

RURAL HISTORY TODAY

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Above: The great barn at Harmondsworth (see page 3)

A 'Little London' near you?

Most township and parish names in England are unique. Some duplicates are well known – the Newports around the country, the three Newcastles, Dorchester in Dorset and another in Oxfordshire. But the 25,000 English and Welsh parishes and townships include few place names duplicated more than a handful of times, and not often within a county.

John Broad throws some light and asks a few questions about the place and farm name 'Little London' to be found across the country.



The over 100 Little Londons are in a different category. They are all tiny settlements, and most are on the edges of townships, often close to county boundaries. The obvious interpretation is that they are squatter settlements, set up on commons and waste lands, far from village centres and from manorial or parish control. Such places have a long history going back to the Middle Ages, and most sprang up at times of rapid population expansion, such as the Tudor and Stuart period, or during the classic industrial revolution.

The best-known description of a settlement on the waste is in Flora Thompson's *Lark Rise to Candleford* where Lark Rise (modelled on the hamlet of Juniper Hill in Cottisford parish, north Oxfordshire) had only two houses in 1754, but 16 by 1841 and 25 by 1901. Lark

Rise had many of the attributes of squatter settlements, close not just to the parish boundary, but to the county boundary with Northamptonshire. Some new settlement names are distinctive – the addition 'Vill' is absent before about 1780, yet a number appear by 1815, for instance on the newly drained Lincolnshire fens. The name 'California' is found in various parts of the country, but is almost certainly a Victorian coinage. Alan Everitt noted various Cadleys in Wiltshire in the same way.

However the name Little London is much older, first found in London and Salisbury before 1400. The Little London in Bernwood forest on the Buckinghamshire/Oxfordshire borders is shown on late sixteenth century maps (see above) showing forest bounds as a cluster

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of ten or so houses, all with chimneys, at the eastern edge of the village of Oakley. They were next to the 'mother church' of the forest, around which the three forest parish perambulations all passed on Rogation Day, but just over the border in Brill parish. Why were they there? Brill was a large village with a variety of service occupations, and a thriving pottery industry in the late Middle Ages. However, its commons near the village centre were dominated by pottery workings, and the new families living there in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries needed to use the forest rights. Some eighty families were living in 'new' cottages in 1583, almost as many as the 'ancient' cottagers, and those in Little London were much closer to the forest commons entered at Spann Gate just north of Oakley village. Those living in Brill had to drive their animals some two miles down a wide green lane still there almost 400 years after the extinction of forest rights. Living in Little London gave inhabitants speedy access to the forest, yet was far from the prying eyes of the parish authorities.

I came across further places called Little London and then I pursued the subject systematically. The 1:25000 OS gazetteer lists over 20 places, the 1951 census more

than 50. But there is also a website devoted to the name **www.llundainfach.co.uk** where more than 120 small examples have been uncovered. Mapping them shows that they are over much of 'lowland' England and Wales, widely distributed in most counties south of Leeds and east of the Welsh highlands. The web site's authors believe that Little Londons were places where Welsh drovers stayed as they moved their flocks and herds towards London and the south east. There is some plausibility in that. Many Little Londons are located close to known droving routes. The drovers needed short-term grazing, overnight or for a few days, along their route and as their numbers grew they used multiple routes to avoid competing with each other for the grass they rented short term (agistments) from local people with common rights and enclosed fields. With Little Londons located at a distance from village centres a few corners may have been cut and blind eyes turned to prevent squatter families falling on the parish.

