake Museum and the Tudor. Unfortunately, the restaurant was busy and we were not able to see much without getting in the way! The dinner was well-attended and the food excellent.

On September 15th we visited three castles on the Welsh Border. Raglan was the most intact of these and we were given a splendid tour by Jane, one of the Custodians, who confessed that she was not an expert, but nevertheless gave a fascinating commentary.



After lunch in Monmouth we visited the remnants of Monmouth Castle and went on the Skenfrith, where Chris Sidaway pointed out the similarities with Bridgwater Castle.

(You will notice that I am in the photo for once - I am indebted to Sian Pumphrey for the picture).

Jane McIlquham of CADW gives us a tour of Raglan Castle

Our driver was persuaded to bring us back along the Wye Valley past Tintern Abbey. It was a splendid afternoon and a memorable drive.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

October 20th. 7.30 p.m. at the Blake Museum (This talk was postponed from February)

Andrew Butcher

'Rethinking the Records: Mediaeval Bridgwater and After'

Bridgwater's mediaeval records were published in five volumes of the Somerset Record Society between 1933 and 1971 and give a unique insight into mediaeval ports, boroughs and town life. However, these records fall short of the current standards of interpretation and this talk is an introduction to a modern edition which would show the rich cultural complexity of the original records. It will also review the Borough's neglected post-mediaeval records which offer a full social, economic and political understanding of Bridgwater.

November 17th. 7.30 p.m. at the Blake Museum

Jane Hill (Southwest Heritage)

'Recent excavations at Hinkley Point'.

The exploratory work at the Hinkley Point C Station site was completed earlier in the year. The final stage was outside the southern boundary of the site and produced finds ranging from a Bronze Age ring structure through to the site of Corner's Farm which was demolished in the late 19th century.

Christmas Meeting 7.30 p.m. at Wembdon Parish Centre

Steve Minnit (Taunton Museum) will be our guest.

January 19th. 7.30 p.m. at the Blake Museum

Richard Brunning (Southwest Heritage) *I hope that Richard can talk to us - I am still awaiting a response*

'Excavation of the Beckery Chapel, Meare'

February 16th. 7.30 p.m. at the Blake Museum

A.G.M. and Charlotte Westwood (Sedgemoor District Council)

'The work of the Conservation Officer'

March 16th. 7.30 p.m. at the Blake Museum

Speaker to be announced

Archaeological Illustration

OTHER EVENTS

November 12th, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

The Bridgwater Arts Centre is celebrating its 70th anniversary and they are holding a local history event. Seven speakers will present their memories of the Town. Admission is free