

THE CASTLE STUDIES GROUP BULLETIN



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Editorial

CSG members reading this *Bulletin* as a paper copy may be wondering what happened to the intention to move the distribution of the *Bulletin* and *Bibliography* (but not the *Journal*) to electronic delivery as described this time last year? Well, CSG committee, and the membership at the recent AGM held in Durham Castle, agreed that the electronic distribution of these summer publications should commence from next year, 2013.

There are sound reasons for this. Most importantly, the printed *Bibliography* that will have accompanied this *Bulletin* for CSG members, is the last volume to be edited by John Kenyon after 25 years. All of these annual volumes have appeared as printed copies and it was felt appropriate that the whole of this body of work should remain in the same format. The new *Bibliography* editor, Dr Gillian Eadie, will take over the reins from 2013 and the new format will begin her tenure.

Gathering email addresses from all members is also an on-going programme started last year, so we have another 12 months or so to complete the list of members preferred email contact details.

For CSG members who do not yet have access to email the printed versions of the summer publications will still be available to them as paper copies. From 2013 however the printed versions will only be available upon written request as the default delivery method will be by email. The address to request printed copies from 2013 is contained on the announcements page of this *Bulletin* on page 12.

Once again, thank you to everyone who has provided content for this years *Bulletin*, and I am sure I represent all CSG members in thanking Dr John Kenyon for his much valued *Bibliography* of castle publications provided to us for the past quarter-century. John, of course, remains an active CSG committee member and contributor as always.

Peter A Burton

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Photos above. Left: **Lumley Castle**, inner gateway, 14th C. Right: **Raby Castle**, 14th C. Two of the sites visited by the CSG annual conference in April; Castles of Durham. A fully illustrated conference report will appear in the next CSG *Journal*.

NEWS WALES

Denbigh Castle's new visitor centre.

Cadw has just completed a major project at Denbigh to maximise visitor potential to the castle and improve visitor access to the historic town walls. Archaeological excavation of the site has been commissioned from Archaeology Wales in advance of the new purpose-built visitor centre construction. The town wall-walks have been made more easily accessible, and the presentation and interpretation of the castle and walls improved, making links with the wider historic landscape.



The design of the new visitor centre building incorporates many environmentally friendly features, such as a ground source heat pump, electricity-generating solar panels, a green roof planted with sedum and LED lighting throughout; but also offers a well-stocked shop, a café bar and terrace, and a multisensory interpretation area.

Denbigh's story is long and fascinating, from its beginnings as a llys of the princes of Gwynedd, through the construction of the castle by Henry de Lacy in the late thirteenth century, right up to the six-month siege during the Civil War. New interpretation is installed to tell that story and to reveal the castle's complexity and sophistication as a palatial home as well as a mighty fortress. It also emphasises Denbigh's important place

in the larger narratives identified in the all-Wales interpretation plans for The Princes of Gwynedd and The Castles and Town Walls of Edward I.

The new interpretation, which is tailored to the needs and interests of the many families who visit the castle, begins as soon as you step into the celebrated three-towered gatehouse. The clatter of the rising portcullis and the heavy tread of marching soldiers will leave no doubt that you are entering a great and powerful stronghold.

Once inside, a short film in the visitor centre introduces you to three cartoon characters - Huw, the castle guard; Tom, the kitchen boy; and young Eleanor (based on the daughter of Henry de Lacy's cousin, Earl Gilbert de Clare, and the granddaughter of Edward I) - who help bring the castle's story to life.

Trails featuring each of the three characters help children and their families discover the castle's principal features and its intriguing hidden corners. Each character will have different views and perceptions of the castle, creating a multilayered and memorable experience.

If you would rather explore on your own, you will find new interpretative panels with reconstruction drawings and lively and engaging texts explaining what life was like for the people who lived and worked in the castle. There is also a display of the medieval artefacts found during excavations at the castle and a handling collection of replica objects.

The new interpretation extends into the surrounding areas too, including the town walls and Lord Leicester's Church. These panels draw out the important links between castle and the town - vital in understanding the rich history of Denbigh as a whole.

The new visitor centre and interpretation have been funded through Cadw's £19 million European-funded Heritage Tourism Project, which is backed by £8.5 million from the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government.

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Ruperra Castle

The long running campaign to save Ruperra Castle near Caerphilly in South Wales has wider interest beyond the immediate community. The story of Ruperra Castle is one that can show how a determined and well organised group of people can make a real difference, even in the face of landowners, planners and lawyers, to raise the awareness at a national level of the plight of neglected historic buildings.

The standing structure of Ruperra Castle as we see it today is of the 17th century but the origins of the castle and the surrounding area is medieval. A fundraising trust has now been established to help fund the preservation campaign for the site. Pat Jones-Jenkins of the Ruperra Castle Preservation Trust brings the story up to date.

The last account of the situation at Ruperra in the *Bulletin* of Summer 2009 described the Public Inquiry held in April 2009. This had followed the rejection of the owner's housing plans by the local



Photos: **Denbigh Castle.** Top: New visitor centre.
Bottom: Archaeological excavations underway prior to building.

council as contrary to their policies regarding building in the countryside and its effect on historic monuments and their settings.

Inspectors on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government at the time pointed out that the location of the proposed development would not be sustainable and would not enhance the character or appearance of the Ruperra Conservation Area.

Despite this verdict from the Planning Inspectorate, the plight of Ruperra Castle took a downward turn. In September 2010 the owner put Ruperra Castle on the market, for £1.5m but no satisfactory offers were made.



Above; Ruperra Castle, showing current condition.

Using a District Valuation, which is the criterion used by the Heritage Lottery Fund for grant aid, RCPT made a formal offer to the owner to purchase the Castle and 30 acres for £750,000. This would follow success by the Trust in securing grant aid towards the purchase from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Cadw and others and the owner's agreement not to sell the property to others for a sum less than £800,000 during a period following this offer, ideally twelve months, to enable the Trust to complete its fundraising. There was no response to this offer.

Meanwhile deterioration continues. The listed grade II outbuildings have been vandalised and lead and roof tiles removed.

Cadw carried out a monitoring survey of the castle in October 2011 and summarised the findings thus:

- *Condition: worsened - severe. Action to prevent major collapse or damage is required urgently.*
- *Vulnerability: high. There is an immediate threat from uncontrolled structural decay.*
- *Outlook: unfavourable. The castle is for sale, there is the potential for a sympathetic purchaser and ensuing conservation but this is not guaranteed.*

As readers will know there is no law that can force an owner to repair ancient monuments. Purchase would enable RCPT at least to put up scaffolding. A Heritage Protection Bill introduced by the Welsh Assembly recently will not become law until 2015.

When it appeared that the owner did not intend

to sell, RCPT in April 2012 with the help of the Leader of Caerphilly Council, keen to preserve the important heritage site, forwarded documents to the Planning Division quoting measures taken by other authorities with difficult owners and asking for a 'letter of comfort' from the Council to facilitate the purchase of the site by RCPT as a Building Preservation Trust. The Trust also asked the local authority to serve a repairs notice on the listed outbuildings perhaps leading to a CPO.

A recent examination of the documents by a member of Caerphilly planning team states. "The evidence appears to be there that councils can play a part in ensuring that listed buildings are transferred into alternative ownerships where necessary in the long term interests of those buildings. I shall discuss that approach with my colleagues and members to see whether it would be appropriate in this case".

The campaign to save Ruperra Castle continues.

*Pat Jones-Jenkins, Ruperra Castle Preservation Trust,
June 2012
www.ruperratrast.co.uk*

Rick Turner OBE

Many CSG members will know the work of Rick Turner, senior inspector of ancient monuments at Cadw, who has just been appointed OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 2012. Rick is particularly associated with his research and knowledge of Chepstow Castle, authoring the magnificent Cadw guidebook for the site and editing and contributing to the Logaston Press monograph on Chepstow Castle, published in 2006.

The CSG annual conference in April 2008, based in Abergavenny, visited Chepstow Castle where Rick Turner explained many of the important features of the castle and led a stimulating discussion that many members present will remember warmly.