This can only be part of the story. The printed books of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries suggest that Little London was frequently used to describe a busy commercial centre. Rotterdam and Gothenburg both acquired the nickname for their 'vast traffick' with England and many English residents. Thomas Fuller talked of 'the Devonians . . . Little London (understand it Exeter) in their own County.' It was applied to Hingham in Norfolk, and Bury St Edmunds Fair, and to part of Leith near Edinburgh. Wikipedia references Little Londons in Jamaica and in Serbia (a Romany shanty town devoted to metal working). Not all the Little Londons make sense as drove road stopping points. There are examples in the Isles of Man and Wight. The links between drovers and commerce were strong. Drovers were traders in their own right selling stock as they went along, perhaps buying too. Pedlars who operated on the road needed places to meet. David Brown investigated Flash, high in the Staffordshire Peak right next to the Buxton to Leek road and far from the main village of Alstonefield, a great squatter settlement for pedlars in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

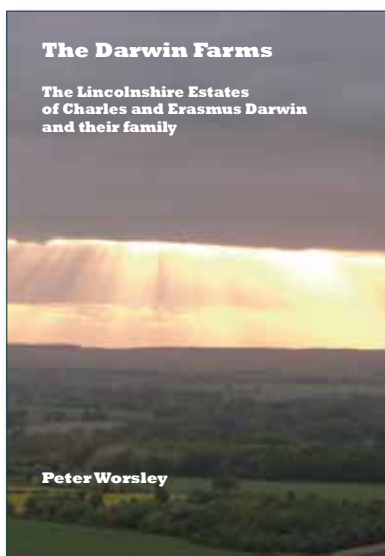
In this sense squatter settlements were not just refuges for the destitute landless but growing centres of commerce, and hard-edged enterprise of all kinds, some of it probably dodgy. Little Londons are elusive and small. We know little of their histories. Does your local area have one, and can you help fill out the picture?

► *If you can add local knowledge what went on in a Little London near you, please e-mail **John@johnbroad.co.uk***

Known Little Londons of England and Wales



NEW BOOKS



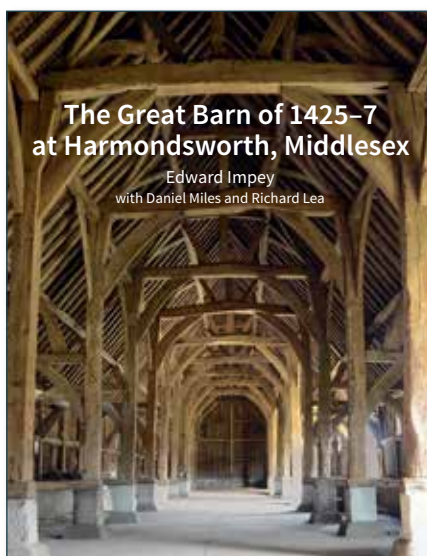
The Darwin Farms; the Lincolnshire Estates of Charles and Erasmus Darwin and their family

Peter Worsley

Erasmus Darwin Foundation, 2017

978-1-907516-41-2

Erasmus and his more famous grandson, Charles Darwin are better known for their scientific achievements than their farming. A relatively small and scattered Lincolnshire estate, of which the Darwin's were absentee landlords, it was managed during the nineteenth century by the land agent firm of John Higgins and sons, whose records survive in the Lincolnshire Record Office. These include a regular correspondence between members of the Darwin family and the Higgins as well as maps and accounts. This enables insights into the lives of the tenants and their farming practice to be reconstructed as well as the rural environment in which they were operating. The result is a fascinating detailed study of a small group of Lincolnshire farms away from the more famous of the improving Lincolnshire estates.

