From The Secretary

Dear Member,

This is a significant newsletter for me as it is the first time I am writing the introductory greeting as Secretary. First of all, I would like to reiterate the thanks we all feel are due to Bob Higham, our retiring chairman/secretary, for his exceptional work for the Group since its inauguration in 1986. Bob is a hard act to follow. Fortunately, he continues as a committee member and his wise advice is still generously on tap.

Thanks are also due to Richard Eales for organising an excellent conference at Canterbury, thought by many to have been one of the best ever! I also know that Geoff Stell and Barbara Harbottle already have the 2002 Cumbria conference well under control. But before we fly off too far into the future, 2001 promises to be an exciting year for castle studies. We are jointly supporting the Oxford conference in February on ‘Castles and Hinterlands in Medieval Europe’ (see enclosed flyer). In September we have another new departure with our first Day Conference solely organised by the CSG. This will take place in Nottingham and its theme will be ‘The Origin and Purpose of the Donjon’, a subject that has occupied some of us for long enough. I hope that many of you will be able to support this event.

As usual, however, the main event of the year will be our Annual Conference in April, which makes CSG history this year by stepping onto continental European soil for the first time. I would like to thank Johnny Meulemeester for the effort he is putting into its organisation, despite having been in Syria for several weeks working on Crusader castles with Denys Pringle. As a result of the location, members will have to pay their conference fee with a foreign banker’s draft, but I am sure this small inconvenience will be outweighed by the calibre of the event.

At the last AGM we aired the possibility of a CSG trip to France. I haven’t managed to find a slot to fit this in during 2001, but it might be on the cards for 2002. This will be discussed at the AGM in April. Last, but not least, I would like to pay tribute to Neil Guy for producing this newsletter, despite a heavy academic workload this year.

I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year and happy castling!

CSG STEERING COMMITTEE

Treasurer: Dr S Speight, School of Continuing Education, University of Nottingham, Jubilee Campus, Wollaton Road, Nottingham NG8 1BB.

Secretary: Pamela Marshall, Republic of Ireland

Scotland: Mr J Kenyon, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NP.

Wales: Mr David Johnson, Northern Ireland

Mr J Kenyon, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NP.

Northern Ireland: Dr T McNeill, The Queens University of Belfast, School of Geography, Dept. of Archaeology, Belfast BT7 1NN.

Scotland: Mr Geoffrey Stell, RCAHMS, John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace Edinburgh. EH8 9NX.

England: Mr A D Saunders, England

Membership Secretary: Mr D Sweetman, Office of Public Works, 51 St. Stephen’s Green, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Ex officio: Dr R A Higham, Dept of Archaeology, School of Geography and Archaeology, Laver Building, North Park Road, The University, Exeter EX4 4QH.

CSG Web page: www.castlewales.com/csg.html

Editor: Neil Guy, England

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the view or policy of the publishers - The Castle Studies Group. Every effort is made to ensure that the information is accurate, but no legal responsibility is accepted for any errors or omissions.

All submissions to the 2001/2 Newsletter should be sent to the editor by October 15th 2001 latest, in any format, but preferably on disk in Word 7.

Front cover: The powerful rectangular Norman Keep at Canterbury; now only the lower half remains. It possibly dates to the end of the eleventh century, the stepped splayed behind the narrow window openings suggest an early date. Much of the Caen stone facing has been robbed.
Over seventy CSG members enjoyed four peaceful days centred around the campus at the University of Kent, just outside Canterbury, the weather once again being kind. A full schedule of site visits was organised by our genial host, Richard Eales, who also produced a useful accompanying guide full of the usual groundplans and elevations. The highlights were probably in examining the lesser known properties, not normally open to visitors; these being Allington, Saltwood, Westenhanger, Lympne, and Cooling.

In some respects we seemed to be following the footsteps of Bishop Gundulf, (Rochester and West Malling) and that great English architect Henry Yevele, who spent much of his time in Kent in the 1380’s and 90’s. John Harvey’s biography of Yevele (Henry Yevele, 1944) ascribes the design and major works of the West Gate at Canterbury (1380’s) Cooling Castle (1381-85), Saltwood Gatehouse, (1380’s) and possibly Bodiam (started 1385) to Yevele. All four monuments bear many affinities. The West Gate stands to its full height, and the building contains in its outer face twenty openings of a type not found as original features in any other building known to have been erected before that date. In elevation they are shaped like an inverted keyhole of a modern mortise lock, with a vertical slit 24 inches long. Similar gunports of the keyhole pattern are also original features of the inner gatehouse at Cooling. It was a time in the late 14th century when quadrangular castles were the fashion, both in the north of England - Bolton 1379, Lumley 1390’s, Sheriff Hutton 1382, Chillingham 1350’s; the Midlands at Maxstoke, and in the southeast area, particularly Kent and Sussex, e.g Scotney and others as mentioned above, ostensibly in response to the threat of French raids.

In 1996 the castle and house at Westenhanger were purchased by the Forge family. At the time they realised that urgent measures were needed to arrest the rapid deterioration of the visible standing masonry that was once an outstanding castle. They sought assistance from English Heritage and together a plan has now been formulated to save and consolidate the remaining features. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument with a Grade I listed house in the grounds. A detailed survey was undertaken by Archaeology South-east in June 1998. The plan bears comparison with Cooling and Scotney, but it is perhaps Bodiam that shows best how Westenhanger might once have appeared.

Unlike Bodiam, Westenhanger has ancillary buildings that appear to form an outer court. Two of these still stand as buildings in use as barns (but probably the original stable block) and doubtless further remains lie buried. English Heritage is concerned to address the future of the entire site in order that it may no longer be considered ‘at risk’. As the ivy is being removed more and more of the castle’s history is being revealed. The documentary research will complement the physical
evidence of the fabric of the monument and confirms the immense potential for this castle that has yet to be realised. A helpful booklet entitled "Westenhanger Castle - Historical Notes" has been compiled by Brenda Ladley for the owners drawing on all known available published works, prints and plans.

Very little can at present be confidently stated about Saltwood except that the castle needs scholarly attention as urgently is it does structural conservation. The fine lofty double-towered Gatehouse, reasonably attributed to Archbishop Courtenay (1381-96), has marked affinities with the West Gate, Canterbury, and the adjacent residential additions are by F. Beeston circa 1884. Some 'restoration' was carried out by P. Tilden 1934-49.

Basic chronology is still conjectural. Fortunately these comments can be confined largely to the earthen Ringwork and earlier masonry. Lanfranc recovered Saltwood, including Hythe, in 1086. The castle was then doubtless the ovoid main earthwork, with the outer bailey to the east and perhaps further outworks. An original Hall range may underlie the late thirteenth to late fourteenth century Hall, Chamber, Chapel etc. on the south (overlooking the small lake). Two internally projecting rectangular turrets, and a latrine turret, on the north-west suggest vanished apartments here. Spasmodic archiepiscopal tenure until 1197 and then farming out by the archbishops until 1236 or later (de Praers) give scant later twelfth century opportunity for the major (but strikingly crude) towered inner curtain, the substantial gateway (fronted by Courtenay's gatehouse) and core only of the outer 'Barbican' gateway, all ascribed to that period.

The workmanship of parts at least of the inner curtain (plinthing, stone type etc.) is curious. Lambeth archives provide no clarification. A turris recorded in 1163 and the punitive destruction of 1175 (costing 20s per Pipe Roll) after reception here of Becket's assassins (1170) are equally enigmatic. Either de Essex (until 1163) or the ill-disposed de Broc (1163-97) may have felt secure enough to build; if so, the likely first subjects would be the main gateway, some 'primitive' elements of the curtain, and then other apparently twelfth century parts. The outer bailey (or 'Barbican') bank is likely to have kept a timber palisade well into the thirteenth century, and possibly later. A phased construction is in any case likely. The wall here has been ascribed to Courtenay on the evidence mainly of the 'inverted keyhole' gunloops in one of the cylindrical towers (by the dam causeway on the south). If this is correct, the cruciform-oilet arrow (crossbow) slits elsewhere (including the adjacent inner curtain parapet) would constitute a very curious anachronism. They are but one problem which may well require a quite radical reappraisal. [Thanks are due to Charles Coulson for these notes].

Another enigmatic building that we looked at was St. Leonard's Tower, near West Malling. This is an early and interesting medium sized great tower 18.3 metres tall, but possibly several metres higher originally. It is built of Kentish ragstone, with tufa quoins and window dressings, circa 1100, and is attributed to
Gundulf, Bishop of Rochester (died 1102). Narrow pilaster buttresses raise from a sloping plinth to clasp each angle. The north-west angle is widened and thickened to take a spiral stair. The tower is four storied. It is now an empty shell, but virtually intact. Remains of a curtain wall are said to feed into the south-west corner.

There is some debate over its function. A chapel and cemetery existed here in the medieval period so it has been argued that this tower was always a bell tower. However, it seems rather a grand accompaniment for a small chapel. The entrance always appears to have been at ground floor level, and there is no trace of a bailey. The tower resembles one of the small Norman keeps in other respects. The first floor level is marked by an external offset below a handsome blind arcade of round headed arches on the south and east fronts, with a central round headed window in each wall except the south. There are larger windows to the floor above. The early Romanesque style of the Tower supports its traditional attribution to Gundulf (after Renn).

Allington Castle, about a mile north of Maidstone, is a difficult building to unpick. What we saw is essentially a thirteenth century castle (c 1281) characteristic of the Edwardian age, but it was not uncompromisingly military like the contemporary castles in Wales. Its design reflects the quadrangular layout, but the rear bows outwards in a gentle curve and the distribution of wall towers being quite irregular. Five D shaped towers project from the curtain, though one or two more may have existed originally. After falling into serious decay, the castle underwent substantial renovation and remodelling by Sir Martin Conway in 1905 and he spent the next thirty years restoring it. All the battlements are his work, and the hall was rebuilt on the old lines. From 1951, the castle became a retreat house for the Carmelite friars of nearby Aylesford. Our thanks are due to the present owner for his kind hospitality.

Other highlights of the itinerary were the visits to the Bishop's retreat at Lympe and the hard hat site of Cooling Castle. Both properties are detailed elsewhere. The gates and sleepy Edwardian planned town of Winchelsea, the Ypres Tower at Rye, the gatehouse at Tonbridge, where the floors are being reinstated, the mighty fortresses of Dover - the key of England, and Rochester, and the coastal defences of Upnor and Deal, the latter being the largest of all Henry VIII's forts. And, of course, the agreeable company of fellow CSG members. Special thanks go to organiser Richard Eales and the invaluable site guides: Derek Renn, Andrew Saunders, Pamela Marshall, Mike North, Charles Coulson, Alan Ward, John Goodall, and Jonathan Coad. Mrs Jane Clark made us very welcome at Saltwood. Thanks are also due to Mr & Mrs Forge, and Peter Kendal, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, EH.

Neil Guy
2001 CASTLE STUDIES GROUP
14th Annual Conference
BELGIAN TOUR 7th - 12th April 2001

Programme

SATURDAY 7 April
Participants travel to Namur;
18h30 : supper at the youth hostel

SUNDAY 8 APRIL
Castles in the duchy of Luxembourg
Morning : Castles of Sugny, Bertrix, Buzenol (Belgium)
Lunch at Clairefontaine - Cistercian abbey under excavation
Afternoon : to the Grand-Duchy and to Koerich castle
18h30 : supper at the youth hostel
20h00 : Lecture by Johnny De Meulemeester on Earth and Timber Castles in Belgium

MONDAY 9 APRIL
Morning : excursion to Gent (Counts Castle, old town);
lunch in Gent
afternoon : visit to some other medieval monuments in Gent
on the way/way back to/from Gent : the motte and bailey castle of Erpe.
18h30 : supper at the youth hostel
20h00 : Lecture by other CSG-member

TUESDAY 10 APRIL
Castles in the county of Hainaut and Namur
Morning : Castle and town defences of Binche (Hainaut)
Lunch at Binche
Afternoon : Castles of Poilvache, Bouvignes (Namur)
18h30 : supper at the youth hostel
20h00 : Annual General Meeting of the CSG at the youth hostel

WEDNESDAY 11 APRIL
Morning : the castles of the count of Namur;
lunch at the youth hostel
afternoon : some shopping time/visit to the city of Namur
18h30 : supper at the youth hostel

THURSDAY 12 APRIL
Departure after breakfast
BELGIAN MEETING 7th - 12th April 2001

COSTS: (Including accommodation, meals, excursions)

Youth hostel: 10.000,- BEF (= +/- 160,- GBP) per person
Accommodation with automatically two persons in one room; we can accommodate a maximum of 44 people

please make your reservation together with this second person

Hotel Beauregard:
- single room: 22.000,- BEF (= +/- 350,- GBP)
- double room: 15.000,- BEF (= +/- 240,- GBP) per person

when you opt for a double room please make your reservation together with the second person.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WILL NOT EXCEED THE NUMBER OF 55 (i.e. one bus); persons travelling by car who wish to use their car should notify it on the registration form.