Congratulations to him on his well deserved honour.



Above: Chepstow Castle.

NEWS ENGLAND

Hornby Castle Fieldwork Season 2 (2011) Interim Update.

Since 2010 the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland have been organising a programme of fieldwork involving archaeological excavation in the grounds of Hornby Castle near Bedale North Yorkshire. Hornby had previously been a residence of the Conyers family prior to being converted into a superior country house by architect John Carr for the 4th Earl of Holderness in the 1760s. The main house was partially demolished in 1930 in order to service the debts of the then owner the 11th Duke of Leeds.



Above: Hornby Castle, view looking north of trench 2.

In Season 2 the focus has moved closer to St Mary's Church some 50 metres to the west. Here a quantity of residual Medieval pottery of 14th and 15th Century date was clearly identifiable on the ground surface. Very quickly a partly robbed stone wall some 1.5 metres wide was located and to either side a series of interleaving wooden and mortar floor surfaces. One of the mortar surfaces contained the remains of several hundred timber stakes suggesting some kind of suspended timber floor. The trench was subsequently extended to the north east and a timber boarded floor in situ together with a robbed stone plinth suggesting the base of a staircase was discovered.



Above: Surgical Fleam, excavated from Hornby Castle.

The floor surfaces yielded a significant quantity of pottery and small finds of Late Medieval date. The pottery largely consisted of local cooking pots from the Winksley kilns together with a very large quantity of

drinking jugs originating in the Hull and Gainsborough areas. There were also significant quantities of imported pottery from Saintonge and also from Spain, mainly table wares. There was also imported glass ware, and metal artefacts including a surgical fleam, a rowel spur of mid 15th Century date and several dress buckles.



Above: Hornby Castle, 15th C water pipes.

A whale bone dice of mid 15th century date was also discovered. The food bones indicated a particularly rich diet with evidence of both deep sea and fresh water fish, venison, boar and veal calf as well as, to our minds much more exotic species such as beaver, crane and peacock all being eaten.

The evidence suggests a building of some size devoted to elite entertainment use and dating from the early 14th Century and in use through until the early 16th Century when the pottery record suddenly stopped. It seems that a "pleasaunce" devoted to entertaining and cultivating the "great and the good" similar to sites at Kenilworth and Bodiam in Sussex may have been uncovered. This would certainly fit with the known history of the site in the 14th and 15th Century. It belonged variously to Sir John Neville an important member of the Royal Household in the early part of the reign of King Edward III and then in the mid 15th Century to Sir John Conyers KG, major military and political figure during the Wars of the Roses.

Most significant of all during Season 2 was the discovery that the building had a conduit fed piped water supply through elm water pipes and a rudimentary piped drainage system laid in ceramic pipes and linked to the water supply to enable it to flush out.

Work is continuing with a third trench in Season 3 a short distance to the north of trench 2 and already a residual deposit of Andenne ware pottery dating to the 12th Century and imported from Northern France has been identified. It is hoped that some idea of the size and external appearance of the building can be discovered.

*Erik Matthews
c/o rubyna.matthews@btinternet.com*

English Heritage plans for Conisbrough Castle, Yorkshire

English Heritage are awaiting a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for a grant to aid in renewing the visitor facilities of Conisbrough Castle in South Yorkshire.

English Heritage's intent is to demolish the visitor centre built in the 1980s and extend and improve space available in the Lodge, built 1885 as the custodians house and formerly used as tea rooms. The new extension at the back of the Lodge will contain an activity centre for the numerous educational groups, particularly local schools, who make up much of the castles visitors.

The 1980s visitors centre was controversial when built, the building on a ground plan of three hexagons was supposed to invoke the sense of medieval tents within the outer bailey. This building has not aged well although the unusual design must make maintenance costly. However this building does contain a small interpretation centre and a large activity centre space which can cope with the groups of 50 plus that make up the usual school group visit. Removing this idiosyncratic building will allow EH to extend the amount of car parking in the outer bailey.

Car parking at the castle does appear to be a problem, certainly the author has heard this mentioned as a difficulty by visitors to the castle. A free car park at the bottom of hill on which the castle is built is adequate in size. However the short climb to the castle is fairly steep although in no way comparable to the climb to Peveril Castle, in the adjacent county of Derbyshire. A small amount of parking outside the visitor centre is reserved for staff and disabled visitors. Expanding car parking in the outer bailey will probably improve

visitor numbers and make access for school coaches easier.

The attention given to these ancillary spaces in castles has always been somewhat minimal. An easily overlooked mound near the entrance to the site is probably a collapsed outer gatehouse but has a tradition of being the grave of the semi-legendary Saxon king Hengist. In Victorian Conisbrough there was a pond within the outer bailey. Given the amount of water horses drink a pond may well have been a feature of

the medieval castle. The demolition of the visitors centre may give an opportunity to investigate this part of the castle.

A notice in the current visitors centre entitled 'Presenting Conisbrough Castle' reads: 'As part of the project at the castle we are planning new displays to make Conisbrough more exciting, interesting and easier to explore. The history of the castle and the town will be brought to life through the stories of the De Warenne family and their descendants. The proposals include:

- An exhibition in the activity centre, including a model of the castle in the 12th century, displays of artefacts excavated in the castle, hands-on exhibits, and a timeline charting the history of Conisbrough and the castle.
- A virtual tour to provide access to the castle for all visitors.
- Illustrated panels in the inner bailey to show how it would have looked and explain who worked in the castle when it was occupied in the Middle Ages.



Above: Present visitor 'tents' of the 1980s.

Right: 'Upper chamber' with gloomy 'set dressing', in fact much less well lit than this flash photograph suggests.



- New displays in the castle keep illustrating and explaining how it was used when it was first built.
- Panels on the roof of the keep and around the outside of the castle to explain how the town and castle have developed.



Left: Former, much missed, teashop, will be the front of the new visitor centre, with a new extension to the rear.

Quite how “exciting” this rather old fashioned approach to castle interpretation, though the story of noble occupants in their ‘keep’, may be is open to question. There may also something to be said for having higher expectations of visitors and aiming for a challenging interpretation of the castle, which deal with the complexities of castles. This author, for one, would like to see at least some castles presented as centres of political and judicial administration involving ordinary folk.

Whatever the future interpretation of the castle, what is to be ardently wished for is the removal of the dated Ivanhoe Trust set dressings of the 1980s and the opening up of the windows to bring back natural light into the Great Tower. The Ivanhoe Trust initially had an audio-visual display, supported by guides in costume, which required low light for visitors to see the, then modern, visual projections. This meant the set dressings, such as a bed in the upper chamber, were painted black and windows were shuttered. When, after a few years, the Trust was no longer able to afford to maintain the audio-visual effects these were turned off leaving the rooms gloomy. This may fit with a ‘Hollywood’ view of castles but has little to do with the medieval reality and makes it difficult to see the actual architectural details discussed by Philip Dixon on the CSG visit in 1996. The windows currently remain shuttered for safety.

Philip Davis

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Norwich Castle Redevelopment.

As mentioned in the conference report on page 15, Norwich Castle Keep is soon to undergo a phase of re-development and updated interpretation and display. To assist the curators of the project, Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service have enlisted a number of leading castle scholars (several of whom are CSG members) who were invited to attend a symposium at Norwich castle on 7 June 2012. The aim was to bring together the latest thinking about these buildings and explore ideas of how best to present the Keep to the public. Angela Riley, the Norman Connections Project Officer at Norwich Castle, has given us this explanation.

Background

Prior to the re-development at Norwich Castle in 1999-2000, an initial gathering of specialists was

called in order to discuss details of the architecture of the Keep. A large-scale model was subsequently created, with the internal arrangement based on the results of those discussions. A limited amount of graphic reconstruction was also achieved. However, no overall interpretation of this important building was undertaken during that development.