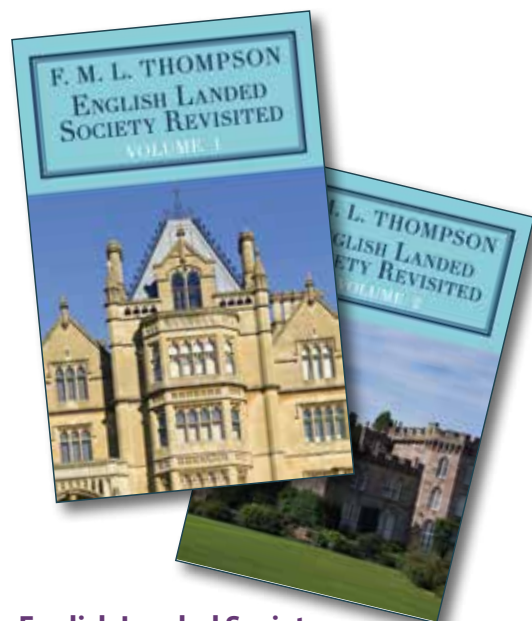


The great barn of 1425-27 at Harmondsworth, Middlesex

Edward Impey with Daniel Miles and Richard Lea. Historic England, 2017

978-1-84802-371-0

The great barn at Harmondsworth is one of the most impressive surviving medieval barns in England and is open to the public. This exhaustive study, led by Edward Impey, a former director of English Heritage and currently Director General of the Royal Armouries in Leeds, makes use of the exceptionally fine series of medieval accounts of the Winchester College estates, of which this holding was part, to describe the working of the estate, the building of the barn and how it was actually used. There is a detailed analysis of the building techniques used and its later history, uses and ownership, as well as the development of scholarly and antiquarian interest in this remarkable building. The full retail price is £20, but it can be purchased direct from Historic England, Publishing Department, The Engine House, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon SN2 2EH at a 20% discount by quoting the special promotional code HGB17



English Landed Society Revisited; the collected papers of F.M.L.Thompson

in two volumes, with an introduction by Professor W.D. Rubenstein, EER Publishing, 2017

Vol 1 978-1-911204633

Vol 2 978-1-911204 657

This two-volume set brings together the essential and extensive publications by Professor Thompson, otherwise scattered through many journals. An acknowledged expert on estate management over the last two hundred years, his articles reflect his long and distinguished career stretching from 1950 to 2010, and covering all aspects of 19th and 20th century landed estates and their management. To have all these papers gathered together in two volumes is a huge bonus for present-day agrarian historians. Individual volumes are £65 each, but can be purchased at a 35% discount on line from www.eerpublishing.com using the promotional code FMLT2017. Offer is open until 30th October 2017.



Rural History Today has a new editor

Starting with the next issue Rural History Today will have a new editor. Dr Rebecca Ford will be taking over from Dr Susanna Wade-Martins. She is an historical geographer based in London and a committee member of the BAHS. Her interests are wide-ranging covering historical and cultural landscapes of town and country as well as environmental history. She is looking forward to receiving articles for the newsletter, preferably by e-mail to rebeccaford@btinternet.com

The history of Walsopthorne Farm, Herefordshire

Walsopthorne 16th century Manor house and farm of 200+ acres owned by the Seycill family in the late 16th and first half of the 17th century, and since 1920 owned by four generations of the Davies family.



Jean Ila Currie has been studying Herefordshire farming for many years and here gives us a glimpse of the results of her detailed research on one farm over a thousand years.

Over a millennium East Herefordshire moved from one extreme to another. In the 11th to 14th centuries it formed part of that important frontier land, the Welsh Marches. As such it was well fought over. Then, and especially in the last quarter of the millennium, it became increasingly a backwater.

Not for East Herefordshire were there hidden treasures of coal or iron. It was distant from the ports. It didn't form part of the Industrial Revolution. The roads were notoriously bad, right up to the 19th century. The main river, the Wye, fast moving, did not really lend itself to the transport of goods. Other parts of the United Kingdom rejoiced in the 18th century canal system. The Gloucester – Hereford canal didn't reach Hereford until 1845. Even the railways came late. It is hardly a surprise then that Hereford declared a public holiday with great jollifications when the main Cardiff – Crewe line was finally connected in the city. The great day only came on 6th December 1853. The connection from Hereford to Worcester and consequently to Birmingham was only completed in September 1861.

Possibly as a result of this situation there has been, at least until the end of the 20th century, a remarkable continuity in the farms of East Herefordshire and indeed in the families farming them. In many cases the farms can be traced back to at least the 17th century and sometimes earlier. In many larger farms of East Hereford the remains of a moat was still visible, until

recently denoting the original mediaeval Manor, and intended, hopefully, to protect mediaeval livestock from raids.

One such farm is Walsopthorne, now in Ashperton parish. In the Domesday book Walsopthorne warranted a separate entry as WalesAlpedor i.e. Waltheof's Appletree. After the conquest it is recorded as land of William son of Baderon (the keeper of Monmouth Castle).