Payment for the Youth Hostel:

1) by transferring the total cost for two persons: 20.000,- BEF (bank charges at your expense) before the 7th of March on the following account:

   DEXIA BANK (Belgium) - Swift Code: GKCCBEBB
   Bank address: Brusselsesteenweg, 3, B-3080 TERVUREN
   account nr: 068-0681090-80
   of Archaeologia Mediaevalis,
   Hertogenweg, 16, B-3080 Tervuren, Belgium

2) by sending the enclosed registration form (before the 15th of February) to:
   Johnny De Meulemeester, Hertogenweg, 16, B-3080 Tervuren, Belgium.

PAYMENT For the Hotel: (Bookings are on a first come, first serve basis)

1) by transferring a deposit of 11.000,- BEF (single) or 15.000,- BEF (double) (bank charges at your expense) before the 15th of February on the following account:

   DEXIA BANK (Belgium) - Swift Code: GKCCBEBB
   Bank address: Brusselsesteenweg, 3, B-3080 TERVUREN
   account nr: 068-0681090-80
   of Archaeologia Mediaevalis,
   Hertogenweg, 16, B-3080 Tervuren, Belgium

2) by sending the enclosed registration form (before the 15th of February) to:
   Johnny De Meulemeester, Hertogenweg, 16, B-3080 Tervuren, Belgium

3) the balance of 11.000,- BEF (single) or 15.000,- BEF (double) (bank charges at your expense) must be transferred before the 15th of March on the above mentioned account.

Deposit/balance are only refundable in the case that the organisation can fill in the reserved place.
2001 CASTLE STUDIES GROUP
BELGIAN TOUR 7th - 12th April 2001

How to reach Namur

To reach Brussels:

By Eurostar from London to Brussels (South railway station)

By plane to Zaventem airport; every twenty minutes a train leaves the airport towards Brussels Central Station (+/- 25 min)

By car: auto road from Calais (3 h) or Ostend (2h30) to Namur (ring auto road around Brussels) (time with normal traffic conditions): taking the E411 Brussels-Namur, exit 14 (Bouge), direction Wépion-Dinant (=road N92 Dinant/Givet)

From Brussels:

Trains every hour (from both railway stations) to Namur (direction Luxemburg)

To reach the Youth Hostel:

The easiest way is to take a taxi from the railway station (3 km) or bus line 3 or 4 from the station to:

auberge de jeunesse "Félicien Rops"
Avenue Félicien Rops, 8
5000 Namur
tel.: 081223688; fax: 081224412; e-mail: ajnamur@skynet.be

The youth hostel is situated outside the city centre (to the south) on the left bank of the river Meuse a little bit beyond the hotel

or to the hotel:

BEAUREGARD
Avenue Baron de Moreau, 1,
5000 Namur
tel.: 081230028; fax: 081241209
web: http://www.benecom.com/hotels/namur/beauregard

The hotel is hostel is situated outside the city centre (to the south) on the left bank of the river Meuse and next to the Casino.
CONFERENCES


The meeting was held in Prague from 10th-14th September, thanks to the efforts of Council member Tomas Durdik (Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Republic), the prolific researcher and publisher of Bohemian castles. The meeting was supported by the Czech State Institute of Monument care and other national bodies. It was attended by representatives from Poland, Czech Republic, Germany, Romania, Greece, Italy, Spain, France, Ireland (Con Manning) and United Kingdom (Bob Higham). The theme for discussion was the contribution of recent archaeological research to an overall understanding of European medieval fortification. Those present gave papers covering a wide variety of topics, ranging on studies of whole countries to individual site projects, involving both castle and urban themes in their academic and conservation contexts. Field visits included the castles of Prague, Tocnik, Zebrak, Krivoklat and Karlstejn. Receptions were offered by the Association of Historical Sites of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, the Central Bohemian Institute of Monument Care, and by the Mayor of Prague.

Bob Higham

Château Gaillard XIX
Château Gaillard XIX. price 280 FFR, is available from:

Publications du Cram
Esplanade de la Paix
Université de Caen
14032 Caen Cedex
France

Contributions include:
Kevin Booth & Paul Robert, Recording the Keep, Dover Castle
Lawrence Butler, The Siege of Dolforsyn Castle 1277
John Goodall, Dover Castle and the Siege of 1216
Sarah Speight, Castle Warfare in the Gesta Stephani
Geoff Stell, War-damaged castles; the evidence from medieval Scotland.
The conference had as its theme the castle as a home and symbol of power, and many of the papers did reflect this theme, which is remarkable in itself. It must be admitted that there were few surprises on that front, with little serious questioning (except from Dr. Meckseper) of the rules of the recognition of the symbols of power as expressed in castles, just as there was a general agreement that we can recognise the functions of rooms within it. As regards the British Isles contribution, this was spread about the region, with England (Pamela Marshal), Wales (Richard Avent), Scotland (Richard Oram), Gaelic Scotland/Ireland (Tom McNeill) and Ireland (Kieran O’Conor and Con Manning) figuring in the display of scholarship. CSG was additionally represented among the papers by Johnny de Meulemeester, so we were well involved. The next volume will be worth reading for these alone.

The site of the Colloque was Gwatt, between Thun and Interlaken, so the scenery was spectacular. The canton is German and all the excursions during the main conference were to sites in German-speaking cantons. Only those who stayed on for the additional trip at the end saw anything of the French cantons, and (it must be said) of the more spectacular castles of Switzerland. This was quite a contrast between the first set - which all seemed to merge into a single image of a small tower on a rock, occupied by a local lord and then beaten up by the good burghers of Berne - and the French courtyard castles of a more familiar look to CSG members. One surprise to the tower fraternity was at the Tellenburg, where a 19th century drawing shows the buildings were built from the curtain wall to the tower and filled the small courtyard (Barnkin, bawn), which prompted some discussion among aficionados of the tower house.

The Swiss Colloque was not as keenly supported as other ones, with a number of countries’ delegations not as full as predicted. The Colloque is to be held in Ireland during 24-31 August 2002; it will be at Maynooth (familiar to CSG members) with the additional excursion to Ulster after the main Colloque. Because it will be nearer home and also in a less high cost country than Switzerland, we look forward to a greater eagerness to participate.

Tom McNeill
I spent the first week of October in Istanbul with a group of adult students from Nottingham University [including CSG member Sigrid Linthwaite]. The theme of the week was 'Medieval Constantinople', with the days being divided into 'Justinian's Churches', 'The Architecture of the Imperial Palaces' and so on. We also spent one day out of the city visiting ancient Nicaea [Izink].

The medieval city is justly famous for its 5th century fortifications - we made a full circuit of the landwalls starting with the Golden Gate [now bereft of its famous elephants and golden inscriptions] and travelling up to the Golden Horn. A major section of the land walls have recently been reconstructed rather than restored, not without controversy.

The Golden Gate itself [two square marble towers with 3 gates - the usual vehicular entrance flanked by two pedestrian ways] was incorporated into the 5th century walls of Theodosius II and then, in the 15th century, into the seven towered fortress of Mehmet the Conqueror [Yedikule]. Yedikule appears never to have been used as a fortress however, rather serving as a prison.

Istanbul's other major fortifications guard the Bosphorus, the straits linking the Sea of Marmara with the Black Sea. Nearest to the city are Anandolu [Asian] Hisari and Roumeli [European] Hisari - the latter famously built in 4 months by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1452. Near to the mouth of the Black Sea are Roumeli Kavagi and Anandolu Kavagi. The party climbed up to the latter to find a large 13th century Genoese castle largely rebuilt by the Ottomans. Perhaps the most interesting feature was the quantity of reused classical marble visible - capitals, cornices and columns providing building materials.

Secular architecture from the medieval period is thin on the ground in Istanbul today but we did manage to explore the surviving sections of the imperial palaces. We went inside the hall of the sea palace, the Bucoleon,
now rotting quietly in a back garden. We examined the more impressive reception hall of Tekfur Sarayi, the late medieval palace of the Palaeologi, and we found the remaining fragments of the Comneni palace of the Blachernae. None of these sites feature in the usual tourist trail of course.

But the highlights of our visit were of course the churches - the 4th century basilica of St. John Studius [again, sitting in a parlous state in a back garden following a 19th century earthquake], Justinian’s churches of Hagia Eirene, St. Sergius & Bacchus and Hagia Sophia. The surprises were again the churches not usually accessible to the normal visitor: the late medieval St. Mary of the Mongols, founded by a Palaeologan princess after her return from a marriage to the Mongol khan [and the only church to have remained in Christian worship from the Byzantine to modern period], Christ Pantocrator with its 3 churches built north to south and evidence of medieval frescoes surviving beneath the Ottoman plaster, and St. Stephen of the Bulgars, a 19th century edifice of cast iron shipped in pieces from Vienna.

We had a great week - the sun shone, the tourists were nowhere near us, and the city revealed a Byzantine heritage of considerable, although endangered, quality.

Sarah Speight
The One Day Nottingham CSG Conference

The One Day CSG Conference, discussed at the last AGM is confirmed for Saturday 22nd September 2001. 9.30 to 5.30. The conference will take place at the Nottingham University Jubilee Campus, which opened in 1999. Against the backdrop of this futuristic architectural setting we are bringing together some of the leading researchers in the field of the great tower and its place in the castle. It promises to be an exceptional event for students of the castle, so don't miss it!

Programme: The Origin of Purpose of the Donjon

- Prof. David Trotter, University of Wales: 'The origin of the word donjon'.
- Dr. Edward Impey, Historic Royal Palaces: 'Early donjons in France'.
- Jeremy Ashbee, assistant curator at the Tower of London: 'The White Tower'.
- Kevin Booth and Jonathan Coad, English Heritage: 'Dover Great Tower'.
- Dr. Bob Higham, University of Exeter: 'Mottes and their towers: their contribution to the donjon debate'.
- Dr. Philip Dixon, University of Nottingham: 'Norwich Great Tower'.
- Kevin O'Brien, Duchas Heritage Service, Eire: 'Trim Great Tower'.
- Rick Turner, CADW: 'Chepstow Great Tower'.

Fees: (all fees include tea/coffee refreshment breaks)
Full fee, including lunch - £32:-  Full fee without lunch - £21:-
Student rate (does not include lunch) - £15:- (Proof of student status required).

To attend, please fill in the enclosed application form and return it to: Special Programs Unit, School of Continuing Education, University of Nottingham, Jubilee Campus, Wollaton Road, Nottingham NG8 1BB. Please enclose a cheque payable to 'University of Nottingham'. If you require overnight accommodation in a University Hall of Residence, please make an enquiry about this with your application. A list of local hotels and guest houses can also be sent on request.

The University of Nottingham Residential Courses 2001:
Pamela Marshall is leading the following residential courses this year:

The medieval Pilgrim: The Road to Compostela - 23rd June - 1st July
The Normans: Architecture in Normandy, 11th-18th August
Castles in East Anglia, based at Norwich, 24-27th August
Castles in Northumberland: 28th September - 1st October.

Further details are available from: 'Learn at Leisure', Special Programs Unit, School of Continuing Education, University of Nottingham, Jubilee Campus, Wollaton Road, Nottingham NG7 1BB. Tel: 0115 951 6526.
Diary Dates - Oxford - February 9 - 11

Castle and Hinterlands in Medieval Europe.

A weekend conference at Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education in association with the Castle Studies Group. 9 - 11 February 2001.

As we all know, medieval castles has all sorts of functions- military, domestic, social and economic. A growth point in the last twenty years has been the appreciation of how the foundation and use of castles related to the environments - rural or urban- around them. As symbols of lordship as well as strongholds, castles were often the most dominant features of contemporary landscapes. This is the second event on this theme to be organised at Oxford with CSG support. The first event, held in 1992, was a great success and drew a large audience. Enclosed with this Newsletter is a flyer and booking form for the next one. Book early!

News - General

Heritage Bodies on the Web.