Staff at Norwich Castle have now started to turn their attention towards achieving an improved interpretation and presentation of the magnificent Castle Keep for visitors. Progress has already been made in the following ways:

- Under the banner of ‘Norman Connections’, we have secured some funding to jointly develop a better insight into our sites and into the Anglo-Norman world. Through this project, limited funding is available for initial re-display work in 2012-13. We intend to focus this initial phase of interpretation and display in the areas of the Bigod Tower and the Chapel.
 - A second partnership has been established with the British Museum, under the banner of ‘Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England’. Through this project, the British Museum has agreed to loan collections of the highest quality to supplement the NMAS collections in a major new display of medieval archaeology in the Keep.
 - Planning has begun for a larger overall programme of improved new displays within the Keep.
- The *Norman Connections* project in Norwich aims to undertake an initial limited programme of interpretation and re-display work relating principally to Norman aspects of the Keep. In order to do this we wish to base our interpretation on good solid scholarship.



Above: Norwich Castle, interior presentation of the Keep as it appeared in May 2012. Balcony is placed at the principal medieval floor level. The lower floor in this photograph is modern, placed at an intermediate level above the original medieval basement floor level.

Norwich Castle symposium 7th June 2012

We held a symposium to further improve our understanding of our Keep. A group of specialists (including Pamela Marshall) have agreed to come together to discuss the Keep, which will help to inform NMAS staff towards the next steps in the re-display process.

We held a discussion during which participants were invited to discuss the following issues:

- The internal structure of the Norman Keep
- What future work might we undertake in order to improve our understanding of the building?
- What was the original appearance of the Bigod Tower and Chapel area? How best should they be presented in a re-display?
- In the light of recent presentations of historic castles, such as at Dover, what do we consider could be the best/most effective way of addressing the re-display of Norwich Castle Keep?
- Norwich Castle also has outstanding Designated collections of medieval artefacts, reflecting the history and archaeology of the county. How do we achieve a strong interpretation of the building alongside a strong museum presentation?
- Within the Norman period, what (if any) historical date should we focus on?

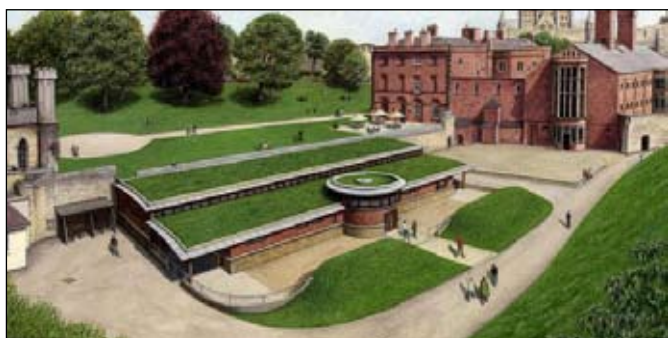
We are still researching, consulting and gathering inspiration and ideas. CSG members are encouraged to contribute to this debate.

Contact: Angela Riley angela.riley@norfolk.gov.uk

Lincoln Castle successful in £12M Lottery grant

Lincoln Castle is to receive almost £19m for refurbishments, the county council has announced. Planned work includes a new vault to showcase the Magna Carta, repairs to the castle wall and the restoration of two prison buildings.

The refurbishment is being part-funded by a £12m grant from the Lottery. The county council is providing £5.2m towards the project and has made a £1.1m bid for European funding. The rest will rely on fundraising efforts.



Above: Artist's impression of part of the proposed new works at Lincoln Castle. This view shows the new Heritage Skills Centre with its turfed roof in the foreground, with the refurbished prison buildings behind it.

Illustration © Joanne Gibson

Lincoln Castle was built in 1068 and has housed the Magna Carta since 1215. The new vault will showcase the famous document, one of only a handful of surviving originals. Refurbishments to the two prison buildings will see the Victorian male prison opened to the public for the first time in several decades.

A new shop, cafe, toilets and education space will also be built and disabled access will be improved. Once completed, admission to the castle grounds through the east and west gates will be made free during the day.

Martin Hill, leader of Lincolnshire County Council, said: "This project will make Lincoln Castle one of the country's top historic attractions, attracting thousands more visitors."

Work is scheduled to begin this summer with an official re-opening planned for April 2015, to coincide with the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta.

Pontefract Castle project funding success

A project that aims to make Pontefract's historic medieval castle a top visitor attraction has been given a huge funding boost.



The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has recently given its backing to the first stage of Wakefield Council's Key to the North project, which aims to conserve the town's premier landmark.

The HLF has granted a 'first-round pass' along with initial funding of £65,157 to help support the next step in an application for £3 million, which will be submitted next year.

The Key to the North project will improve the visitor experience to the historic site, boost tourism to the castle and the district, raise the profile of Pontefract and create local jobs."

The Key to the North project aims to conserve the remains of the castle, landscape the area, develop new visitor facilities and create new access paths and viewing platforms around the site.

Joanne Roney, Wakefield Council's chief executive, said: "This is a significant move to help put Pontefract on the map, making the district a more attractive place to visit and stay."

If successful in the rest of its funding bid, the £3.6 million project will be part funded by English Heritage and the council. The five year project will then start in 2014.

For more information, visit: www.wakefield.gov.uk/Castles

NEWS EUROPE/WORLD

Earthquake in northern Italy damages 14th century castle.

The earthquake that struck the area around San Felice Sul Panaro, in northern Italy on Sunday 20 May 2012, measured 6.0 magnitude, and caused the deaths of seven people who were trapped amongst the collapsing buildings.

It also visited great damage on much of the area's artistic and architectural heritage, including its iconic Rocca Estense castle. Begun in 1332 by the Este family, the brick structure had become an important landmark for San Felice and drew tourists from all over the world.

"It is the symbol of our town," mayor Alberto Silvestri told reporters. Of the castle's original four towers, only one is left standing, and its integrity is doubtful. "If it doesn't come down by itself they'll have to pull it down," resident Manuela Monelli said. These comments, made within hours of the earthquake, reflect the immediate reaction of local people to the damage caused to the castle. The damage to Rocca Estense is not as devastating as these first reactions suggest but is still serious.



Photos: **Rocca Estense** in San Felice Sul Panaro, Italy.
Above, damage after earthquake of 20 May.
Below, castle before the earthquake.



Above: **Rocca Este**, in Finale Emilia, showing earthquake damage of 20 May 2012.

Located in the lowlands of Modena, between the rivers Secchia and Panaro, San Felice Sul Panaro traces its origins to the high Middle Ages. The medieval village layout can still be detected in the modern town and is identifiable from the grid of streets, which follow the medieval pattern, the Church, the Castle and City Hall. The medieval town was walled, and three of

the four towers that were part of the city walls and formed an ensemble with the castle are preserved within the town.

The castle has suffered extensive damage with 5 of the 6 towers badly affected with an effective collapse of the upper levels and machicolations. The tallest of the 6 towers, the great tower, appears at first sight to have been least damaged with the five lower towers most affected. However, closer inspection reveals the great tower has suffered significant damage also. The roof structure is also in a critical condition and the whole building has suffered dramatic movements of the masonry and

many cracks and fissures are evident in the surviving building.

Alongside Rocca Estense, San Felice's three main churches have been ruined, as well as artworks, including a 16th-century wood triptych by Bernardino Loschi.

The nearby town of Finale Emilia was also a victim of the unexpected earthquake; its San Carlo church, which housed a 17th century painting by Giovanni Francesco Barbieri, collapsed.

Also within Finale Emilia, is another medieval castle, Castello delle Rocche, also known as Rocca Este, and this building has virtually collapsed after the earthquake. Previously this castle of the 1430s was considered to be remarkably preserved, making it one of the most conspicuous castles of the Emilia Romagna region and a jewel of military architecture of the fifteenth century.

The May 20 earthquake was described by Italian emergency officials as the worst to hit the region since the 1300s. The full extent and severity of the damage to these castles is still being assessed by the Italian authorities.

NEWS IRELAND

Irish asset agency Nama repossesses County Down castle

The Irish government's National Asset Management Agency (Nama) has repossessed a castle in County Down. Nama has taken control of virtually all land and development loans which were advanced by the Dublin-based banks. In some cases it has taken 'enforcement action' on these loans by placing the related properties into receivership.