“Gerald holds from him. Thorkell Wolmer's man held it; he could go where he would. 1 hide and 1 virgate which pay tax. In lordship 1 plough; 2 smallholders and 1 freeman with 1 plough; Meadow 2 acres Value before 1066 25 s; now as much”¹

The stream forming part of the current boundary of the farm land was quite probably the boundary of the Anglo-Saxon manor. In early mediaeval times, the Criketot family were the resident sub tenants. *“The Manor is definitely stated in 1243 to have been held by the Criketots as a fifth of a knight's fee to the honour of Monmouth of ancient feoffment ie before 1135.”²*

The Criketots can be traced until the mid 14th century, though for a time the land was forfeited as a result of the Criketots participation in the rebellion of Roger Mortimer. The present farmhouse is Elizabethan and its history is well documented from this time. Most poignant and revealing are two letters from Roger Farley to Hugh Philipps of Lincoln's Inn, London dated 1669³, concerning the possible sale of his half of Walsopthorne. In his first letter he explains that Walsopthorne Manor had been owned by the Burghill family of Thinghill for some generations. It was then sold to his wife's grandfather, Richard Seycill and from thence to his son, Roger Farley's father in law William Seycill. *“Richard Seycill and William his sonne (my late father in law) enjoyed the same for neare 60 years without interruption.”⁴*

Roger Farley had bought his share, 234 acres, and presumably the Manor house, some 12 years previously from his father-in-law and had paid £1600 for it. He is prepared to sell it for £1219-3s and in the second letter the reason is clear: it is the minimum amount his eleven creditors will accept in order to release him from debtor's prison. (His debts to each of the creditors are itemised and come to a total of £ 2614-16s.)



Back of Walsopthorne farm showing a hop kiln. "the Crops of Hops (in the two years) were so deficient as scarcely to be sufficient for payment of Parish rates and Taxes leaving the Planters at the loss of the Greater Part of the Rent, Tithes, Labour and Interest of Capital." *Petition to the Treasury by 500 farmers in 1831. Signatories included Stephen Pitt of Walsopthorne*

Of special interest to historians Roger Farley provides information on the farm and the rentable value.

The whole estate together both mine and the other lands containing

<i>134 acres of arable which but at 5 shilling an acre</i>	£33-10s
<i>66½ acres of pasture which but at 10 shilling per acre</i>	£33-5s
<i>33½ acres of meadow which but at £15 s an acre</i>	£24-7s
<i>The coppice and choise (sic)-rents which but at Sydar & other commodities which com unibus annis but at</i>	£10-0s
<i>besides houses, buildings, gardens etc</i>	£20-0s
<i>Sum</i>	£121-2s

The times had not been good though so the payment had actually been somewhat less.

The tenant "gave £90 for all except the coppice worth £ 10 per annum for diverse yeares together till these late cheape yeares come which was the only cause Mr Dowdeswell abated him £ 10 a yeare since."

The crops cultivated are not given but the heavy soil of the Herefordshire plane was renowned for wheat production. The tenant "keepes at this time 3 teames two of oxen and one of horses, kine and young cattel etc answerable." Despite the cost of transport Herefordshire was renowned for cider then as indeed it is now. "Consider I pray you Sir that the tenant by everyone's relation hath made already this yeare at least £ 50 in sydar and fruit at very low rates 12 or 13 or 15 shillings at most from the mill a hogload besides what he keepes for himself."⁵

Walsopthorne was owned by the Philipps family and by their heirs, the Stocks of Putley court until 1823 when, by arrangements with the Hopton estate of Canon Frome, it was exchanged for Hall Court Kinnerton.⁶ It remained part of the estate until 1961 when it was bought by the then tenants, and current owners, the Davies family. The acreage has barely altered between the 17th and the 21st century.