In our Summer Newssheet we gave details of three of the four UK Heritage bodies Internet sites. The one missing was for Northern Ireland, the Environment and Heritage Service:Built Heritage. You can find their web site at www.ehsni.gov.uk/builtheritage. Castles detailed include Dunluce, Carrickfergus and Green Castle.

University Appointments

In the last two years the following CSG members have been appointed to various sorts of University post. Good news for them, and good news for castellology!

Professor Denys Pringle - Cardiff, School of History and Archaeology
Dr Oliver Creighton- Exeter, Dept of Lifelong Learning
Dr Kieran O'Connor - Galway, Dept. Of Archaeology
Dr Robert Liddiard - Bangor, School of History & Welsh History.

Images of England

English Heritage / National Monuments Record have made good progress in the Millennium 'Images of England' project. This is intended to set up a photographic archive of the 400,000 listed buildings in England, with, in many cases, a very detailed textual description of the property. The prototype web site currently includes photographs of 15,000 structures. A drill down search routine (Building type: defence; Period: medieval (1066-1484) gives a total of 945 listed buildings.
Mont Orgueil Castle - Jersey

Mont Orgueil, or Gorey Castle is one of Jersey's defining landmarks. Plans to restore the dilapidated interior have become a new battleground.

Armed with £3 million from the island's government, the Jersey Heritage Trust is due to embark on a comprehensive restoration project. But controversy surrounds the reinstatement of the so-called Tudor Great Hall, which will be used for hospitality and banquets. According to Colin Platt, Professor of History at Southampton University and resident of Jersey, whose publications include *The Castle in Medieval England*, there never was a Tudor Hall in Gorey Castle - there is no evidence for it. He went on to say that the plan could lead to a Disneyesque construction and that the proposal was gravely destructive.

Gorey attracted some 80,000 visitors last year. Few disagree that it needs repairing. When the Jersey government acquired it in 1907, decayed roofs and floors were stripped out. Some remedial work took place but several roofless spaces remain. Opposition to the "restoration" is being rallied by Geoffrey Messervy-Norman, a former film actor and TV writer who lives in Jersey and California. He claims that the plans were passed "in ignorance" and that people are only now waking up to the consequences. He said that the castle still held many secrets and that there is still a lot of archaeology to be done.

Michael Day, Jersey's Museums director denied that the building of the Tudor Hall would be phoney. He stated that the Trust's submission had been prepared by Dr Warwick Rodwell, one of the UK's foremost building archaeologists, that almost the entire masonry shell stands intact and that there is a good deal of evidence on which to base an authentic reinstatement. The Trust, he said, was happy to subject its proposals to independent scrutiny and will put this in hand.

A report has since been made by Philip Dixon and Jane Kennedy and submitted to the Jersey Heritage Trust in November. The forty page report is available for downloading off the web. It is an interesting document that sets out the current thinking and the general principles that govern the restoration and consolidation of historic buildings, discussing the earlier 'conserve as found' policy and the current 'soft' methods exemplified by Wigmore and Tickhill. These examples emphasise the current attention to preserving or indeed enhancing the natural surroundings of a monument. Other recent projects and case studies discussed include Conisbrough, where three floors of the keep were reinstated in the mid 90's; but the roof of the keep is described as an 'unsatisfactory compromise', and Tynemouth Castle. Other comparisons are discussed with Mount Grace Priory, Stirling Castle, and Falaise.
The report lists five main points which establish the criteria against which to assess repair and restoration projects. The best results are obtained from:

- Thorough research, including proper and detailed documentation.
- A comprehensive plan
- Careful repair, using the best of craftsmanship and materials
- Attention to the principle of reversibility
- Attention to a coherent and intellectually sound scheme, which adopts a holistic approach involving maintenance, sensible use, and concern for the natural environment.

Debate about the Tudor Hall is complex - Section 4.2 - and no firm conclusions are offered. A number of experts were also invited to comment on the appropriateness of re-roofing and rebuilding one of the walls of the “Great Hall” including Dr Glyn Coppack, English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Dr Chris Young and Richard Halsey, Regional Director of English Heritage for East Anglia who all advised in a personal capacity. After considering a range of structures recently repaired, the report states that “the current schemes for the works are well within the norms established for such projects, and do not constitute in general terms any intrusive or unwarranted alteration to the building (Section 8.3.1 and 8.3.2). The whole report is available from www.jerseyheritagetrust.org, and should be consulted to get a balanced view of their findings and recommendations, and an insight into the prevailing views on restoration and conservation.

News - Europe

Castle Ruins in Spain are big business

SPAIN’S medieval heritage is being saved from crumbling into ruins by a fashion for buying castles to restore them as hotels or luxury country homes.

Spain has 6,500 castles, ranging from a few palatial family mansions to mere heaps of stones, but only 50 are inhabited. “The market has become really busy in the last five years,” said Inigo Miguez del Olmo, a 32-year-old economist, who has emerged as a leading broker in the fast-growing business.

He estimates that last year 40 castles changed hands and a similar figure will be traded this year. As a board member of the prestigious Spanish Association of Friends of Castles, founded 50 years ago and
presided over by King Juan Carlos, Mr Miguez offers a free service to nobles and other castle-owners who decide to sell their ruins to people willing to restore them.

He said: “There are a lot of properties out there and there is now a much greater appreciation of history. My objective is simply to promote restoration.” Prices vary from a few thousand pounds for a small, uninhabitable ruin to more than a million for an impoverished aristocrat’s former country home. Three years ago a descendant of the Counts of Asalto sold her imposing 14th-century castle in Guadamur, near Toledo, for £1.2 million to one of an increasingly long line of bidders. “Many people were interested in buying it, especially in the last few years,” said Paulino Gutierrez, the castle’s caretaker.

At the other end of the scale, a private buyer paid only £13,000 for a small ruined 15th-century castle in the village of Arbeteteta, in Guadalajara. Perched on a rock overlooking a river, the castle is a landmark on the region’s “route of the castles”. “As long as the buyers have to restore them, then we see it as a good thing,” said a local government official, “because although the prices are low, the cost of restoration is clearly high.”

Even for ruins which need heavy investment to turn them into a home, however, prices have surged. Nine years ago Javier Martin Cuevas, 35, paid less than £4,000 for a 12th-century castle and several acres of farmland at an auction held by the ministry of finance. After investing about £75,000 in its restoration, Mr Cuevas now has a spacious two-storey home, with 10ft-thick walls and spectacular views of the rolling plain. “The best of all is when we decide to have a big party, and our friends come from Madrid and Seville: it’s impossible to upset anyone, because there aren’t any neighbours,” he said.

The buoyant market for castles has prompted Mr Miguez to buy for himself in addition to advising others. He has recently acquired his third castle, for an undisclosed sum, near Valladolid. To avoid risking his own capital, Mr Miguez offers free accommodation and half the profit of the business once the castle becomes a luxury hotel to anyone willing to spend their own time and money restoring it.
Herstmonceux - Sussex

Herstmonceux in East Sussex is best known for two things: a medieval castle that was rebuilt in 1911 after falling into ruins and a 20th century astronomical observatory. Both are clearly visible from 5000 ft and both have interesting histories. If you scan the Millennium Map (the aerial photograph by the Millennium Mapping Company [now Getmapping] of every yard of the British Isles) carefully, the observer will discover the evidence of another story that is far more dramatic than castle-building: the Black Death.

The land at Herstmonceux finally passed to the Fiennes family and in 1441 Sir Roger Fiennes applied for a royal licence to "enclose, krenellate, entower and embattle" his manor. But why here? The building sits in a hollow, making it a sitting target. The answer is that Fiennes was expecting house guests, not hails of arrows. Herstmonceux is perhaps the finest example of a country house dressed up as a castle where an immensely rich man - Roger was treasurer of the royal household- could show off to his London friends. Now, it is a "study centre" owned by Queens University, Ontario.

The real puzzle, however, is the absence of a village nearby. Herstmonceux village is 1.5 miles to the north. David Calvert, a local historian in the county records office, thinks the solution might lie in the manor court rolls, which, from the late 1300's list buildings either as empty or in need of repair. This suggests economic decline or houses abandoned, because everyone has died suddenly. The Black Death arrived in England via the West Country in 1348. Between a third and half the population perished. Calvert suspects that when Sir Roger Fiennes built his castle he shifted the remains of the dead settlement to the site now occupied by Herstmonceux village.

Aerial view photographs of any area of England, by post code are available from: getmapping.com or

Lympne Castle - Kent

Lympne Castle (pronounced Lym) was visited by the CSG in April as part
of the Canterbury conference. It is set neatly on the edge of a quaint Kentish village, and looks down from its steep escarpment over Romney Marsh and out across the channel.

The important commercial and strategic position that Lympne enjoyed in Roman times dwindled as the sea receded, and the once convenient port turned into the much less convenient Romney Marsh. Lympne became a place of rural retreat. A modest castle was established by Lanfranc, the first Norman Archbishop of Canterbury. It seems likely that he reused stone from the old Roman fort further down the hill, which had once guarded the port. A few remnants still exist today on the slopes of the escarpment, adding to the general romance of the view. For eight centuries Lympne castle served as a country residence for the archdeacons of the diocese, the most famous of whom was Thomas à Becket.

Three main elements of the old medieval foundation survive: the Great Hall, and two three storey towers at either end of it. The square Eastern tower is the oldest and strongest part of the building: it dates from the 13th century and the walls are more than five feet thick. The tower is graced with a curious addition. During the second World War an observation post was established in a camouflaged chamber built on the roof. A telescope panned over the channel for signs of Hitler's threatened invasion. The chamber (complete with false chimney pots) and the mounting- but not the telescope- are still there. The West tower dates from the 14th century, although its rounded newel stairway was probably added in about 1420. Leading off from the first floor there is a well lit bedroom, known as the Crown Post Chamber on account of its elaborately beamed ceiling.

Fine ceilings are a feature of the castle. The Great Hall, standing between the two towers boasts magnificent roof timbers, benefiting from the removal, in Tudor times of the hearth from the centre of the floor to the west end. The Tudor improvements seem to have been the last made to the castle for a long while. The archdeacons of Canterbury took to leasing out the hall to local farmers as a glorified barn. In the latter part of the 19th century, they finally sold it off to a prosperous landowner, who put a tenant farmer into the place.

The slow spiral of decline was arrested in 1905, when the castle
was bought by Henry Tennant, scion of the wealthy Scottish family and brother of Margot Asquith. He saw the potential of the building and its site and rapidly set about realising it. He hired the architect Sir Robert Lorimer, the master of the Scottish Baronial style to make Lympne into a country house fit for an Edwardian plutocrat. Lorimer's solution was to leave the old part of the castle largely untouched, and to tack onto its western end a huge wing of light filled drawing rooms, commodious bedrooms, convenient bathrooms and service quarters. He then added a magnificently stuccoed dining room with a billiard room above.

To shield the castle from the village, he built a mock medieval gateway and a scarcely less imposing mock-medieval stable block. He also laid out an elegant succession of gardens around the castle. The limed oak panelling, beamed ceilings, stone mullioned windows and stone built battlements that he used throughout the new parts of the house maintained the medieval flavour of the original. The scale of Lorimer's additions has brought its own problems. As the high tide of Edwardian luxury receded, subsequent owners have struggled to use all the space. There are many rooms, including twelve bedrooms and a host of pantries and offices. Mr Giles de Margary's father, who bought the property in the 1960s as a family home ran a small map-publishing company from the servants' quarters. The stable block has been successfully converted into four flats. (These will be sold with vacant possession, along with the castle). The firm division between the old and new wings has meant that the latter is used at the expense of the former. Perhaps it was to counter this that Henry Beecham, who bought the house from the Tennants, converted the Great Hall into his drawing room; however, the de Margarys moved the drawing room back into the Lorimer wing- where it affords a spectacular view from its oriel window.

Having received a government grant for restoration work, the de Margarys have been obliged, for several years, to open up the old part of the castle to the public, and they have run it up till now as a successful "marriage business". The Great Hall has been licensed for civil marriages and also serves as a setting for the reception. The arrangement is popular with the parish church next door, as many couples, getting married for a second time have the civil service in the hall and then nip across to the church for a blessing. Following our visit Lympne Castle was put on the market with an asking price of £3 million and has now been sold as a private residence.
The Welsh Borders

From Paul Remfry: The past twelve months have seen several new works published on the three castles of the Justiciar in Gwent, Skenfrith, Grosmont and White Castle, which re-evaluate the evidence of the castles' foundation and building. Conclusions reached include the early dating of the hall block at Grosmont, a late twelfth century date for the east curtain wall at Skenfrith and the placing of virtually all the masonry at White Castle to the time of Hubert Burgh between 1228 and 1239. Also considered are the engagements at Grosmont and during the early Norman thrusts into Wales. Much evidence survives concerning the construction of the castles and the every day running of the estates in the thirteenth century.