Above: *Quintin Castle, County Down.*

Quintin castle in Portaferry has appeared on the newly updated enforcement list. The Anglo-Norman castle was originally built in the 12th century by John De Courcy. At one stage it was virtually a ruin but was restored in the 19th century. It underwent a further restoration around 2006 when it was bought by the property developer Paul Neill.

Mr Neill had a portfolio of properties in Belfast and County Down. He was also an aviation enthusiast owning a private jet and a helicopter. In 2011, the former Anglo Irish Bank moved against him taking control of two of his retail parks in Bangor over a £37m debt. He was declared bankrupt earlier this year.

Quintin Castle is situated on the Ards Peninsula, about two and a half miles east of Portaferry in County Down. It is one of the very few occupied Anglo-Norman castles in Ulster. The original castle was built by John de Courcy in 1184 and it was later occupied by the Savage family and their dependents, the Smiths.

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Ireland's Discovery Programme to provide virtual access to Irish World Heritage sites

3D-ICONS is a 3 year EU co-funded project which will focus on the 3D documentation of UNESCO World Heritage monuments and other monuments of outstanding value at European level. The digital content will include 3D models and reconstructions, enlarged models of important details, images, texts, videos. It will also include and re-contextualize in 3D, objects belonging to a monument but presently located elsewhere, for example in a museum. The project's

activities will include both new digitization as well as the conversion of some existing 3D data into formats which are accessible for users. The project's anticipated impact is making accessible through the Europeana website an unprecedented quantity of high-quality, 3D models; presenting well-organized and attractive information about the masterpieces of European architecture and archaeology.

Within Ireland the 3D-ICONS project activities are being carried out by the Discovery Programme: a public institution for advanced research in Irish archaeology, funded by the Heritage Council. Over the following three years discovery programme staff will capture and model in 3D a range of iconic Irish monument and artefacts to millimetre accuracy using an assortment of technologies including: laser scanning and photogrammetry. Once created 3D models can be used for a range of heritage activities, including:

- Visualisation & virtual reconstruction
- Tourism & promotion
- Conservation & management

Some of the sites to be documented include:

- Skellig Micheal
- Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site including Knowth & Newgrange
- Hill of Tara
- Dún Aonghasa stone fort, Aran Islands
- Clonmacnoise
- Glendalough
- Derry City Walls



Above: 3-D image of *Kavala Castle* in Greece. A fortification of Byzantine origin and one of the European sites included in the 3-D ICONS project.

The project was officially launched by Conor Newman, Chairman of the Heritage Council on 18th April 2012 at the Royal Irish Academy Dublin. Fittingly the launch followed a joint Heritage Council / ICOMOS Ireland conference to celebrate International Day of Monuments and Sites.

NEWS SCOTLAND

Archaeologists uncover medieval defences on grounds of historic castle

Archaeologists have made a surprising discovery on the grounds of an Aberdeenshire castle. Experts excavating at Fyvie Castle, near Turriff, expected to uncover a 400-year-old garden. Instead they have discovered what they believe to be an 800-year-old defence system which will help them learn more about the castle's history.



Above: *Fyvie Castle, Aberdeenshire.*

Archaeologist Alison Cameron said: "Initially when I was digging down one of these post holes I found a huge piece of 13th century pottery which I knew hadn't been moved around a lot, so I was thinking there was probably some structure underneath. "It's potentially very significant. If it was possible to uncover more post holes and find out more about this structure it would be one of the only excavations which has taken place in Scotland of 13th century defences of a castle."

Shannon Fraser, of the National Trust for Scotland, said: "We don't know anything about medieval Fyvie at all. We know much more about later periods, but there is so much to learn. To come across 13th century pottery is just incredible."

The fully illustrated excavation report on this work, conducted by Cameron Archaeology Ltd. of Aberdeen, is available on-line at the following address:

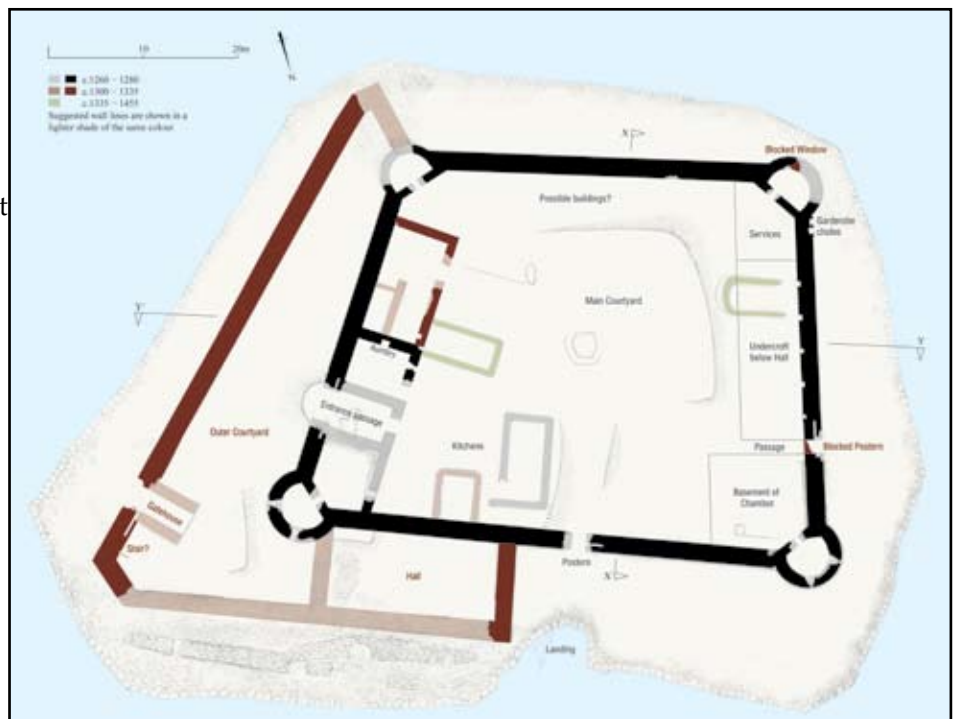
http://cameronarchaeology.com/doc/Fyvie_Castle_Environs_Project_final_draft_with_images.pdf

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Recent recording of castles by RCAHMS

Since the completion of the Strathdon area survey in 2007 with the publication of *In the shadow of Bennachie*, RCAHMS has only sporadically recorded castle sites in Scotland as the occasion requires, generally on request or if under threat. From 2006 to 2009 Roxburgh and its burgh were the subject of a detailed resurvey to create a terrain model and GIS of the castle and royal burgh, bringing together all the existing data in the aftermath of a Time Team exploration in 2003 which reinvigorated interest in the site. The results of the fieldwork continue to be experimented with, and the 3D terrain model is expected to be made available soon.

Following a request from Historic Scotland to make a baseline record of Lochindorb Castle in Moray, in 2009-10, plans, profiles and details of architectural features were compiled to create a primary record of this important late 13th-century castle of the Comyns (Anderson and Dixon, 2011). Notable for sitting in the middle of a loch, it served as a hunting lodge and castle. An assessment of the record of other castles of that period was carried out for comparison and to see if further recording of them was needed. Some of this research was focused on a comparison of the site with previously-recorded Inverlochy Castle, at the head of Loch Linnhe, near Fort William. Both were built by the Comyns in the second half of the 13th century as similar quadrilateral enclosures with round corner towers. While the latter had been slighted following the forfeiture of the earl of Douglas' lands in 1455, Inverlochy continued in use until the 18th century. Lochindorb's strength, gained as much from its location as its architecture, secured its early demise at the orders of the King.



Above: *Lochindorb Castle, Moray. Ground plan showing level of recording at the site*

A programme of aerial photography of all castles in Scotland to enhance the RCAHMS record was begun in 2011, and where needed, the resurvey or at least photography of some poorly recorded examples, particularly of those that originated before

centres in the north-east of Scotland (Young 2005) and guarded a crossing of the King Edward Burn, a tributary of the River Deveron, by the road from Turriff to Banff.