The records continue to provide valuable glimpses of the changing fortunes of agriculture during this time. There have been few tenants. In the late 18th and early 19th century the land tax records for Ashperton show that the tenant was a William Holmes. Shortly after the exchange the Hoptons installed as their tenant Stephen Pitt, aged only about 23, from a well-known Herefordshire farming family and a son of their tenant at White House farm Canon Frome. In the 1870s he was succeeded by his son William Pitt. Only from the 1890s until 1920 was there a change with the census records of 1901 and 1911 showing short-term tenancies by two separate families. In 1920, though Herbert Davies, from a large family known to have been farming in East Herefordshire for at least 200 years, moved to Walsopthorne from a small, though owner occupied farm, in nearby Woolhope. His grandson Edward Davies, now semi retired and great-grandson Harvey Davies own Walsopthorne today and a great-great-grandson, William Davies, has recently been born.

Rent changes at Walsopthorne 1860–1961 reflect the history of farming over a hundred years. The 1860s were a time of prosperity. The Hopton estate rent book 1860–1890 shows that between 1860 and 1862, Mr

Stephen Pitt of Walsopthorne was paying £314 per annum in half yearly instalments. In November 1862 this was increased to £366 and in 1867 to £396. However by the difficult early 1880s the rent had come down to £341-8s and fell even further to £293 from November 1887. The MAF records of 1941 show that Walsopthorne was a mixed farm with cattle, pigs, hops and orchards, and that Mr Davies was paying £283-15s, and an additional £22-12s for the new barn, an indication of the hard times of the interwar period' Farming in the early post Second World War years, was profitable but rents controlled. At the time of the sale of the Canon Frome estate 208 acres at Walsopthorne had been rented by an agreement of 1950 at £670 per annum.

Walsopthorne has always been a mixed farm and remains so. Unlike other East Herefordshire farms hops continue to be grown. The farm house is surrounded by cider orchards, still a source of income as they were in 1669. The herd of cattle was only sold as a result of Edward Davies is semi retirement but there are sheep grazing on the pastures temporarily rented out in 2017. Walsopthorne deserves maintaining.

1 Domesday Book No 17 Herefordshire Morris John General editor
 2 Galbraith DH Herefordshire Domesday book footnotes
 3 1 Herefordshire County archives The Herefordshire Estates of the Rochester Bridge Trust E 3/24
 4 ditto
 4 ditto
 6 MAF 32/1/145

Aspects of harvesting and drying grain crops in English farming

Grain driers have been essential for the conservation of cereal crops in the north and west of the British Isles since at least the Middle Bronze Age.

The earliest known example has been excavated in Co. Tipperary, Ireland, and is dated to about 1600 BC. It is essential to control the percentage of moisture in the grain, both to minimise deterioration in storage and to meet the requirements of the market. Today moisture content can be measured accurately with instrumentation, but it should be remembered that for most of the period being reviewed this could only be estimated, and accuracy depended on the knowledge and experience of the tester.

It would be helpful to begin with an assessment of the harvesting, conservation and storage of cereal crops in the Late Roman *villa* or estate system; this was complex and capital intensive, and required the support of a monetary economy. The system was developed to provide for the bulk storage of grain in large granaries which supplied and supported the needs of a permanent army of occupation, relatively large urban settlements, and an export trade to Gaul. It depended on wood-fired grain drying kilns, which are a feature of excavated *villa* sites. Here the crop was probably threshed more or less straight away after reaping, and the grain kiln dried to reduce its moisture content from 17–20% to 12–13%. This stabilised the grain so that it was suitable for bulk storage in the heap, in open bins or in compartmented granaries. Such bulk storage had major advantages compared with storing grain in cloth sacks, which were open to vermin attack and insect infestation. Bulk storage in wood-lined bins deterred vermin depredation, and the carbon dioxide generated within the stored grain killed off invasive insect life.

All grain crops were kiln dried in this system. This included both the free threshing ‘naked’ and the ‘hooded’ wheat varieties. Hooded wheat varieties, such as spelt, were favoured at this time. Spring-sown spelt can be grown with a minimal fertiliser input, and has a form of protein that is adequate for making raised bread. Other advantages are that hooded wheat is less prone to fungal attack, and less likely to shed its grain when ripe, than naked wheat. The disadvantage was that hooded wheat had to be kiln dried, not only so that it could be made suitable for bulk storage, but also because that was by far the best way to begin the process of removing its hard shell or husk which would otherwise cause havoc in the human digestive system.