A Tourist Guide to Wigmore castle has also been produced detailing the history of the Mortimer family in relation to the castle and reassessing the remains in the light of English Heritage's recent work there. Despite contemporary and Victorian claims the author still believes the real historical evidence points to the bulk of the masonry being built in the period 1265 to 1275, as was put forward in his earlier work on the site.

Long term research is continuing on Castell Carreg Cennen and Château Gaillard, while further works on Castle Dinas (Talgarth), Castell Crug Eryr, Ruthin Castle and Whittington Castle are planned for the foreseeable future.

Ludlow Castle

CSG member Owen Elias has advised us that the series of buildings just inside the outer bailey wall, to the right of the main entrance (on the English Heritage Buildings at Risk register), and now used as flats, have been put up for sale by the South Shropshire District Council. They are both listed and scheduled as an ancient monument. The castle, owned by the Powys estate were given first refusal, but could not meet the District Valuers' valuation. The Powys estate were interested in converting the building into an interpretation and educational centre, with a refectory and toilets etc - something very much needed. They have outline sketches of what could be done without damaging the integrity of the building, and complementing the improvements they have carried out in recent years.
The Council are proposing to instruct Savills in the hope of attracting a national developer who would refurbish the building for luxury flats. Owen, and a group of other local influential people are trying to bridge the gap and save the building by ensuring that it passes to the Powys estate for what they regard as the long term benefit both for the castle and the town. For further information contact Owen Elias, Southern England.

Haughley Castle, Suffolk.

A small scale excavation prior to the erection of a new class room block on this site close to Haughley Castle and the parish church, confirmed Dr S E West’s suggestion that the area south of the castle once formed part of an outer bailey. A large ditch, some seven metres wide and over three metres deep was located on the line suggested by Dr West on topographical grounds. In addition, an Iron Age presence on the site was recorded as was clear evidence for middle to late Saxon activity. One, somewhat smaller ditch may have been part of a pre-conquest defensive “ringwork” type structure.

North of England.

Chillingham Castle, five miles southeast of Wooler, medieval stronghold of the de Grey family, and seat of the Earls of Tankerville until 1932, was abandoned that year as being too expensive to maintain after the death of the 7th Earl. In much the same way that Victorian gentry directed that their horses be shot after their death, the 8th Earl of Tankerville decided that the castle should die rather than pass out of the family.

Over the next 50 years, dry rot took hold; tower roofs collapsed bringing down floors and ceilings; burst pipes caused floods; all the windows lost their glass and birds and bats moved in. Only during the Second World War were there human occupants, in the shape of Canadian troops, but as they stripped off the wall panelling to use as firewood, their brief tenancy was less than constructive. Finally, in 1981 Chillingham found its knight in shining armour - or rather its baronet - Sir Humphrey Wakefield,
an expert on antiques and objets d’art (ex Christies) visited the 9th Earl of Tankerville at his home in San Francisco and put it to him that Chillingham “should thrive and not die as a disgrace to the last family who occupied it. He agreed.”

Constructed around a courtyard, with a massive tower at each corner, Chillingham Castle began its existence as a serious, no frills, border fortress, [licenced to crenellate in 1344] built to repel the Scots. All windows faced onto the courtyard, the exterior walls were punctuated only by arrow slits. Of the four oblong corner towers, non project beyond the curtain wall. It was besieged and badly damaged in 1537, not by marauding Scots invaders, but by neighbouring Northumbrian landowners, the Percys, and their cohorts in the Pilgrimage of Grace, a Catholic uprising against Henry VIII. The castle is only one of two standard quadrangular castles in Northumberland, the other being Ford. There are affinities also with Lumley and Bolton.

One positive aspect of such back to the bare-bones restoration is the opportunity that historic detective work offers. The past insertion, or removal of floors and walls, for example, has become apparent. And there are sometimes more unusual discoveries - an entire staircase hidden within a wall, and in one upper room, a walled up fireplace containing a cache of more than 100 Tudor documents, including papers relating to James VI of Scotland’s succession to Elizabeth I (Lord Burghley, Elizabeth’s Chief Minister, used his godson, Ralph Grey as a go-between).

Chillingham is now regularly open to the public in the summer months, during the afternoons.
Refurbishment at Newark Castle

Many members will remember visiting the castle at Newark during our Castles of the East Midlands conference in 1996. A series of excavations had finished the previous year and a major consolidation of the standing remains had been carried out during the early 1990s. Apart from its medieval structure, the castle holds an unusual place in the history of the heritage and conservation movement. During the 1840s it was one of the very first monuments to be consolidated at Crown expense, the work being carried out by the architect Anthony Salvin. During the 1880s the grounds were landscaped, incidentally destroying much of the medieval archaeology on the north side of the site, as the 1992-3 excavation seasons revealed. But the resulting public park, opened in 1889, holds a special place in the history of public gardens. Over the years the landscaping had gone to seed somewhat and a Heritage Lottery Fund grant was successfully sought to restore the park to its former Victorian glory.

As we now take more heed of underground heritage than our forebears did, a proper archaeological assessment had to be made of the likely impact of new planting or structures. This was done in January 1998 and, after much work, the splendidly refurbished grounds were reopened in July 2000, including a fine Victorian-style bandstand canopy. New walkways have been constructed within the Gatehouse, so visitors to the castle can now enter the floorless upper room at the front and follow the route probably taken by former bishops of Lincoln through their private oratory to accommodation beyond.

Some of the work involved additional archaeological investigation. Perhaps the most significant change made for the benefit of the modern visitor is the reopening of a staircase and passageway, originally from the courtyard, leading directly into an extensive undercroft beneath what was the early 14th century Bishops hall. Although visible from within the undercroft, this stair passage was in a very bad way and the exit had been blocked, probably since squatters occupied the castle site after it was slighted in 1646. CSG members may remember getting into the undercroft through a trapdoor at the
other end of the vaulted cellar and entering the gloomy apartment by a
very dark, slippery, steep and rickety set of stairs, put in during the 19th
century. To make this visit, it was necessary to sign a disclaimer
absolving the owner, Newark and Sherwood District Council, from
liability! Clearly this did not accord with modern Health and Safety
rules, which decree that two entrances are necessary for visitors, so
this part of the castle remained rarely glimpsed: a pity, since it contains
the stones from a very fine Romanesque arch, which was rarely seen.
As the original watergate to the riverside is still intact, providing one of
the exits, the obvious answer was to re-open the courtyard stairs. This
also makes it much clearer to the modern visitor how the undercroft
would have worked; supplies brought by water would have been
unloaded and carried in at the watergate, stored in the cellar, then
brought up into the castle courtyard as needed.

The excavation carried out in association with unblocking the courtyard
entrance was extended as far as the western side of the Gatehouse,
revealing the foundations of a turret on its western side. It also threw
more light on the spatial relationship of the gatehouse, courtyard and
undercroft entrance, as well as a realignment of the 12th century
riverside curtain wall, which was moved during the early years of the
14th century.* As the visitor enters the undercroft now, they no longer
take their life in their hands. They also have a view of the main
supporting arch of the entrance, which is still intact, and they can
properly see the fabric of the passageway. A modern timber stair
overrides the original, so as not to damage any of the fabric. The
discerning visitor will note that the vault is different and earlier than that
of the rest of the underground structure; the staircase probably started
life as a 12th century watergate in a pre-existing curtain wall on the river
front. Finally, the castle grounds are now endowed with a set of colour
illustrated information boards, strategically placed to help visitors make
sense of the ruin they actually see before them.

* See 'The Twelfth-Century Castle at Newark' by Pamela Marshall in
Transactions of the BAA, Southwell and Nottinghamshire: Medieval
Vale Castle opens to the public.

A twelfth century castle in the heart of the Vale of Glamorgan has opened its doors to the public following a major conservation project undertaken by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. The impressive Gatehouse at St. Quintins’s Castle, Llanblethian, near Cowbridge, was officially opened in the summer. The gatehouse, along with other parts of the castle has undergone consolidation work since 1994 when the castle was transferred into Cadw’s ownership. The public has access to the ground floor rooms and part of the first floor of the gatehouse where a walkway has been erected. Further access to the castle’s inner area will be completed later this year (2000) as part of on-going improvements.

Sometime after 1307, Earl Gilbert de Clare, whose father built Caerphilly Castle, built the present Gatehouse and castle walls, but he died at the battle of Bannockburn in 1314 before it was completed. Cadw has prepared two information panels on the history of the castle. The castle is open free of charge, between 10.00 and 4.00pm.

Narbeth Castle Consolidation

The grant awarded for the consolidation of Narbeth Castle is the result of considerable background work carried out by SPARC (South Pembrokeshire Action for Rural Communities) over the last two years. This work has consisted of archaeological studies in the form of a structural and historical summary, commissioned by SPARC and carried out by the Dyfed Archaeology Trust, now known as the Cambrian Archaeological Trust. In addition a full photographic survey of all the remaining structures was carried out by A.M.S. Atkins, to give accurate drawings of the remaining structures and identifying the different types of consolidation work required. Weekly visits to the castle have been made to keep a record of the ever-recurring falls and collapses to the masonry.

SPARC has, over the last few years, had regular meetings on site with Cadw representatives to discuss the work needed and the best course of action. It is expected that the project will cost approximately £400,000 with the funds coming from the HLF (209,500), Cadw, and SPARC, accessing European Union funding under the Leader II initiative. Work is due to begin on the castle in Mid March 2001, with contractors to be appointed in the New Year. The two-year project will aim to consolidate all the remaining structures,
starting with the Southwest tower, the largest of the remaining structures. Work will then move on to the Southeast and the Northeast tower, finishing off with the smaller structures, namely the South Wall and turret and the inner curtain walls.

It is not planned at this stage for any archaeological work to take place at the castle, as the grant application was for the consolidation of the structure and only a small part of the work will be carried out under ground level. During the 1960’s and 70’s there was quite a considerable amount of work carried out at the Castle, at ground level, and it is thought that a great deal of damage may have been caused to any remaining archaeological evidence.

Denbigh.

Cadw has invested £15,000 in producing a revamped exhibition for Denbigh Castle, refurbishing the exhibition building and updating the exhibition; additional information panels, more illustrations, reconstruction drawings and photographs. The new displays also include a selection of finds recovered from excavations at the castle - items such as pottery, metalwork, and sculpture, medieval arrowheads and other projectiles used in warfare.

Aberystwyth

Growing fears of losing parts of this castle forever have prompted Cyngor Sir Ceredigion Highways, Property and Works Committee to look into what financing is available for urgent repairs. The 13th century Edwardian castle is in the care of the Ceredigion County Council. Estimates are that £30-40,000 is needed to stabilise the structure.
News - Wales

Dolforwyn Castle, Powys (SO 152 950)

Interim Report on Excavations: July 1st-22nd, 2000

The twentieth and final season of excavation has completed all the remaining work on the castle and enabled the conservation of masonry to be continued in the months prior to the castle's opening to the public. This work was mainly on the vaulted cellar, the areas to its east and west, and the interior of the north tower. However, it did include examining the pavement of the largest bake-oven, formed entirely of domestic grindstones, and exposing the link wall which continued the line of the north curtain wall across the west ditch.

The main excavation progressed well during two weeks of damp unsettled weather and a third week of warm sunshine. Only one half-day's work was lost. The York University training school provided 36 student/weeks. All the volunteers were recent York graduates or else were former Leeds students with extensive previous experience at the castle, some continuously since 1984. The castle is owned by Cadw (Welsh Historic Monuments), who sponsor the excavation and the accompanying masonry conservation programme. The team of masons, led by Stewart Tanner, has made excellent progress throughout the castle; the repaired bridge is particularly impressive.

The North Tower was completed by use of a bucket hoist and a scaffold walk as a barrow run. All the tower interior was excavated to the earliest medieval floor level and a half-section was cleared to the rock, thereby exposing mortar-mixing floors and a setting of stones for which the most likely explanation is the base for a timber-built crane. There were some impressions of timber planks preserved in the deposited mortar. No post-holes or framing for stairways were found, even though both door sills were over a metre above the associated floor level.