Above: *Lochindorb Castle, Moray.*
Image © RCAHMS Enterprises.

the Scots Wars of Independence. In March 2012, for example, King Edward Castle in Banffshire was selected for record since no detailed survey had ever been carried out. The existing plan of Bedrule Castle in Roxburghshire, also a Comyn castle, was also upgraded. King Edward Castle had been recorded as a motte by Yeoman (1988), and noted as a castle that was slighted by Robert Bruce in the 'herschip' of Buchan, although a roll-moulding having been reused in the mill below the castle may suggest later reuse. Preliminary field examination of the site indicated significant fragments of mortar-bonded masonry, consistent with a stone-walled castle in the undergrowth. The survey showed that it was a natural promontory across which a massive ditch had been excavated and a curtain wall, 2m thick, constructed to defend it, with a rectangular tower beside an entrance in the middle of the curtain facing the ditch. Inside the castle there was a suite of buildings surrounding a courtyard, including a large rectangular building with a newel stair in one corner, probably accessing a first floor hall, on the north-east. The castle was the centre of one of the Comyn administrative

Refs:

- Anderson, I and Dixon, P, 2011, 'Inverlochy and Lochindorb Castles – A Comparative Study', in *J Archit Hist Soc Scot*, Volume XXII, 1-18.
- Yeoman, P A, 1988, 'Mottes in Northeast Scotland', *Scot Archaeol Rev*, vol. 5, 131, No. 64.
- Young, A, 2005, 'The Comyns to 1300', in Oram, R. and Stell, G. (eds), *Lordship and Architecture in Medieval and Renaissance Scotland*, John Donald, Edinburgh, 61-84.

Piers Dixon,
Operations Manager, Survey and Recording,
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical
Monuments of Scotland.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CSG Autumn Conference Timber Castles 20 Years On Saturday October 13th 2012

The conference is being held to mark the 20th anniversary of Bob Higham's and the late Philip Barker's seminal work on the topic. The conference will look at work which has been done in Britain and Ireland on timber castles in the past 20 years as well as reviewing older work with the soon to be published full excavation reports on South Mimms, Sulgrave and Danes Castle. Bob Higham will be presenting a paper at the conference.

Venue: UCL - University College
London, Gower St., London WC1.

Confirmed speakers include: Oliver Creighton, Kieran O'Connor, Chris Caple, Richard Oram, Derek Renn Brian Davison, Bob Higham and Cormac McSparron. Cost is £75 per person including morning refreshments and lunch.

There are also the following discounts:

£5 off per Castle
Studies Group
member.

£5 off if one books
before Wednesday 15
August.

£10 off for students.

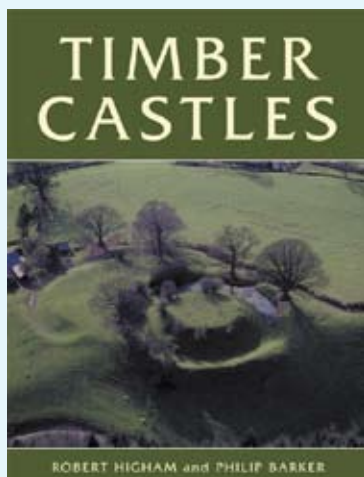
For further details
contact:

Jeremy Cunnington at:
jeremy.cunnington@btopenworld.com

or write to Jeremy at:

Flat 3, 46 Ferme Park Road, London, N4 4ED.

Telephone numbers are 07950 926154 or 020 8348 6208
(evenings and weekends)



2011 Newsletter Questionnaire Prize Draw Winner

All CSG members who completed and returned the questionnaire in last year's newsletter regarding email addresses and support for a trust to fund research into castle studies were entered into a draw to win a £50 book token.

The draw was made at the CSG Annual Conference in April 2012 and the lucky winner is a Mr Graham Hyland of Berkshire.

Many congratulations to him and he has already received the book token.

Printed copies of *Bulletin* and *Bibliography*

As we mention on the front page editorial of this *Bulletin*, from the summer of 2013, the Castle Studies Group *Bibliography* and *Bulletin* will be distributed in a new format and by e-mail to members. In order to ensure all members receive their electronic publications it is important that your preferred e-mail address is submitted to our Membership Secretary (David Bartlett) who keeps the database secure and up to date.

For the minority of members who do not have access to e-mail, printed copies of the summer publications can be requested. Members who need to continue to receive printed versions due to their inaccessibility to e-mail must make a request in writing to David Bartlett in order to continue to receive the *Bibliography* and *Bulletin* by post.

Only members who make such a written request will receive printed versions. The annual CSG *Journal* will, of course, continue to be produced and delivered to all members as a printed volume.

Please write to:

David Bartlett
CSG Membership Secretary
4 Cotley Place
Heytesbury
Warminster
Wiltshire
BA12 0HT

Members who have not yet informed David of their preferred e-mail address can e-mail him with the details at:

membership@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk

Cathar Castles II (September 15th-22nd 2012): a few places left

Led by Richard Eales, the study tour comprises 2 nights in **Toulouse** visiting major city sites, followed by 5 nights in **Foix** with excursions to **Lordat, Ax-les-Thermes, Usson, Querigut, Miglos, Montreal, Montaillou, Montsegur, Roquefixade, Mirepoix, Lagarde, Pamiers**.

Cost per person (excluding flights): £790pp shared room; £895 single room. Meals included: 7 breakfasts; 5 dinners; no lunches. Participants are to make their own way into central Toulouse (good airport shuttle) and there will be a drop at Toulouse Airport at 15.00 on 22nd September.

Address applications to Pamela Marshall on
p.marshall752@btinternet.com

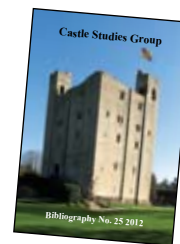
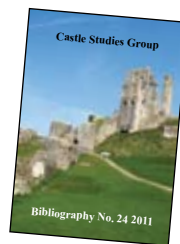
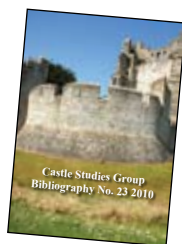
Application forms can be downloaded from
www.castlestudiesgroup.org.uk, where details of the tour can also be found.

The New CSG Bibliography Editor, Dr Gillian Eadie.

'As Dr John Kenyon hands over the reins of the editorship of the annual bibliography, I'd like to offer my thanks for all the work he has done on the past 25 editions. I can only hope to meet his very high standards and will really need the support of members to do so. I encourage people to always let me know if they spot a castle-related publication, regardless of whether you think I should have seen it - and please don't be modest! If you have published something make sure I know about it, then I can let everyone else know about it too.

John will be guiding me through the process and feeding me information, but ultimately I may need to establish a network of informants, who I can rely on to check certain regional journals that I will not have access to. If you are interested in helping me out with the bibliography please let me know. I certainly think it is worthy of our best efforts to carry on John's fantastic work!

Gillian Eadie
geadie01@qub.ac.uk



Castle Studies Trust to be launched in October 2012.

It is with great pleasure that we can announce the setting of a new charitable trust to fund research into castles. The Castle Studies Trust will be set up with the aim of funding further research on the subject in both the UK and internationally.

The Castle Studies Trust will be a completely separate and independent organisation from the CSG, but has the strong support of both the group's committee and the 2012 AGM.

It also has strong support for those working in Castle Studies, some of whom will be helping the trust as assessors of grant applications, notably Jeremy Ashbee, Stuart Prior and John Kenyon.

The initial trustees for the trust will be: Jeremy Cunnington, Peter Purton and Chas Hollwey.

The trust's grant will complement and supplement the work done by heritage organisations and academic institutions and as a consequence any support you can offer will be vital to funding the trust's work.

To give the trust a good start the Castle Studies Group has generously decided to give a grant of up to £2,000 to help the trust to get up and running. In addition to this the trustees have agreed to match donations pound for pound up to the first £5,000, so **any donation that you are able to give is likely, in effect, to be doubled.**

The trust will not solely be reliant on the generosity of CSG members or the group and there is a full fundraising strategy that will be used to expand

the donor base once the trust is launched.

