

Locality and Region Seminar 2018-2019

The **LOCALITY AND REGION** seminar welcomes all those who are interested in the relationship between local and national history and who wish to share ideas, viewpoints and work in progress. It seeks to make an original contribution to local and regional history by drawing upon the long-established national resources of the VCH and co-operating with participants from universities, record offices, local history societies and heritage organisations, as well as with those engaged in independent research.

Convenors: Dr Adam Chapman (VCH, IHR), Matthew Bristow (VCH, IHR), Dr Christopher Currie (IHR), Dr Gill Draper (University of Kent), Dr Alan Thacker (IHR)

If you would like to join our e-mailing list, please contact rebecca.read@sas.ac.uk

The seminar meets at 5.15p.m. on alternate Tuesdays. Seminars will be held in Room 304 on the 3rd floor of the IHR

SPRING TERM 2019

Date	Speaker	Title	Abstract	Room
22 January	Dr Dorian Gerhold	Street history: London Bridge and Monserrat Road	Dorian Gerhold will examine methods of investigating the history of a street and the potential gains from doing so, drawing on two very different case studies. London Bridge was not only one of London's most important routes but also a major shopping street. It was lined by houses from the early 13th century to about 1760, and the houses and their tenants are well recorded in the records of the Bridge House, which maintained the bridge. Montserrat Road, Putney, is an unremarkable suburban street of the 1880s, half consisting of detached and semi-detached houses built by a single builder and half consisting of terraced houses put up by seven different builders. It has undergone several social and physical changes which reflect wider London trends, including the subdivision of houses from the 1920s to the 1970s and their re-conversion into large family houses from the 1970s.	IHR, 304

Date	Speaker	Title	Abstract	Room
<p>5 February</p> <p>TO BE RESCHEDULED</p>	<p>Dr Gill Draper, Associate Lecturer, University of Kent Visiting Research Fellow, Canterbury Christ Church University</p>	<p>Sir John Fogge and Lady Alice Haute: the culture of memory, music and books at Ashford, Kent, 1463-1512</p>	<p>The second wife of Sir John Fogge (c.1417-1490) of Ashford, Kent, was Alice Haute, first cousin of Queen Elizabeth. Recent research has opened up not only Fogge's founding of Ashford college in 1464 as a chantry for the war dead who were among his friends and associates, but also his re-building of Ashford church so as to include a family mausoleum and chapel. The chantry priests were accommodated in the college building which still partly survives and is adjacent to the church in the surrounding rectangular close known as The Churchyard. The existence of the choir and the surrounding close gives Ashford the air of an important urban church, perhaps even a small cathedral. This paper briefly reviews these developments and goes on to consider music-making and the Fogge's literate culture of remembrance from testamentary provisions.</p>	<p>IHR, 304</p>
<p>19 February</p>	<p>Adam Chapman, Lecturer in Medieval History and Editorial Coordinator – Victoria County History</p>	<p>The Life and Death of a Medieval Port: Dunster, Somerset</p>	<p>The medieval castle and borough of Dunster are among the best known in England and formed the seat of the Mohun and Luttrell families from the Norman Conquest to the middle of the 20th century. Dunster is not, however, a town now obviously associated with the sea, the nearest harbours being Minehead and Watchet. The haven at the mouth of the river Avill, which survives today as a marshy area called the Hawn, was once the focus of the economic life of the town and defined west Somerset's relations with the wider world including trade up and down the Severn sea.</p> <p>This paper will discuss the importance of this small inlet for the development of royal and seigniorial authority either side of Conquest and in the development of Dunster as a commercial and lordly focus until the port was closed by the lords of Dunster but at the instigation of the community of Minehead in the 16th century. It will examine the nature of coastal trade – in which the sea formed a thoroughfare rather than an apparent barrier – and will draw together documentary evidence with the archaeological record for the port and associated standing buildings showing how the presence of the port shaped the town and surrounding landscape of Dunster.</p>	<p>IHR, 304</p>

Date	Speaker	Title	Abstract	Room
5 March	Dr Richard Olney, formerly of Historical Manuscripts Commission and National Archives	Class and Community in North Lincolnshire: the life and thoughts of William Dixon (1756 – 1824) of Holton- le-Moor	The Dixon family built up their estate in Holton-le-Moor, between Market Rasen and Caistor, from a minor purchase in 1741 to the point where they owned the whole parish, with a fine house, a governess for their daughters, and a phaeton in which to ride out. But despite these marks of status, they remained working farmers well into the Victorian era. Even more remarkably, they created and preserved a comprehensive archive, including farming accounts, diaries and correspondence. This talk examines the building up of a farming estate over several generations, revealing the introduction of agricultural improvements, the use of canals and, later, railways to access wider markets, and the place of "the middling sort" in nineteenth-century English rural society.	

SUMMER TERM 2019

Date	Speaker	Title	Abstract	Room
30 April	Prof John Beckett, University of Nottingham	Digital recording of churches and chapels in Nottinghamshire		IHR, 304
28 May or 11 June TBC	Louisa Foroughi, UEA	Regional biases of litigants on the Court of Common Pleas in the 15th century		IHR, 304