The other major objective was to complete the examination of the stone-vaulted cellar with its timber-floored forecourt. It became clear that this area was intended for a water cistern and, in damp conditions underfoot, the infilling of mortared masonry, timbers and shaley soil was removed. This represented the medieval infill after the castle's abandonment. At 4.5 metres below the timber floor level within the rock-cut cistern a layer of grey silty soil was reached which represented
the sediments from the medieval use of the cistern. This was examined to a depth of 6.5 metres where the cistern had a squared shaft of 2.25 metres. The bottom was not reached, because for safety reasons work with students was no longer feasible below this depth. This cistern now seems more likely to be a well.

The relationship of the cistern to the adjacent room has now been clarified. There was no evidence for a stone stair from the west side, although a door stop and an arch springer survives; it is more probable that the cistern showed that the major north/south wall seated on a rock was the east wall of the north-west room; it was later repaired with a buttress at its south-east angle and by a diagonal wall filling a gap at its south end. Slightly later a blocking wall (running east/west) with a battered plinth revetted the shale-filled quarry at the south-west angle of the cistern. Throughout the medieval English occupation the space between the cistern and the north-west room remained open as a light-well for the south window in the North Tower. The door step and springing arch mentioned above gave access into a light-well from the cistern forecourt and not vice versa.

The North-East Room was completed. The mortar floor associated with the earliest occupation of the west zone has been fully explored up to the point where the quarry pit for the cistern cut through it; subsequently this quarry was backfilled with shale, furnace debris and domestic bone deposits. The doorway between this room and the North Tower was recorded and its alteration from window to door was better understood.

The majority of the castle's exterior was exposed by bulldozer, which created an access terrace around the castle. This showed more clearly the contrast between the shorter east and west ends where the curtain wall rose directly from the rock in a vertical face and the longer north and south sides where the curtain walls had impressive sloping plinths.

A small area in the west ditch was examined to show the boundary wall which crossed the ditch from the north-west angle of the castle to the west side of the ditch on the town's margin, thereby cutting off access to the ditch interior (as at Montgomery and Castell y Bere, perhaps with a central door arch). A revetment filling pockets of uneven rock surface
News - Wales

protected the rock face south of this wall. At the east end of the castle past the base of the main ditch the position of the west wall of the 18th-century cottage was established.

As well as animal, bird and fish bone, there were a few medieval finds: coarse and fine glazed pottery (some with finger-pressed bases); oyster and mussel shell; lead offcuts from roofing; iron nails and metal slag. An Edwardian silver penny and a long pin of copper alloy were found in the North Tower. One catapult ball was found there, and others were in the cistern and areas adjacent to it. White wall plaster painted with red and black lines was discarded in a small area south-east of the Hall. The cistern also contained a little waterlogged wood, including two staves from a bucket.

The main supervisors, Stewart Hoad and Simon Stevens continued to assist in their own inimitable fashion, while Helen Fenwick handled the surveying most efficiently. The seven second-year supervisors can look back with satisfaction on their specific areas of trowelling, bucket-hauling, planning and finds recording. It was, again, a pleasure to have recent York graduates joining the work, especially Will Davies on geophysical survey. The cellar team, led by Martin Pitts, needs a special commendation for the devotion to duty in isolated and often watery conditions.

As this is the final interim report I wish to thank most warmly all the staff at Cadw without whose continued support the project would never have been undertaken nor brought to a successful conclusion. The inspectors for Wales, Michael Thompson and Richard Avent, and the Inspector for South-East Wales, Sian Rees, have all provided excellent support and advice over the years. Their colleagues in the Architect's Division in Cardiff and the Works Office in Caernarfon have given guidance and technical help in all matters of historic buildings conservation. This work has truly been a collaborative effort to enable the walls of Dolforwyn to emerge from the green thickets and rubble debris to be a worthy monument to Prince Llywellyn ap Gruffydd and to the Mortimer Family.

Lawrence Butler
Edinburgh Castle - The Great Hall

Dendrochronology has finally proved that the Great Hall at Edinburgh Castle was built and completed during the reign of James IV. The King was famous for major works carried out at Stirling Castle as well as Linlithgow and Falkland palaces but historians were unsure whether the great hall was completed during his reign or that of his son James V.

Nine beam holes were chosen and 10.00mm diameter "cores" taken. Scientists proved that the original wood was Baltic timber felled between 1506 and 1509, which puts it during James IV's reign. Many of the timbers used in the hall still have their bark on them as well as the sapwood, which allowed an accurate age to be gauged.

Stirling Castle - The Great Hall

Historic Scotland has won a tourism Thistle Award for Stirling Castle's Great Hall, capping off a successful year for the historic property. The award, given for the best marketing campaign, was presented at the annual award dinner held in Edinburgh recently.

The Great Hall was opened on St Andrews Day last year by Her Majesty The Queen and proved to be an immediate success with visitors, swelling Stirling castle’s numbers in the first few months of being open and helping the castle to sustain healthy visitor numbers during this current tourist season.

Historic Scotland Central Region Director, Neil Hynd, said: “As well as presenting the Great Hall as it would have been during the reign of James IV in the early 1500s, the Great Hall is also fitted out with modern catering facilities to allow it to be used as a prestigious evening venue. “This combination of meticulous research and modern functionality has proved a winner for Stirling with a total of 55 functions booked within the castle since April compared to 43 the previous year. “In addition, the Great Hall also captures the opulence and grandeur of the medieval palace. One year on from its official opening it adds immeasurably to our interpretation of the castle. “Stirling Castle is inextricably associated with the Stuart dynasty, including Mary Queen of Scots. It is Historic Scotland's
News - Scotland

second-largest visitor attraction, attracting more than 430,000 visitors annually. As well as the Great Hall, a medieval kitchen display, exhibition on the Stuarts, and palace apartments with the Stirling heads are some of the attractions within the castle.

The Caerlaverock Dig

With spectacular views over the Solway Firth and the distant Lakeland fells, Caerlaverock Castle is among the most impressive in Britain. There are in fact two castles here. The present castle replaced an earlier one, dating from the 13th century, which lies around 200 metres to its south-east, in an area of wooded marshland. In 1998, a team of archaeologists from SUAT carried out an excavation of the old castle site, on behalf of Historic Scotland and they have returned this summer to continue their investigation. The purpose of the dig is to provide information about the ‘old’ castle and a possible harbour to its south-west, so that the site can be set out and interpreted for visitors.

When Sir John Maxwell was granted the Caerlaverock estate in around 1220, he began to build a castle here. It seems that within fifty years this first castle had been abandoned, and the castle that is seen today was built on an outcrop of rock. Before last year’s dig, all that was visible of the old castle was a grassy earthen mound, surrounded by a moat. In 1998 archaeologists uncovered a series of buildings on the castle mound, enclosed by a curtain wall with corner towers. A harbour to the south-west of the old castle, once linked to the Solway Firth, was also briefly investigated.

As well as uncovering the remains of the castle buildings, the archaeologists found fragments of pottery, metal, glass and stone objects, and animal bone representing the remains of meals eaten by the castle’s inhabitants. Organic materials may have been particularly well preserved in the castle’s moat, a small section of which will be excavated this summer. All this will provide a snapshot of life at the castle in the 13th century and reveal information about how the castle was built, its economy and trading links, and the activities of the people living there. Once the work on the site is completed, a team of specialists will study various aspects of the material evidence of past activities
(finds, animal bones and plant remains) found during the excavation. Standing wall footings and other structural features will be consolidated so that they can be displayed and interpreted to visitors. There are displays about local archaeology at Dumfries Museum, The Observatory, Dumfries, and you can access the Museum’s web site at www.dumfriesmuseum.demon.co.uk.

Since the completion of the excavations in June 1999, SUAT has been busy working on a variety of other archaeological projects across Scotland, including an excavation at the site of the new Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh and the subsequent post-excavation analyses. Two important excavations were also carried out by SUAT in Perth during 1999, at the former Pullars buildings, now converted into the new headquarters of Perth & Kinross Council, and at Perth’s South Inch, the site of a 17th-century Cromwellian fort. Various post-excavation analyses have been carried out, however, on the results from the Caerlaverock Old Castle investigations, and analysis is continuing.

Update as at November 30th 2000.

Firstly, the finds from the Old Castle site have undergone conservation treatment where necessary, allowing detailed study by specialists to begin. The single coin from the excavation has been identified as a cut halfpenny of William the Lion (1165-1214). The corroded condition of this coin left almost no detail visible, but an x-ray image revealed that it had been cut from a Scottish short cross penny. The loss of this coin can be assigned to the period 1210-1250. We have also received the results of the archaeomagnetic dating work carried out during the investigation. Although the samples from the oven or kiln did not produce a date, those taken from the two hearths within the hall area of the site yielded date ranges of 1250-1275 AD and a probable 1250-1310 AD. Other analyses that have been carried out are a study of the morphological characteristics of the metalworking debris from the site, an analysis of the small amount of animal bone recovered, and petrological identifications of the stone artefacts. Analyses of the other artefacts, and of the large pottery assemblage from the site, are currently underway.

Further information can be found at www.suat.demon.co.uk/caerlaverock
The July/August 2000 period of fieldwork was the sixth season of excavation at Fetternear, Aberdeenshire (NJ 723170). Our team investigated further a medieval residential range running grid north-south. Its most southerly undercroft had been tentatively identified as the bishop’s pit or prison in 1998. This year we excavated a second undercroft, immediately to the north of the first one. It contained deposits rich in glazed medieval roof tiles, and a remnant of a wooden pad instead of the cobbled floor which is still in situ in the ‘pit’. A wall 1.80m wide consisting of at least two phases runs grid north-south below the second undercroft; up to four courses have survived and it latterly served to divide the space within the undercroft.

The undercrofts form part of the residential quarters of the medieval bishop’s palace to judge from the presence of two latrine shafts. Both the east and west walls of the range consist of more than phase, being originally more slight in construction and then being widened, presumably to support at least one extra storey. In their final form, these walls measure up to 2.6m in width.

In a new trench (Trench H) opened immediately to the west of the main excavation area, the continuation of a ghost wall running at right angles to the residential block was excavated. It was found to have been reused for the installation of a nineteenth century ceramic drain pipe. South of the ghost wall a section of wall and an internal medieval cobbled floor were uncovered. Deposits rich in medieval finds were also encountered north of the ghost wall, below the level of the 1690s cobbling in front of the ruined mansion, which was developed by incorporating parts of the Bishop’s Palace and the towerhouse that had been erected in the sixteenth century to complement already existing medieval structures.

Documentary evidence in the form of a nineteenth century plan of the mansion indicated that a ‘ditch or moat’ had been uncovered when the Regency and Victorian extensions to the mansion were constructed. We began to excavate Trench J immediately behind the sixteenth century towerhouse. In it we encountered the uppermost part of a ditch cut into
the natural rock, running at an angle that would take it underneath the
tower that once lay at the northern end of the medieval block with the
undercrofts. We intend to explore this ditch in future seasons as it
appears to predate the thirteenth-fourteenth century phases of the
Bishop's Palace and it may belong to an earlier ringwork (cf Bishop's
Palace, Glasgow).

The Bishop's Palace was constructed on gently sloping terrain that
apparently lacks defensive characteristics. However we have
discovered that the palace was equipped with certain defensive
features. We date the thickening of the walls and the development of
the palace into a courtyard plan to the 1330s, when Bishop Alexander
de Kininmund I was reported as rebuilding the palace. As a clerk in
the employment of the Bishop of St Andrews, he had been one of a select
group of men who took the Declaration of Arbroath to Pope John XXII in
Avignon in 1320. He spent several periods in Avignon at a time when
the Pope was converting the former Bishop's Palace there into a papal
palace around an irregularly shaped courtyard. Fettemear had a much
more regular plan and this may be due to the alignments of the already
existing structures on the site, as witnessed by the wall that we
encountered at the bottom of the second undercroft this year. In
Scotland there was already a tradition for building courtyard castles
with corner towers at Old Caerlaverock and Fyvie in its earliest phases.
It should be remembered that Bishop Kininmund rebuilt his palace at
Fetternear during the Second War of Independence with England,
however the need for massively thick walls that were defensive in
class.

At first the 19th century plan of the ditch suggested to us that its
alignment would have provided further defence for Kininmund's palace.
Now that we have begun to excavate the ditch, it would seem that it
belongs to an earlier ringwork. This would imply that the site already
had a defensive character when Kininmund redeveloped the palace.
Finally, the survival of two externally splayed gun loops, of a type that
was current in Scotland for a century from the 1520s, suggests that the
palace was equipped with defensive features in the sixteenth century,
before the estate passed to the Leslies of Balquhain and the building of
the towerhouse. These gun loops have survived because they were
reused in two upper storey windows at the rear of the towerhouse. They were presumably placed there in an attempt to protect the building from attack when the Covenanters besieged it in the 1640s.