The trust is expected to be launched in October 2012 and at the time of writing is waiting to receive official charitable status from the Charity Commission of England and Wales.

The trust will not open for grant applications until late 2013, to give not only a chance for it to build up sufficient funds but to also make sure the grant giving process is as robust as possible.

Grants will initially be awarded up to the sum of £5,000 and while they could fund research projects outright, grants would also be given to co-fund and even pump-prime bigger projects from which bigger funding bodies such as English Heritage, Cadw, Historic Scotland etc. can then take the funding to a higher level.

Grants will initially focus on two main areas:

- New work on castles such as architectural, geophysical surveys or scientific tests such as radiocarbon dating
- Helping fund the publication of unpublished excavations, if of sufficient importance

For further information about the trust and how you can help, please contact the chair of the trustees, Jeremy Cunnington on jeremy.cunnington@btopenworld.com or on 07950 926154



CASTLE CONFERENCE REPORTS

Of the many castle related conferences held over the past six months, the following two reports, produced by CSG members who attended, are representative.

Stirling Castle Palace Project 'Rebirth of the Palace'

26th – 27th November 2011

University of Stirling

This conference was held to celebrate the re-opening of the palace within Stirling Castle after substantial conservation and renovation. Due to the king and court's permanent move to London in 1603, an outstanding group of late medieval and early Renaissance royal palaces still survive in Scotland, two of them being within major castles.



The conference began with a short address of welcome by the Earl of Mar and Kellie, Hereditary Keeper of Stirling Castle. He was followed by Ruth Parsons, Chief Executive Historic Scotland who spoke very positively of the benefits derived from the project. The final speaker in the introductory session was Peter Buchanan, Historic Scotland Project Manager. He pointed out that the Palace Project was only the latest in a series of projects undertaken in this castle, which had already taken in the Chapel Royal and the Great Hall. The original finishing date was 2000 but research requirements pushed this back more than ten years. It was also salutary to be reminded of all the hidden work of structural engineers, heating and ventilating engineers and fire protection engineers, which usually go unappreciated.

After these introductions we moved on to consider some of the historical background to the period when the palace was built. Roger Mason, University of St Andrews, spoke first on Crown and court in Stewart Scotland concentrating on the reigns of James V and his daughter Mary. He was followed by Jonathan Spangler, Manchester Metropolitan University, who gave a fascinating talk on Mary of Guise: Renewal of the Auld Alliance or something more? His main point was that although Mary of Guise, or Mary of Lorraine as she should more properly be called, was brought up in France her family had strong personal and cultural links with the Holy Roman Empire.

Therefore exemplars for the palace at Stirling should not be sought just in France.

Richard Fawcett, University of St Andrews, opened the afternoon session with a paper entitled Flying kites over Stirling Palace in which he traced influences on the architecture and imagery of the palace from Italy via France going back to extant Roman buildings like the Pantheon in Rome. Charles McKean, University of Dundee, gave a very thought-provoking paper on Sir James Hamilton of Finnart's title of "Master of Works, Principal". Did this mean he could be considered the architect of the palace and indeed the first Scottish Architect Royal, a century before Sir Robert Bruce?

Kirkdale Archaeology has been responsible for seventeen excavations over thirty years at the castle and three members were present to speak on various aspects of their work. Dennis Gallagher looked at the evolution of the palace since it was built and paid tribute to the army who kept it wind and water tight and thus preserved it for future generations. His colleague Thorsten Hanke discussed surviving wooden structures like roofs, ceilings and doors and Gordon Ewart summed up by considering the constraints faced by the original builders on an awkward site with pre-existing buildings.

Michael Pearce, Historic Scotland, concluded the first day with a paper entitled Craftsmen and Accounts: artists and craftsmen in the archival record. Many of the records for building the palace are lost which makes it necessary to look at records of other projects for comparisons.

The first day ended with a buffet in the Great Hall of Stirling Castle with the opportunity to roam freely round the newly renovated palace and visit the Stirling Heads exhibition. It was quite spectacular walking up from the main gate in the rain and the dark, turning the corner and seeing light shining out of the palace windows.

The second day opened with John Harrison, an independent historian who has been responsible for much recent research on the palace. He gave an enthralling paper entitled At the Queen's Board: Palace, Protocol and Politics in which he analysed the protocols governing regal dining in the sixteenth century. Monarchs no longer ate in the great hall so where did they routinely eat? Consideration of this question helps to explain why the king and queen's suites in the Stirling palace are 'short' with only three main rooms, plus closets. Using her Bread Books amongst other unusual sources Harrison concluded that Mary of Guise ate semi publicly in her outer chamber with members of her court both male and female at her board. This was similar to the French court but contrasted with the English habit where the monarch ate privately in a privy chamber.

The iconography of the palace was studied by Sally Rush, University of Glasgow, who talked us through how she set about identifying the sculptures on the façade of the palace and the subjects of the Stirling Heads. Chris McGregor, Historic Scotland, followed and although his talk was entitled Digital Scanning of the Palace he actually ranged much more widely and

talked about Scottish TEN (<http://www.scottishten.org/index.htm>) which is a very ambitious project to produce digital models of the five Scottish World Heritage Sites and five international ones (like the Mount Rushmore heads).

One of the talking points of a visit to the palace is the set of unicorn tapestries and Caron Penney from West Dean College discussed some of the problems faced and overcome in designing and weaving the set. The theme of furnishings continued with Peter Russell of Stuart Interiors talking about the replica furnishings his firm created. These included shutters, furniture, metalwork, carpets and textiles. These two speakers were followed by what many people considered one of the highlights of the conference. John Donaldson, wood carver, talked about the replica Stirling Heads he carved for the King's Inner Hall. He spoke fluently and amusingly about the construction of the heads, the craftsmanship of the original carvers, the mistakes they made, the identities of the original heads and gave us many insights into techniques employed. The original heads are now in a new gallery on the top floor of the palace.

We left after John Donaldson's talk and unfortunately missed the concluding paper from Lorna Ewan, Head of Interpretation, Historic Scotland speaking on *The Magic of the Real: Interpreting Stirling Castle*.

The papers were all interesting and some of the topics covered in them can be followed up at the web site devoted to Stirling Castle Palace: Archaeological & Historical Research at <http://sparc.scran.ac.uk/home/homePage.html> which is well worth visiting.

MT Fyfe

Norman Connections

17th - 18th May 2012
Norwich Castle

The magnificent Romanesque Great Tower of Norwich was the setting for this two-day conference on Norman castles. Amongst the 100 or so delegates were a number of CSG members and the CSG was also represented within the impressive list of speakers. Approximately 25% of the audience were French and, to generalise overall, the delegates were on the whole, from the academic, the archaeological or the museum/heritage sectors.



The wide ranging topics covered by each 30 minute paper were designed to cover the history, archaeology and interpretation of the rich Anglo-Norman castle heritage in England and in Normandy. There were 19 papers delivered over the two days in total with 8 papers being in French and the rest in English. The excellent facilities at the conference included two interpreters who, in EU style and through headsets provided to each delegate, relayed the lectures in the language of your choice.



Photos on this page. Above: **Falaise Castle**, Normandy. Great Tower of 12th century.

Below left: **Norwich Castle** Great Tower. 12th century, refaced in 19th century but following original detail. The interior walls of the tower remain un-restored but has lost the original floors and dividing walls.

The main theme of the conference was the study of the role of the great Anglo-Norman Romanesque great towers of the period spanning the Norman Conquest and we heard new and important interpretations on Norwich, Colchester, Rochester, White Tower, Caen and Falaise castles. We also heard interesting research, from both sides of the channel, on current thinking in relation to the purpose of these multi-functional buildings, the political and social climate of the region into which these castles were introduced and how current archaeological projects are helping us to understand these issues more fully.

Bringing the delegates up to date on the status of several archaeological investigations currently taking place was a highlight of the conference and helped towards the impression (which was a common theme across all the papers) that we in the lecture theatre were at the very forefront of the latest developments in Anglo-Norman castle research.

