

From: Paul Tritton, Hon. Press Officer
Email: paul.tritton@btinternet.com.
Tel: 01622 741198

'Study Day' will focus on Kent's buildings and archaeology

A magnificent mid-14th century barn in the heart of Kent will be the venue for a Study Day when, at a series of workshop sessions, amateur archaeologists and local history enthusiasts will learn how to 'read' and assess stone and timber-framed buildings, go field-walking to look for evidence of ancient settlements, and be taught how to identify and record their finds.

The barn, at Court Lodge, Brook, seven miles from Ashford, houses a collection of horse-drawn agricultural machines owned by the Wye Rural Museum Trust, which is hosting the event on Saturday September 14 2013 in partnership with the Kent Archaeological Society and the Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

Dr Toby Huitson, who teaches medieval history at the University of Kent and is a member of staff at Canterbury Cathedral Archives, will lead the stone buildings workshop.

'We'll take a close look at the medieval masonry of Brook parish church,' he said, 'and identify different types of stone and Romanesque sculptural motifs. We will also interpret structural details and inspect the design of the tower's stairs and upper room.'

'This will give everyone an insight into decoding evidence in medieval building fabric in general, and help them gain a better understanding of the special and outstanding features of this unique church'.



Dr Toby Huitson

Medieval masonry at Brook parish church

Dr Huitson was awarded his PhD from the University of Kent at Canterbury in 2009, having completed his BA and Masters there. His thesis on medieval upper spaces, focusing mainly on Kent, was the winner of the Kent Archaeological Society's 2009 Hasted Prize, which is now sponsoring its publication by Oxbow Books of Oxford as 'Stairway to Heaven: The Functions of Medieval Upper Spaces', due out later this year.

He has presented research papers at British Archaeological Association conferences and already has several publications to his credit, including a guidebook to the Organs of Canterbury Cathedral and an article about a medieval music manuscript published in the Cathedral Chronicle for 2009.

As a fieldworker he contributes to the national Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture in Britain and Ireland.

Contact details: T.S.J.Huitson@kent.ac.uk

Andy Mills, a chartered structural engineer from Folkestone with a Masters Degree in Geotechnical Engineering, will be the tutor for the timber-framed buildings workshop.

'My interest in old timber-framed buildings started when I worked in Canterbury as an undergraduate on my first degree "sandwich course"', he said. 'I will be showing photographs of medieval timber-framed buildings in Kent that I have inspected, as well as photographs of some very rare elements of these buildings.'

'I will point out why everyone should be a little sceptical about what they read and hear about such buildings, and discuss the structure of Brook Barn. The class will be asked to inspect the barn and do some measuring-up and sketching, before seeing whether they spotted interesting features that I have seen'.

Contact details: apm671@gmail.com



The barn at Court Lodge, Brook (please credit Wye Rural Museum Trust)

Dr Andrew Richardson, Canterbury Archaeological Trust's Outreach and Archives Manager and the Kent Archaeological Society's Hon Curator, will give an introduction to the processing, handling and identification of archaeological finds. 'Those attending will get the chance to handle a range of finds of different materials and types, from all periods,' he said.

Dr Richardson is a specialist in early Anglo-Saxon Kent and metal 'small finds' from that period.

Contact details: Andrew.Richardson@canterburytrust.co.uk



Dr Andrew Richardson

The field walking sessions will be lead by Paul Bennett, Director of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, or by Keith Parfitt, who won the 'Current Archaeology' 2013 Rescue Dig of the Year prize for the CAT's work at the Folkestone Roman villa.

For more details of the 'Archaeology & Standing Buildings Study Day ' visit <http://www.agriculturalmuseumbrook.org.uk>.
<http://www.canterburytrust.co.uk> or <http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk>

or apply to Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh, 11 Caledon Terrace Canterbury CT1 3JS; tel 01227 472490;

email s.m.sweetinburgh@kent.ac.uk or sheila.sweetinburgh@canterbury.ac.uk

For JPEG images of any of the above pictures email paul.tritton@btinternet.com. Due to holidays the images will be mailed to you on July 8.