The project directors wish to thank Mrs C Whittall, Mr J Whittall, Mrs C Fyffe, Mr R Fyffe and Mr D Fyffe for their support and for allowing access to the site. Sponsors: Aberdeenshire Council, British Academy, BP Amoco Exploration, Deeside Field Club, The Hunter Archaeological Trust, Miller Plant Hire, Royal Archaeological Institute, The Russell Trust, Werkgroep Archeologie “Philips van Horne”, Cannich Archaeological Services and the Scottish Castle Survey.

Addresses:Dr P Z Dransart, Department of Archaeology, University of Wales, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7ED and N Q Bogdan, Scottish Castle Survey, Barra Castle, Old Meldrum, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, AB51 0BB.

Hallbar Tower

The Tower of Hallbar was built in response to a 1535 Act of Parliament directing those with land to the value of £100 in the area to construct a tower, thirty-foot square, to protect his household from the English Border raiders. The first mention of Hallbar (‘bar – Gaelic for height, therefore ‘high hall) is in an Act of Parliament in 1581 ratifying the transfer of the Barony of Braidwood to Harie Stewart of Gogar, brother of the Earl of Arran.

Hallbar rises four storeys to the 19th-century battlemented parapet and a second floor garderobe was also added in the Victorian period. The interior, before conversion consisted of five rooms, one above the other. The cellar was probably used for storage or as a cattle refuge in time of attack. The dog-leg staircase contained within the wall is unusual compared to similar towers which have spiral staircases. Hallbar had been empty since 1984 until the Lee & Carnwath estate approached The Vivat Trust in 1998 and offered Vivat a full-repairing lease for the Grade A listed building. Following a programme of repairs, Hallbar has been sympathetically converted to holiday accommodation as the vertical distribution of rooms, the tortuous stairs and low doorways make Hallbar unsuitable for full-time residency. This project was funded by amongst others, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Architectural Heritage Fund and Historic Scotland.
Kirsty Wark was Vivat's guest of honour at the recent opening celebrations of The Tower of Hallbar, which welcomed its first guests on 1st April 2000. Ms Wark who had played in and around the Tower as a young girl, remarked on opening the building that: “This is a great day because I remember the tower being derelict when I used to come here...to welcome people here from all over the world is absolutely fantastic.”

The opening marked the completion of a five-year project funded by amongst others The Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, Lanarkshire Development Agency and local government agencies. The Ayr-based architectural practice ARP Lorimer & Associates headed the professional team and the contractors were Robert D Hogg Ltd of Carluke. All those who have made the project possible were invited to the opening as well as many local people who have watched The Tower transformed back to its former glory - a year which has witnessed some exciting moments namely when the antique furniture was winched to the top of the five-storey building, swinging precariously in the wind! The Tower is an impressive and unique newcomer to Vivat's portfolio and promises to be a popular destination in the beautiful Clyde Valley.

**Castles of Scotland Preservation Trust**

The Trust was established to promote and encourage the protection and preservation of Scotland's rich architectural heritage and to restore as much of it as possible. Although the Trust operates as a company, it is a charitable organisation registered in Scotland whose directors and secretary give freely of their time and expertise in the running of the Trust. Liberton Tower is the Trust's first completed project. It has received great acclaim from many sources including the coveted Europa Nostra Award.

Liberton Tower dates from the late 15th century but was abandoned in the 17th century. However, it remained almost untouched throughout the centuries and still possessed many of its unique features when it was acquired by the CSPT. The old stone-paved courtyard and well were discovered during the restoration and a new wooden stairway was erected on the outside, leading from the old courtyard to the original
entrance into the great hall on the first floor. Contact: www.cospt.fsnet.co.uk.

Urquhart Castle.

A new £4 million visitor centre at Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness will help tell the story of one of Scotland’s most popular historic sites. To be completed by the Autumn of 2001, the project by Historic Scotland will provide better parking, a high quality visitor centre with exhibition, tea-room, shop and an education centre.

The impressive remains of Urquhart Castle dominate a rocky promontory on Loch Ness. Throughout its 500 year history as a medieval fortress, it was one of major strategic importance to those who sought to control the Great Glen. Project Manager Lucy Vaughan said: “When complete the result will greatly improve the facilities we can offer visitors at Urquhart, one of Scotland’s most popular sites. The visitor centre will allow us to interpret the history of Urquhart Castle and a controlled environment within the exhibition area will display on site for the first time a fine collection of weapons and other objects found at the castle during excavations”.

The visitor centre building, which will be landscaped and set into the hillside near the A82 will be a model of ‘green’ tourism incorporating energy saving controls such as heat recovery, low energy fittings and thermal insulation. Urquhart Castle will remain open to visitors throughout the project with a car parking facility for 40 spaces.

Cadzow Castle: archaeological evaluation this winter of this poorly understood 16th century stronghold of the Hamilton’s which is not open to the public due to the poor state of preservation (Peter Yeoman).

Kisimul Castle, Barra: came into state care March 2000. Buildings recording and analysis (over and above RCAHMS 1960’s survey) and archaeological assessment due to begin Spring 2001 (Sally Foster).

Rowallan Castle: survey and buildings analysis (Doreen Grove).
Ludgershall, lying between Marlborough and Salisbury, is not a castle known to many people, in spite of being in the care of the State for several decades, although it was a popular royal residence in the Middle Ages, being used as a hunting 'lodge' in the thirteenth century. However, it is a building that is very well documented, particularly in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Part of the double 'ringwork' enclosure is still occupied by a farm, but in order to create a better understanding of the site some of the old farm buildings located in the guardianship area were removed in the 1960s. At the same time excavations were led by Peter Addyman, then of Southampton University, involving a number of people, including one of CSG's committee members, Tom McNeill. The report on the excavations has had a long gestation, as can be seen from the report on the architectural fragments, which was written originally in 1982, and then revised in 1990 and again in 1998.

Three areas were selected for excavation: the main work was undertaken in the north enclosure, the core of the royal residence, with sampling carried out in two areas of the south enclosure. As one of the reasons for the work was to expose and conserve buildings for public display, it is the castle of the thirteenth century and later that is mainly visible today.

Following the introduction by Peter Addyman and Peter Ellis, the former, with Charles Kightly, examine the historical and documentary background to Ludgershall through to the time that John Leland reported it as being 'now clene downe.' Kightly concentrates on the building accounts of 1341-43, with a translation of two accounts to be found on the first of two microfiche at the end of the book. It is interesting to note that work progressed over the winter of 1341-42, except at Christmas, the only delays being due to bad weather in February and March, 1342.

The core of the volume is the third chapter, Peter Ellis's report on the site, and this is followed by David Stocker's examination of the 'great' tower and Henry III's hall. The tower (Building 11 in the excavation report) was the only masonry structure standing above ground prior to the excavation, and even that was hardly a prepossessing feature of the site; it stood on the foundations of an earlier building, perhaps a tower. It is
REVIEWS - Ludgershall

likely to have consisted of three floors, and was in the class of small keeps such as Goodrich, each floor being about four and half metres wide. Like the other buildings, the great tower was constructed in flint, and a notable feature is the series of voids marking timber reinforcement of a type to be seen in a number of other flint structures, for example New Buckenham in Norfolk. There is precious little architectural evidence to help date the tower, and on the evidence of the archaeology, and to some extent the documents, it may have been constructed in the late twelfth century. One of Peter Dunn's fine illustrations in the report shows how the tower may have looked when completed (Fig. 4.6). The tower was linked at first-floor level, possibly, to a first-floor hall (Building 12), and the main function of the whole unit is seen as the provision of accommodation of the highest quality, as opposed to having a defensive purpose.

The main hall of the thirteenth-century castle was that built to the south of the great tower in 1244 on the orders of Henry III, and completed in 1247. It was elaborate both in terms of architecture, with some of the carved architectural fragments revealed by the excavations, as well as its internal painting, and Stocker examines the hall's parallels with other works built or embellished further during Henry's reign.

The fifth chapter is devoted to the survey of the castle earthworks by RCHME in 1998, and also includes an analysis of the surrounding landscape. It is now thought, or suggested, that the south enclosure of this double-ditched double ringwork and bailey is prehistoric in origin. There has been increasing recognition over the last few years, particularly through the work of Paul Everson, one of the contributors to this chapter, that several castles have ornamental landscapes adjacent to them, whether gardens or parklands. The outer bank at Ludgershall may well have been a 'garden' walkway, formed as part of the thirteenth-century improvements to the castle. Even though Conwy in north Wales had a garden within its confines, nobody would deny that the prime function of Edward I's buildings was as a castle. However, as far as Ludgershall is concerned, certainly by the time of Henry III it should be seen as a fine example of a royal country manor rather than a fortress.

Before the discussion and summary at the end, there are over 120 pages on the finds from the excavations, from coins/tokens [reports written in the early 1970s] and metalwork to pottery, window glass and wall plaster.
REVIEWS - Ludgershall

A number of decorative strips of bone/antler from wooden caskets were found in twelfth-century contexts, and several bone whistles and playing pieces were recovered. Amongst the quantity of glass was a goblet described in the report as 'amongst the most complete of fourteenth-century date yet published from Britain'. The report on the architectural fragments includes a study of a number of twelfth-century carvings, providing a hint of the nature of the buildings in the castle in the Norman period.

Readers of the introductions to the CSG bibliographies over the last few years will have noted that a large number of excavations undertaken some years ago are now being published, such as through the double volumes of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland's Proceedings. Nor must we forget the lengthy Caerlaverock report in the latest Archaeological Journal. It is especially gratifying to see Ludgershall finally in print as a monograph, rather than having to rely on the interim reports in two issues of Château Gaillard and local journals. My one criticism is the poor quality of reproduction of several of the photographs throughout the report. Nevertheless, Peter Ellis and all those who have been responsible for finally seeing this work through to publication deserve our sincere thanks.


John R. Kenyon
REVIEWS

Medieval Palaces - An Archaeology.
By Graham Keevil. Pp192, 71 figs, 23 colour plates. Tempus Publishing Ltd, Gloucester

For the past twenty years Graham Keevil has directed major survey and excavation programmes throughout England, with important work on a Roman villa in Northamptonshire, a massive Roman pottery kiln site in Oxfordshire, the Anglo-Saxon and medieval monastery at Keynsham, Carlisle Cathedral, and medieval properties in Salisbury. He has directed numerous projects at the Tower of London as well as several excavations at Hampton Court Palace. Henry VIII's great palace at Hampton Court is one of the most famous medieval palaces. Surprisingly, however, there have been few general books that have looked at the extensive archaeological evidence of such palaces - whether they were built for the monarchy or the episcopate. Having first defined a palace (as opposed to a castle or manor), the author looks at the full range of evidence - surviving buildings, archaeology, historical sources, artistic and cartographic depictions - and stresses the advantages of a combined approach. He reveals what modern archaeological techniques can offer and synthesises the results of national surveys (without neglecting continental parallels). He also explains the archaeological evidence for how palaces were built. He then looks in detail at the different functions of the palace: family and court, religion, defence and recreation.

The properties that the author discusses at length are as follows: Bishops Waltham Palace, Clarendon Palace, Farnham Castle, Hampton Court Palace, Nonsuch Palace, Oatlands House/Palace, Old Sarum, Sherborne Castle, St Mary's Guildhall, Lincoln, Tower of London (White Tower), Westminster Palace, Windsor Castle, and Wolvesey Castle. Other residences are included, such as Acton Burnell, Bridewell Place, Falkland Place, Leeds Castle, and Winchester Great Hall. The first chapter is taken up with definitions - what constitutes the nomenclature 'palace'; is it restricted to royal and episcopal residences, and how far does the defensive apparatus have to go before it is recognised as a castle? For further help, the reader should also consult Anthony Emery's 'Greater Medieval Houses of England and Wales', especially Vol II where he includes a special chapter entitled 'The Aristocracy, Palace-Fortresses and Trophy Houses'. On page 490, he defines a 'palace' in very precise but logical terms.
A palace was essentially a seat of authority, immediately identifiable by its size and splendour. More particularly it was a household structure, not a defensive residence, otherwise it would have been called a castle. That did not exclude some defensive characteristics such as a moat, embattlement, or a gatehouse, but they were superficial trappings to a structure primarily domestic in purpose and intent. A royal palace fulfilled several functions: It was the focus of the ruler of the country. Its was intended to impress visitors and foreign emissaries. It was meant to demonstrate the suzerain's wealth and standing, and it provided imposing rooms and courtyards for entertainment, formal receptions and judgements. Westminster and Clarendon would certainly meet this criteria, but further distinctions are necessary. Some began as fortresses, as in the case of Windsor and the White Tower (hence they have always been called 'castles'), but later rebuilding and enlargement converted them into palaces. These, together with Kenilworth Castle under John of Gaunt can best be described as palace-fortresses.