The drying process made the hard shells brittle, which allowed them to be rubbed off the grain kernels. This could be achieved by passing them through a

pair of millstones where the runner stone was set to a height of about a quarter of an inch (6mm) above the bed stone. The hulled wheat was then sieved by hand to clear off the husks. The process was completed by re-setting the runner stone to a gap of about one sixteenth of an inch (2–3mm) and grinding the grain into wholemeal. Grain drying was a skilled activity which could not be rushed; if done too hurriedly at too high a temperature the grain might overheat or be cooked, and its protein (gluten) denatured (damaged). It is essential to have intact protein to act with yeast to make bread rise. Wheat which has been denatured can only be used to make flat bread. In this system the grain driers were only needed for a few weeks each year, in late summer during the harvest season.

The high-input Late Roman harvesting and grain storage system ceased to be viable with the collapse of the Roman state in Britain in the 5th century, and the one which replaced it in England’s southern and eastern farming regions depended on air drying the crop in the harvest field. With the air drying system the harvested crop was bound into sheaves, stacked upright in stooks or shocks and then air and sun dried in the harvest field. When the grain had dried sufficiently, the sheaves were carted and either stored under cover or built into a thatched rick. This method of storing crops offered flexibility in the timing of threshing, milling and marketing the products; the sheaves were threshed on the farm during the following autumn and winter as and when the grain was required for sale, milling or other purposes.

The crucial factor here was the close control of the air drying process in the stooks in the harvest field. The grain in the stooks had to dry to 15–16% moisture content before the sheaves could be carted and stored – above this percentage the sheaves of grain could ferment and fire in the rick. Grain at this moisture content could not be stored in bulk but could be kept short term in the sack. Hooded wheats could not be accommodated in the system, but naked wheat varieties could be; they could be milled at this moisture content, requiring only a single pass through the millstones. This change in harvesting systems is reflected in the archaeological evidence. Naked wheats replaced the hooded wheats that had been predominant in the Iron Age/Late Roman periods and grain drying kilns do not feature on excavated Anglo-Saxon sites in southern and eastern England. Such was the viability of this system of air drying the crop in the harvest field that it was to

Gavin Bowie focuses on the much neglected subject of how grain crops have been harvested and dried over the last two millennia. This research was prompted by the need to explain why grain drying kilns, which had been ubiquitous in the late Roman period, ceased to be a feature of farming in southern and eastern England in the Anglo-Saxon period.



Roman grain drying kiln and granary at Housesteads Roman fort, Hadrian's Wall (charitone-images/Alamy Stock Photo)

remain a key element of mixed farming regimes in southern and eastern England for many centuries. The system was subject to piecemeal mechanisation after the 1780s, but otherwise remained unchanged until the 1950s.

However, grain driers continued to be as important in the north and west of the country as they had been during the Roman occupation. They not only permitted the bulk storage of grain crops, but were also essential in these regions as a part of processing oats, the main crop grown for human consumption. Grain driers were needed because the oat grain is hooded like spelt wheat. The oats crop was more tolerant of high rainfall and acid soils than wheat and most varieties of barley, and predominated in the north Midlands, the north-west (including the Pennines), the northern borderlands, and along the Welsh border. It was generally convenient for the drying kiln and the grain mill to be located close together. An example of such a waterpowered assemblage has been excavated near Tamworth, Staffordshire, and dendro-dated to the late 850s. Oat kernels and husks predominated in the cereal grains recovered at the site, and there was also evidence for a

grain drying kiln nearby.