As an example, the current project of archaeological investigation taking place at Caen castle in Normandy was explained by the excavations director, Benedicte Guillot, who gave us an insight into the latest findings from this fascinating work. We heard of the discovery of foundations of another large 12th century hall type building within the castle enclosure (similar in size to the well studied, contemporary Exchequer Hall, itself the subject of several papers presented here, that remains almost complete nearby) of as yet unknown purpose. We heard of the discovery of a metalworkers' smithy; of stables and evidence for horse management

within the bailey. We also learned of the excavation of evidence of high status dining culture within Caen castle including the discovery of highly decorated wine pitchers and remains of exotic food items including Sturgeon and Dolphin.

The display and interpretation of these castle sites was another theme of the conference and we heard from those responsible for these decisions and the many conflicting issues they have to balance. We gained an insight into the controversial interpretation and display at Falaise castle, the ground breaking new discoveries as a result of the redisplay and conservation work at the White Tower and the forthcoming opportunities for re-interpreting the great towers at Colchester and the building we were holding this conference in, Norwich.

The organisers of the conference, Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, under the EU funded Norman Connections project, hope to publish the proceedings of this important series of papers in the next 12-18 months. If space allows, a summary report of many of the papers presented at the conference, will appear in the CSG Journal in December.

Further information on the Interreg Programme which funds the Norman Connections project and is providing other funding for cross-channel collaboration programmes can be found on their website here: <http://www.interreg4a-manche.eu/>

The Norman Connections castle conference programme can be found here: <http://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/view/NCC102502>

Peter A Burton

WEB SITE OF INTEREST

A Calendar of Irish Chancery Letters c. 1244-1509

Trinity College at the University of Dublin has recently unveiled a magnificent on-line resource for researchers interested in letters that were issued under the great seal of Ireland and enrolled in the Irish



chancery rolls between the reigns of Henry III and Henry VII.

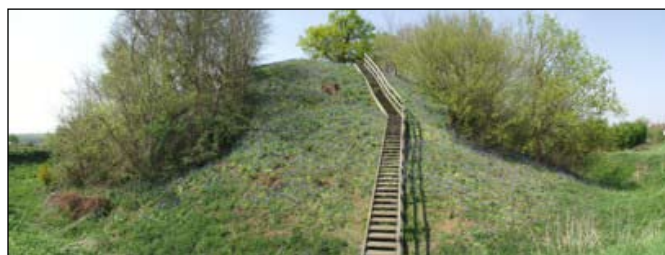
The records of the Irish chancery were destroyed on 30 June 1922 in an explosion and fire in the Public Record Office of Ireland, located at the Four Courts, Dublin. Among the most important classes of record destroyed were the medieval Irish chancery rolls.

CIRCLE is the culmination of nearly four decades of work reconstructing these lost records. It brings together all known letters enrolled on the Irish chancery rolls during the Middle Ages (1244-1509) drawing on originals, facsimiles, transcripts and calendars located in archival repositories in The Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, England and the USA.

The site contains over 20,000 Irish chancery letters translated from Latin into English, together with an unparalleled collection of digital images of surviving medieval chancery letters and rare printed volumes.

CIRCLE can be accessed free of charge at www.chancery.tcd.ie

Community Castle Archaeology Projects



Above: Mount Bures Castle, Essex.

Another important and valuable contribution to castle studies was highlighted recently in the UK's BBC2 history series 'The Great British Story: A People's History', presented by Michael Wood. In episode 3 of the series the community excavation at Mount Bures Castle in Essex was featured.

Community archaeology projects (a pre-requisite for lottery funding presumably?) are growing in popularity in the UK, and several are featured in this edition of the *Bulletin*.

Access Cambridge Archaeology, on behalf of the HLF-funded Managing a Masterpiece scheme, ran a two-week public programme of community archaeological excavation, test pitting and survey on and around Mount Bures Castle in August 2011. The project was led by Dr Carenza Lewis from Cambridge University, who will be familiar to viewers of the early series of Channel 4 Time Team programme.

The excavations took place on and around the summit of Mount Bures Castle and the archaeological survey and test-pitting was undertaken in properties in the vicinity of the monument as well as the land around the Motte and Church.

A short summary of the excavation results can be found at the Access Cambridge Archaeology web site at - <http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/mountbures.html>

Whilst the interpretation of the results of the work at Mount Bures are interesting there will be other

perhaps less traditional views on the origins of this impressive earthwork to be considered.

Any project that raises the public profile, interest and potentially funding for castle studies is very welcome indeed.

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URBS TURRITA - Towers in Medieval Cities and Towns

To follow the first two successful Medieval Towers conferences held in Scotland in 2010 and 2011, the third conference in the series will be held in July this year in Poland.

'Urbs Turrita: towers in medieval cities and towns', the Third Conference on Towers in Medieval Europe will take place in Krakow, Poland, on 20 to 23 July 2012 at the Institute of Archaeology, The Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

Organisers of this years conference are Professor Richard Oram from Stirling University and Dr Przemyslaw Nocun from Jagiellonian University.



The emphasis this year will be on tower houses and urban elites in medieval cities and towns and towers as landmarks of the medieval city and town.

The papers presented at Krakow will be published as the third volume of the Towers series in due course.

Colchester Castle Redevelopment.

Colchester Castle is going through an exciting transformation! The Castle temporarily closes its doors on 6 January 2013 for a major redevelopment project, creating new museum displays and improved visitor facilities. Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service is working on a £4.2m project to redevelop the castle. The project is being supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Colchester Borough Council, EU Interreg fund, Friends of Colchester Museums, Essex Heritage Trust and Friends of Colchester Roman Wall.

The main aims of the project are to:

- Ensure the continued viability of Colchester Castle as a top quality visitor attraction by improving the quality of the overall visitor experience
- Repair the roof and upgrade the heating system in such a way that the building works are an example of best practice in integrating the requirements of conservation and the environment in a historic building
- Present the archaeology and history of Colchester from the origins of the town in the Iron Age to the Civil War Siege of Colchester in 1648 in a series of exciting new displays that increase visitors' understanding and enjoyment.
- Incorporate the latest archaeological discoveries into the displays
- Improve collections care for objects on display
- Build in flexibility allowing future changes to the main displays in the light of new discoveries
- Improve the interpretation of Colchester Castle so



that it will be far better understood and appreciated by visitors.

- Use the Castle displays as a starting point and a link to discovering other heritage sites in Colchester
- Encourage visitors to participate actively in the museum experience and ensure that the displays provoke and engage their interest.
- Provide fully accessible displays, taking into account the needs of all those with permanent and temporary disabilities.
- Encourage repeat visits by local residents.

Colchester Castle will close in January 2013 and re-open for Easter 2014. There will be a special opportunity from 23 March 2013 to 21 April 2013 to see the Castle completely cleared of its contents in order for a detailed inspection of the fabric and structure to be made.

The Museum Service are looking for people aged between 16 and 24 years old to join their '16-24yrs Discussion Group'. The forum is a chance

to discuss the plans for the re-development of the Castle and to have a say about the new displays, over free food!

They are also forming an older persons (60+) focus group with the same aims.

Members of these forums do not need to have an interest in history or the Castle to join the group; they just need to be willing to give an honest opinion about what they think! Members will be able to help us make changes for the better as we work with the group's ideas, input and advice on how to make the Castle a fun, engaging and exciting place to visit.

Castles from the Air

It can be difficult to capture the scale and majesty of a castle in a single photograph. Modern cameras, with a sweep panorama facility, are effective in setting a castle into its local context, and, even without this technique, individual images can be stitched together digitally to produce a composite wide-angle photograph.

Many digital cameras, with appropriate filters, are capable of producing images in the near infra-red (IR) and ultra-violet parts of the spectrum, often revealing features invisible to the naked eye, e.g. differences in building materials. Sensitivity is usually low, so the camera has to be mounted on a tripod.

By far the most useful technique is aerial photography. There are many possible aerial platforms, but the method we prefer is kite aerial photography (KAP). One of the main aims of our archaeological trust is to promote the use of KAP as a low-cost, inclusive, environmentally friendly technique for archaeological and heritage photography.