“Palaces lacking any defensive features or intent, such as Westminster, Clarendon and Eltham were palace-mansions. However, the word ‘palace’ has been indiscriminately attached to all royal residences, essentially to identify their royal standing rather than their function and scale. It is preferable to consider these lesser houses by their essential purpose. Woodstock, King’s Langley, Kennington [and perhaps Ludgershall] were manor houses; Rockingham and Brigstock were hunting lodges. The same oversubscription of the word ‘palace’ equally applies to episcopal houses”.

The core of ‘Medieval Palaces - an Archaeology’ are chapters 3 and 4, ‘Building medieval palaces: the archaeological evidence’, and ‘The use of palaces: public and private faces’. The author brings together all the archaeological evidence over the past twenty-five years, either from excavation reports published or those still at the drafting stage, particularly from M Biddle’s work at Wolvesey and Nonsuch, Gadd and Dyson’s Bridewell Palace, Beaumont James’ Clarendon, and his own work, particularly at the Tower of London and Hampton Court. There is a useful section under the heading ‘hall and chamber’ with comparative plans of selected French and English Halls, the drawings by Dr Edward Impey, who whose work on the Tower and in Normandy is referenced. Regarding the White Tower, the author admits “the difficulty in determining the extent to which this was intended as a royal palace: it has been seen as purely defensive by some, and purely ceremonial by
others. It is likely that the truth lies somewhere in between such polar opposites”. Regarding the physical space of the White Tower, he remarks that it is “not so readily interpretable, largely because there are relatively few clues as to the specific function of individual chambers beyond obvious features such as fireplaces and garderobes which offer no more than general evidence of domestic activity”. In turn, aspects of Westminster, Windsor, Clarendon, the lisoedd of medieval Gwynedd, and a selective number of palaces of Henry VIII are reassessed in the light of recent archaeology. Various aspects of ‘Defence’ are taken up, using the examples of Farnham, Old Sarum, Sherbourne, and The Tower.

Following a chapter discussing ‘Other buildings and functions of medieval palaces’ he concludes with some wide ranging summaries of more contemporary aspects of heritage management - access and use, interpretation, the criteria for and appropriateness of re-enactments, themed events, costume guides and performances. The author ends with his view of what needs to be done by way of continuing research. “There are gaps in our knowledge at regional, national, and international levels that need to be addressed...The greatest immediate priority is to get more national and international surveys of the subject in print in a variety of languages. John Dunbar’s recent survey (1999 - Scottish Royal Palaces), of late medieval and early renaissance Scottish palaces is an excellent example of the potential here......The equally recent book on medieval Hungarian royal palaces is another fine example of what is achievable”. (E Zoltan -translator -Medium Regni: medieval Hungarian royal seats). He notes that “there are still too many past excavations unpublished in the United Kingdom. One looks back wistfully now at statements made in high optimism in the 1960’s with regard to full publication of such important projects as Nonsuch and Oatlands which then seemed to be imminent. Neither report has yet appeared, though the finds volume was in press at the time of writing (late Spring 2000). The results of several excavations at the Tower from the 1950's to the 1970's have yet to see the light of day...”.

Graham Keevil is to be congratulated for a clear and concise synthesis of recent archaeological work in this area of medieval studies. For the future he gives some signposting. “Virtually every medieval palace which still survives would repay some further work... It is to be hoped that the seeming loss of confidence manifested in the ‘lets wait until better techniques are available in the future’ attitude does not stop such projects from coming forward”.

Neil Guy
REVIEWS

Hen Domen, Montgomery.
A Timber Castle on the English-Welsh Border.
A Final Report
Robert Higham and Philip Barker

This volume marks the final stage in the publication of one of Britain's longest running archaeological field projects. The timber built motte and bailey castle at Hen Domen, Montgomery, Powys, was established by Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, as part of the Norman advance into Wales in the late eleventh century. In the twelfth century the castle was the centre of a smaller border territory held by the de Boulers family. In the thirteenth century it was replaced by Henry III's new castle at Montgomery, though it was not immediately abandoned.

Excavations began here in 1960 and the project provides the fullest examination ever undertaken of this type of medieval castle. Work carried out up to 1980 was published in 1982 by the Royal Archaeological Institute; the University of Exeter Press now presents a final report which both summarises the earlier work and provides a full account of the excavations' findings between 1980 and their completion in 1992. This includes details of the buildings encountered in the bailey and on the motte top, studies of the artefactual and environmental data, an account of fieldwork pursued in the castle's vicinity and an assessment of its medieval landscape context. It is profusely illustrated with drawings and photographs of the structural and artefactual evidence and also includes new reconstruction drawings of the site as it evolved over some two hundred years.

This study is a major contribution to our understanding of life in the Welsh Marches in the Middle Ages, and more than just an excavation report. The study of the landscape in which the castle sits, both before Hen Domen was built and after it fell into disuse, has shed further light on the history of this frontier.

[The above comments are taken from the Volume's cover text from the University of Exeter Press].

192 pages; 85 illustrations and line drawings
ISBN 0 85989 652 8. Price £45.00
Available from: University of Exeter Press
Reed Hall, Streatham Drive, Exeter EX4 4QR
Tel 01392 264364. www.ex.ac.uk/uep
Reinstatement - Restoration - or preserve as found?

Is there ever a case for a practical reuse of a ruinous castle? Ross Clark writing in the Daily Telegraph asked this question earlier this year, using the example of Cooling Castle.

We all love romantic ruins, but, says Ross Clark, neglect can be dangerous. Isn't it time we put them to use?

FIGHTING your way into Cooling Castle can't be much more difficult now than it was when John DeCobham constructed it to keep out French bandits in 1381. You have to clamber through barbed wire and undergrowth into the soggy confines of the outer moat. From there, it's a tortuous path to the back gate, where you face being decapitated by chunks of falling ragstone. Ruined since the Roundheads took revenge on the Cobhams for supporting the Royalist cause, parts of the castle are threatening to collapse at any time: as recently as last winter, the crypt wall came crashing down after frost loosened the stonework.

Dangerous or not, it's a journey many have been making: Cooling Castle, stuck on the Isle of Grain in north Kent, is looking for a new owner. The Bridge Wardens, an ancient charity that owns several bridges across the River Medway, and who acquired the castle along with the neighbouring farmland after the Second World War, has decided that the ruin is too much of a liability. The asking price put on the structure by agents Cluttons Daniel Smith is an appetising £50,000 to £100,000.

It may sound a bargain, but there is just one problem: what exactly can you do with a ruined medieval castle? You can't turn it back into a home - it is a scheduled ancient monument and cannot be added to in any way. Neither can you let it finish the job of falling down. "You wouldn't be allowed to let it fall into rack and ruin," says Elspeth Henderson of English Heritage, without any sense of irony: the law requires you to keep your ruin in its current state of ruination.

Under the 1882 Act of Parliament which founded the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, you are not permitted to flood the moat of your castle without permission. Neither, in the case of Cooling Castle, can you build a house next door and use the ruins as a garden in which to throw

47
gothic parties: the adjoining farmland is protected from development. Use of the castle, perhaps as a wedding venue, is made difficult by a lack of room for car parking and the impossibility of putting other buildings in the grounds.

Although it could make a pleasant addition to the garden of the house next door, the owners do not want to buy. They have happily used the castle grounds for 20 years - while I am there the son is walking the dog there. “It’s a shame,” he says. “It’s part of our heritage, but it just needs too much spending on it.”

The case of Cooling Castle is symptomatic of many of England’s 450 castles. We take it for granted that our heritage ought to be preserved and yet we shrink from having ruins turned into working buildings.

The result of this attitude is a landscape littered with ruins consigned to the pickling jar. Tourism is the suggested role for them. But just how do you pull tourists into Cooling Castle when it has to compete with better specimens, such as Dover, and the hundreds of other ruins which the public can walk around free of charge?

In any case, the Isle of Grain, which is a strange land of bungaloid overspill communities dwarfed by a vast oil refinery, is hardly on the tourist map. English Heritage, which, since merging with the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in April, is now responsible both for the preservation of ruined castles and their promotion for tourism, apparently recognises the glut of castles, cementing loose stones and repairing cracks in Wigmore castle in Herefordshire so that, according to the tourist blurb, it will live on for ever as a “romantic ruin”. But when offered the chance to buy Cooling, English Heritage declined. “We’re only a body of last resort,” says its spokeswoman Beth McHatty. “In the case of Wigmore Castle, we stepped in because we were asked to by the Government.” In Herefordshire alone, there are a further eight crumbling castles on English Heritage’s endangered list. In England as a whole, there are a further 63, most of them unoccupied ruins - although Saltwood Castle, also makes it on to the list because the 14th-century [?] outer bailey is deteriorating.

Health and safety legislation certainly won’t be on the side of the new owner of Cooling Castle. The £50,000 purchase price, admits James
Best-Shaw of Cluttons, is small beer compared with the estimated £1 million cost of making the castle safe for the public to wander around. The building, with its yard-thick walls might look substantial, but it is built a bit like a chocolate truffle: its hard exterior hides the fact that the walls are filled with soft, Kentish chalk that dissolves in the rain. The poor state of repair will be a headache for any owner: Third-party liability does not just apply to injuries received by people legally venturing on to the site; trespassers have recourse to compensation.

Inevitably, perhaps, castles are falling into the hands of romantics who simply fail to realise what is involved. “Already, we’ve had offers from several people who want to use the castle as a garden,” says Best-Shaw. “They won’t be able to have a house nearby, they will just come down from London and spend an afternoon there.” Whether they have thought through the implications of owning a castle is another matter.

Last year, Dieter Stanzeleit, a German businessman, paid £100,000 for Donksey Castle, a ruin perched dramatically on the cliffs of Wigton. In fact, he was so taken with it that he paid £25,000 over the guide price quoted by agents Strutt & Parker. But that was before he realised that his estimate of restoration costs - £200,000 - was about £1,000,000 short. And even if he could raise the money, the castle’s scheduled status would probably prevent him turning it into a home. He is now looking for partners to help salvage something from his investment.

Perhaps we do need to make that mental jump - and let ruins become castles again. The only way we are ever likely to persuade individuals to invest in buildings is to allow them the incentive of putting them to a worthwhile use. After all, there are no other types of building that we are prepared to let sit crumbling and unused. Crumbling terrace houses in Salford aren’t considered to be “romantic ruins”: they either get pulled down or restored and put to use. It is only when it comes to castles that our gothic imagination takes over and we seem unable to picture them in any form other than left in limbo among the climbing ivy and swirling mists.

© Telegraph Newspapers Ltd 2000. Reproduced with thanks

[Cooling Castle has since been purchased by Mr Jools Holland].
Members Interests

Kenneth Wiggins advises that Wordwell Ltd is due to publish in December 2000 a book entitled ‘The Siege of King John’s Castle, Limerick, 1642. The book includes a detailed study of a unique assemblage of structural timbers excavated from a number of mines and countermines built during the siege. Work on a full account of the archaeology is ongoing with a view to publication in 2002. Check the latest at www.wordwellbooks.com.

A M T Maxwell Irving is currently researching and writing a complementary volume on the ‘Tower Houses of the Scottish Border’. Unlike the first volume which also deals with the history of the towers and their owners, this will be a shorter book dealing with only the architecture of all the towers houses in the Scottish Borders from Berwickshire to Eastern Galloway.

Giovanna Michelson is researching for a PhD, Royal Holloway (London) in the Dept of Human Geography. Interests in interdisciplinary approaches (Archaeology - Geography- Anthroplogy- History) to medieval changed landscapes. A particular interest in mental processes of mapping/designing landscape, and the roles played by individuals in transmitting new stylistic ideas. Past/present work at Leeds Castle, Kent, and some research at EH castle sites e.g. Stokesay/Kenilworth.

Mike Salter of Folly Publications advises his reprint and/or new publication schedule for the coming year: Castles and Moated Mansions of Shropshire, 2nd edition, March 01; Castles of Kent (new) and Castles of Hereford and Worcester (new edition), both available since November 00; Castles of East Anglia - new- March 01; titles for Jersey and Guernsey are currently in preparation for release during 2001. Contact Mike at Folly Cottage, 151 West Malvern Road, Malvern, Worcs, WR14 4AY.