In France in the 1880s, a kite was first used successfully by Arthur Batut to lift a camera to take aerial photos. He published the first book on KAP in 1890. Many others followed this approach, but, during WWI, aeroplanes became the platform of choice for aerial work.

Nowadays, digital photography has removed the need for remotely triggering a camera, as there is no film-related cost when taking images, although some aerial photographers like to retain total radio-control

of their camera. The equipment needed for KAP can be quite simple: a kite and line; a camera with a method for triggering the shutter; a framework for suspending the camera from the kite line (usually a picavet suspension); and, importantly, a sturdy pair of gloves.



Above: **Blackness Castle**, Falkirk. Kite aerial photo taken with a Pentax Option W60 camera using interval mode.

Most digital cameras have a continuous shooting mode, which, when the shutter button is held down, allows the camera to take photos, often until the memory card is full. Button depression can be achieved with a bead on an elastic band or cable tie. Alternatively, a small number of cameras come with an interval mode (time lapse), which allows the camera to be set to take a number of images at a specific time interval. Some cameras have a short-range IR remote control receiver.

The receiver can be triggered by a small, flashing pre-programmed IR light (called a GentLED) that can be mounted with Velcro onto the front of the



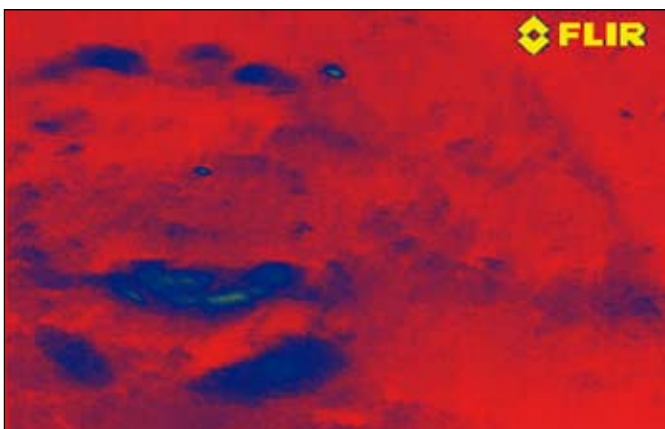
Above: **Ogilface Castle**, West Lothian. A near IR kite aerial photograph.



Above: **Linlithgow Palace**, West Lothian. A near IR kite aerial photograph, (kite line can be seen to the left).

camera. The flashing interval can be varied by means of a small screw.

User-friendly programs, like Agisoft's Photoscan (downloadable free), can be employed to merge aerial and other images into virtual 3D models. Purchasing the software allows the models to be saved in a variety of formats, including the universal pdf format.



Above images: Kite aerial photographs of *Ogilface Castle*, 'site of', West Lothian, looking east.
top: General view taken in the visible spectrum.
middle: Near infra-red image.
bottom: Thermal infra-red, PathFindIR camera.

In practice, a kite is flown with about 15m of line and, if it is stable, the camera can be suspended from the line, which is then wound out. In the UK, if special permission from the Civil Aviation Authority has not been sought, the maximum height at which the kite can be flown is 60m.

We fly compact cameras that have been converted to take photographs at normal speeds in the near IR. The conversion, best carried out by specialists, involves the removal of the camera's 'hot mirror' filter, which is normally present to eliminate unwanted IR light. Archaeologically, the near IR is useful for revealing ground features that are otherwise invisible or difficult to see in normal conditions.

More recently, we have started flying thermal imagers that can reveal surface and subsurface features by visualising their differential cooling/warming or by showing temperature differences resulting from differential water loss in overlying crops.

Further details can be found on www.WestLothianArchaeology.org.uk



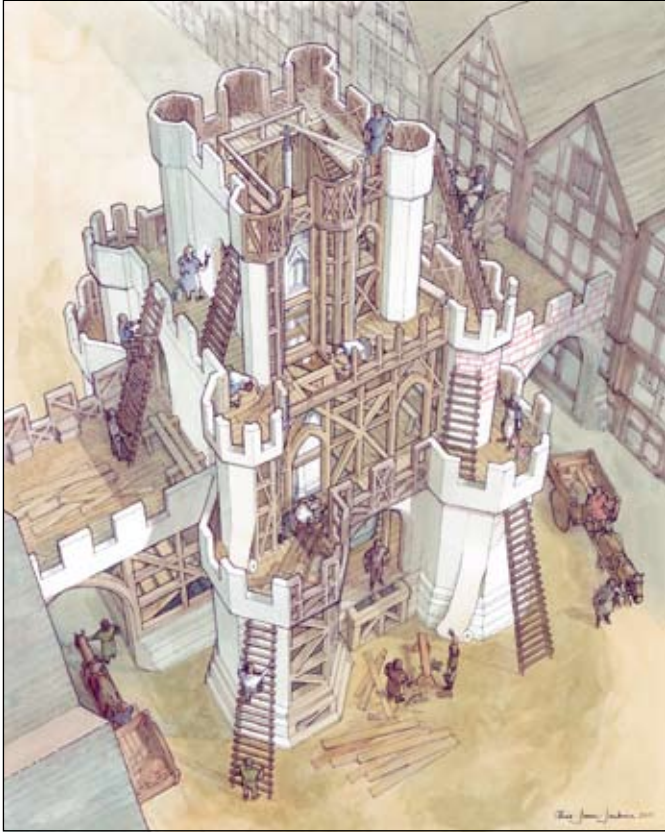
Above: *Almond Castle*, Falkirk.
A composite (stitched) image.

John and Rosie Wells
West Lothian Archaeological Trust
Scottish Charity No. SC043118

FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Jones-Jenkins FSA.

Freelance illustrator and long time Castle Studies Group member Chris Jones-Jenkins has been elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. At the ballot held on 24 May 2012, Chris was recognised for the outstanding contribution he has made to our understanding of historic architecture and especially castles and other medieval buildings.



Above: One of two illustrations by Chris Jones-Jenkins for Nicola Coldstream's "Pavilion'd in Splendour": Henry V's Agincourt Pageants', forthcoming JBAA 165, 2012.
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Many members of CSG will be familiar with the work of Chris Jones-Jenkins, as he has produced numerous reconstructions and cutaway drawings for the Cadw guidebooks since they were started, and has been contributing similar work to the English Heritage red guides, such as Warkworth.

He has illustrated nearly 100 publications to date including award winning volumes on architectural history. A recent example of his cut-away drawings is illustrated here and we thank Nicola Coldstream for permission to publish this illustration in advance of her forthcoming article in the Journal of the British Archaeological Association, due later this year.

Chris is warmly congratulated on his prestigious election as FSA.

DIARY DATES

Cathar Castles II: September 15th-22nd 2012

Led by Richard Eales, this CSG study tour will visit many important castles associated with the Cathars and the Albigensian wars. See announcement on page 12 for more details. A few places are left on this tour.

CSG Autumn Conference Saturday October 13th 2012

Timber Castles 20 Years On

The conference is being held to mark the 20th anniversary of Bob Higham's and the late Philip Barker's seminal work on the topic.

Full details can be found on page 12 of this *Bulletin*. Discounts for CSG members, early bookings and students are available.

Annual CSG Conference April 4-7th 2013 Castles in Stirling

The 27th Annual Conference will be take place between April 4th -7th 2013. Details are being finalised as we go to press but the 2013 CSG conference will be based in Stirling, staying at the Golden Lion, in central Stirling.

The theme of the conference is going to be "The palaces and fortifications of the Royal Stuarts" The provisional title is "The Stuarts and the Renaissance"

Provisional visits include:

Friday 5th	Falkland, St. Andrew's, Balgonie, Ravenscraig.
Saturday 6th	Blackness, Linlithgow, Tulliallan, Doune (perhaps Alloa).
Sunday 7th	Stirling Castle.

Please note the date in your diary and look out for details in the next issue of the *Journal*.

If you are planning or attending a castle related event in 2013 please let the editors know about it so we can pass on the details to CSG members.

Website & *Journal* (deadline October)
editor@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk

Bulletin (deadline June)
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