Sarah Speight has been appointed Lecturer in Archaeology and Medieval History within the School of Continuing Education at Nottingham University. Sarah has been Course Director for the Archaeology and Medieval History programme for four years, but the new post carries with it both a research burden and new responsibilities to develop Nottingham’s adult curriculum in these areas. Two areas may be of interest to CSG colleagues. First the proposed research includes an examination of the role of adult education in the establishment of Archaeology as a University discipline. Secondly, a student-led research project is to be established to collate information on the early castle sites of the East Midland counties, with a view to both publication, and to additional information being provided to the SMR.

Members interested in either of these projects are welcome to contact Sarah at: sarah.speight@nottingham.ac.uk.
Minutes of the AGM of the Castle Studies Group held at the University of Kent, Canterbury, on Saturday April 8th 2000 at 8.30 pm.

1. Welcome

The Secretary welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially those for whom this was their first conference. The Agenda had been prepared in accordance with the AGM Notice included in the 1999 Newsletter.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Terry Barry, and Kieran O'Connor

3. Minutes of the last AGM.

These had been published in the last Newsletter and were approved.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Secretary introduced the report by reminding everyone of the background to the proposal to raise the subscription, aired at last year's AGM and in the last Newsletter. Although the financial position of the CSG was very healthy due to grants received at the Maynooth and Lampeter meetings, it was stressed that the main costs to CSG [the annual publications and postage] must be covered by subscriptions. At the moment they were not [average cost per copy around £7, subscription £5]. The proposal to raise the subscription to £10 appeared in the last Newsletter, page 65.

The Treasurer introduced the accounts, emphasising that CSG running costs were about £2000 per annum. There was a need to raise the subscription to cover the publications and postage, to cover the CBA insurance, and to have enough in reserve to put down deposits for conferences. It was proposed [1], that accounts now need auditing; [2], the membership would cover the calendar year; [3], the subscription would increase in January 2001 to £10 for single members, £11 for two members at the same address, and £13 for members in Europe and the rest of the world.
CSG AGM / MINUTES - 2000

It was then suggested (by Derek Renn) that, to save money, the accounts should be simply examined independently, rather than being audited, and this was agreed. With this amendment, Con manning seconded the three proposals, and they were almost unanimously supported, apart from two members who voted against the subscription increase. The forms re. The new subscriptions would be sent out to members in November 2000. [Actually mailed with the Summer Newsheet]. It was also agreed that the Committee should look at the matter of life membership and other concessions and report back at the next AGM.

Thanks were also expressed to the organisers of the Maynooth and Lampeter conferences for securing the grants.

5. Newsletter

The editor stressed the broad range of the content, and emphasised that, though he himself identified some content, he was dependent on members submitting news to him. He was congratulated on the content and John Kenyon was thanked for compiling the annual Bibliography. Both publications were highly valued.

6. Conferences

2001. In 2001 the annual conference will be based at Namur, 7-12 April, departing after breakfast on the 12th. The conference fee [block booking of a youth hostel] will be around £150. There would be room for 44 in the hostel; there would be room on the coach for about 15 other delegates staying in hotels, but they would have to be responsible for getting to the coach at the youth hostel every day. Johnny de Meulemeester was thanked for his efforts in organising this event.

2002. It was confirmed that this would be in the Dumfries and Carlisle area, organised by Geoff Stell and Barbara Harbottle.
2003. West Midlands, organised by Malcolm Hislop
2004. North-west Ireland, possibly organised by Kieran O’Conor
2006. South-east Wales, based in Cardiff (?). Organiser to be arranged.
7. One day Events..

The first event, as approved at the 1999 AGM will be held at the University of Nottingham on Saturday 22 September 2001, and the theme will be recent work on great towers/keeps/donjons. The convenor would be Pamela Marshall.

The Secretary mentioned that there may be another joint meeting on castles and landscape history between CSG and the Oxford University of Oxford Adult Education; he will keep members informed via the Newsletter.

8. Any other Business

[A] Publishing strategy; - [i] There was considerable discussion over whether CSG should use some of its funds to publish material other than the usual annual publications. For example, the Nottingham 2001 papers, if all were original research and not being published elsewhere. In principle this was agreed but needs to be discussed further. Tom McNeil warned that such publications could use up much of CSG's reserve and that it would be better to look for publication partnerships, and that further subventions would be required. Discussion would be resumed at the 2001 AGM, when the content of the Nottingham conference would be known. [ii] John Kenyon stated that the Council for British Archaeology had agreed to publish the fourth volume of his bibliography, a cumulative edition of vols 1-3 plus material published since 1990. It would be both a hard copy and a CD-ROM publication, and the text would be submitted in 2003. The CBA were looking for subventions and it was agreed that the CBA should approach the CSG nearer the date of publication, as well as related bodies such as the Fortress Study Group. CSG response would be determined, nearer the time, in the light of financial circumstances.

[B] Castles in France study tour. Pamela Marshal proposed to take a group to the eastern Loire for a week in late July/August 2001 or 2002. Cost for half board would be about £650 per person. There was enough interest shown at the meeting to encourage PM to pursue the matter.

[C] Developments at Chateau Gaillard. A letter has been received
expressing local concerns and those of ICOMOS re. A viewing platform built/to be built below the castle. The CSG Committee would write in support of these concerns.

[D]. Bob Higham having signified (to the Committee during the winter of 1999/2000) his wish to step down as Secretary, the Committee proposed Pamela Marshall as his replacement, and this was agreed unanimously. The outgoing Secretary duly handed over the “badge of office”, the commemorative medal presented to the CSG at Bungay Castle during the East Anglian conference.

E]. The new Secretary thanked Bob Higham for all his work that had led to the founding of the CSG at Gregynog in 1987, and the huge amount of both time and effort expended since that date. These remarks were supported and amplified on the Committee’s behalf by Tom McNeil. It was proposed and accepted unanimously that Bob Higham should become a life member of CSG, and he duly expressed his appreciation, indicating the great satisfaction he had received from his twelve years work, and thanking both Committee and members for their support.

9. Close

Denys Pringle proposed a vote of thanks to Richard Eales, and those who had assisted him, for organising the Canterbury conference, and in particular for arranging access to sites not normally accessible to the public, such as Allington and Saltwood. All agreed that it had been an excellent programme, helped by the fine weather.
### CSG STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 30th September 1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance b/f 26/03/1999</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposit A/C</td>
<td>11,534.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current A/C</td>
<td>3.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Excess of Payments over receipts:

- 6,048.62
- 5,488.76

**Interim Accounts for last Quarter of 1999, October 1st to December 30th**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payments</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P &amp; P University of Exeter</td>
<td>6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter 13</td>
<td>550.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sub Total:

- 556.50

Excess of Payments over Receipts:

- 400.12

**Sub Total:**

- 556.50
- 156.38

### CSG STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 31st December 1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance b/f 01/10/99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposit A/C</td>
<td>5,451.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current A/C</td>
<td>37.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Excess of Payments over Receipts:

- 512.02

**Sub Total:**

- 512.02
- 4,976.74

### Accounts for Calendar Year 2000

#### Interim Accounts January 1st - March 20th 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payments</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBA Insurance</td>
<td>143.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sub Total:

- 143.25

Excess of Payments over Receipts:

- 7.69

**Sub Total:**

- 143.25
- 135.56

### CSG STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 20th March 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance b/f 01/01/2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposit A/C</td>
<td>4,945.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current A/C</td>
<td>30.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Excess of Payments over receipts:

- 7.69

**Sub Total:**

- 4,945.75
- 4,969.05

---

55
Receipts & Payments A/C
Interim Accounts April 1st - December 20th 2000

Payments
Honorarium (Bob Higham) 100.00
Exeter Postage 13.88
Bibliography 13 365.00
Mailing 75.00
CBA Affiliation 60.00
Overdrawn Account fees* 61.32
Postage & envelopes-Summer mailing 131.47

Subtotal: 806.67

Receipts
Canterbury Surplus 768.22
Chq subs Gold Acc 275.00
Chq subs Curr Acc 216.00
SO Subs 743.00
Interest to 3rd April 11.87
Interest to 3 July 15.94
Interest to 2 Oct 16.85

Subtotal: 2,046.88

Excess of Payments over receipts
1,240.21
2,046.88

* The Current Account went overdrawn for a period in September. This was a result of business being conducted by post - transfer of monies from the Deposit Account to the Current account to pay bills were affected twice. One transfer went astray in the post whilst a second was not processed until after a bill cheque had been drawn. As a result of these problems the Treasurer has started to pay cheque subscriptions direct into the Current account so that minor bills can be paid quickly without recourse to a transfer of funds between accounts.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 20th December 2000

Balance b/f 21/03/2000
Deposit A/C 4,938.06
Current A/C 30.99

Excess of Payments over receipts 1,240.21

The Treasurer apologises for a possible confusion that may have arisen when reading the accounts published in Newsletter 13. There were two important errors. First, the Statement of Account at September 30th 1999 should have brought balances forward from March 26th, not from June 18th as printed. Secondly, the balance shown in the Gold Deposit Account for Sept. 30th was incorrect. The corrected statement is shown above.

Members should note the following: We have changed our accounting year to the calendar year as of January 1st 2000, and all subscriptions for 2001 are now due. Members yet to send their SO mandates to the bank, please use the one enclosed with the Newsletter. The Canterbury Conference accounts were processed separately by the Conference Organiser. The group accounts therefore reveal the Canterbury surplus but are not distorted by the business of the Conference.

Sarah Speight 20/12/2000
New Members

Mr Duncan McAndrew
Mr P.R Hamilton-Legget
Ian Roberts
Mr Alistair Dobie
Mr Richard Cramp
Mr Huw Grocutt
Ms Stella Shiel
Mr Ron Cookson
Mr Chris Constable
Dr Jessica Cooke
Mr Ray Cooke
Mrs Chris Widdowson
Dr Edward Impey
Ms Giovanna Michelson
Mr Neil Phillips
Mr John Wright
Dr Karl J Schmidt
C A Stewart

Change of Address / Corrections

Ann Reynolds
Robert Brodie
Mr Peter Addyman
I Cornwell
Victoria Crewe-Nelson
Mr Cyril Eaton
Mike Ponsford
Nola Crewe
Mr Rob Early
Gordon Fordyce
NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The 2001 Annual General Meeting will take place at Namur, Belgium on Tuesday April 10th at 8 pm.

All members are cordially invited to attend.

The meeting will take place at: auberge de jeunesse 'Felician Rops', Avenue 'Felician Rops', 8, 5000 Namur, Belgium

The Agenda:

Chairman: Pamela Marshall

1. Minutes

To approve the minutes of the previous annual General Meeting held at Canterbury on April 8th 2000.

The minutes of this AGM are detailed on pages 52 to 54 of this Newsletter.

2. Matters Arising:

To receive the Treasurer's Report
To receive the Newsletter Editor's Report
To confirm the Conference program
Any other business.

Members are invited to submit any items for the AGM direct to the CSG Secretary:

Pamela Marshall

not later than the end of February. Items submitted will be dealt with under Any Other Business, and no other AGM notices will be issued.

Back Cover: Tonbridge - the imposing Gatehouse of Gilbert de Clare, the Red Earl, is circa 1275, newly built when Edward Ist visited the castle. An outstanding example of Edwardian military architecture, as one might expect from the builder of Caerphilly Castle. An example of a keep-gatehouse which could be defended independently if the rest of the castle fell.
PROVISIONAL DRAFT PROGRAMME
(Subject to confirmation with owners etc)

Thursday 4 April

Afternoon
Registration; consider afternoon visit to Dumfries Museum

Evening
Joint lecture themes: The medieval historical background/A guide to the castles and towers of the region

Friday 5 April

Excursion
Eastern Galloway: Threave Castle, Orchardton Tower, Buittle Castle, Motte of Urr.
Return via Solway Coast route.

Evening.
Short presentations on current/recent excavations and surveys followed by AGM.

Saturday 6 April

Excursion
Nithsdale and Annandale: Caerlaverock/Old Caerlaverock Castles, Comlongon Castle, Lochmaben Castle, Hoddom/Repentance Towers, Bonshaw Tower.

Evening
Lecture theme: The Anglo-Scottish Border viewed from the south

Sunday 7 April

Excursion
The Debateable Land and Cumberland: Scots Dike, Carlisle Castle and town walls.

Return via Carlisle Railway/Bus Station (early afternoon).