What can be described as a revolution in the processes of harvesting and storing grain crops was prompted by the introduction of a high-input system in more advanced farming regions in the 1950s. This was based on the combine harvester, and it has remained the standard method of harvesting grain crops up to the present day. The 'combine' is a machine which reaps, threshes and partly winnows the crop in one pass; it combines three harvesting processes in one machine. The system also requires grain driers to be built on or near the farm; these reduce the moisture content of the grain so that it can be kept in bulk storage facilities until required. The grain driers are only needed for the few weeks of the harvest. It can be appreciated that the Late Roman villa system of harvesting and storing grain crops has the same characteristics as the modern combine-based one. Both are managed as a continuous process, with the aim of making the grain suitable for bulk storage in granaries as soon as possible after reaping the crop.

Helpful advice has been given by Barry Cunliffe, Patrick Appleby and John Coutts.

Do you have trouble remembering to look at the Society's web site? Would you like a reminder now and again?

► In June we started a new email newsletter, which will appear every month or so, drawing your attention to new items on the Society's web site, www.bahs.org.uk

We promise not to bombard you with spam, and you can un-subscribe whenever you like, from a link at the bottom of each newsletter.

To sign up for the newsletter, go to www.bahs.org.uk – fill in your email address

(and optionally your name, which we will use in the email so that it won't look like spam).

► Another recent innovation is the BAHS forums, where you can ask questions or start discussions on any subject related to agricultural history or the history of rural economy and society. To register for the forum just follow the link from the BAHS web site or go to www.bahs.org.uk/forums



Rural History Today is published by the British Agricultural History Society. The editor will be pleased to receive short articles, press releases, notes and queries for publication.

Articles for the next issue should be sent by 30 December 2017 to Rebecca Ford:

rebeccaford@btinternet.com

Membership of the BAHS is open to all who support its aim of promoting the study of agricultural history and the history of rural economy and society. Membership enquiries should be directed to the Treasurer, BAHS, Dr William Shannon, 12A Carleton Avenue, Fulwood, Preston PR2 6YA bill_shannon@msn.com

Enquiries about other aspects of the Society's work should be directed to the Secretary, Dr Barbara Lindsey, 11 Highfield Road, Brundall, Norwich, NR13 5LE Tel: 07548 159197 drbarbarajane@gmail.com



FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Farming and the nation: historical perspectives for rural policy after Brexit

3 November 2017, Farmers Club, London

2017 offers an opportunity to mark two notable anniversaries in the history of British agricultural policy. It is the 100th anniversary of the Corn Production Act, and 70 years since the passing of the 1947 Agriculture Act. Both pieces of legislation were – in different ways – responses to war. They also embodied a significant principle, which has provided a context for British farming over many years: that the state has a role to play in underpinning the economic functioning of the agricultural sector.

In the case of the 1917 legislation, the intervention proved short-lived, and its practical impact was limited: guaranteed prices to underwrite grain production were repealed in the 'Great Betrayal' of 1921. But the vulnerability of the food supply during the Second World War provided the stimulus to a more enduring national commitment. The system of deficiency payments embodied in the 1947 legislation formed part of a new relationship between farmers and the state, offering security and encouraging high levels of production. The act was greeted by some as farming's 'Magna Carta'. Even after Britain's entry into the European Economic Community, operating within the Common Agricultural Policy, the spirit of 1947 has remained a powerful influence on ideas about the place

of agriculture within the national interest, and the links between farming, food security, environmental issues, planning and landscape.

The future of farming is one of the vital questions posed as Britain prepares to end its membership of the EU. At the British Agricultural History Society's spring conference in April 2017, the president John Broad spoke movingly of the significance of this moment, and issued a plea that agricultural historians should be part of this important debate. This day conference in November is intended to inform and contribute to that debate. Papers from a variety of different disciplinary perspectives will re-examine the historical contexts of the relationship between farming and the state, exploring the practical impact of rural policy and the development of ideas on food security and land stewardship. We have a wonderfully apt venue in which to consider these issues. The Farmers Club, just off Whitehall, hosted many influential discussions during the Second World War, in which academic experts, politicians and stakeholders gathered to debate the post-war reconstruction of British agriculture.

► Booking information will be available soon. For further information on the conference, contact Clare Griffiths, griffithscvj@cardiff.ac.uk

Historic Farm Buildings Group

15–17 September 2017, Dartmoor

The weekend will combine lectures with field visits to enable a broader understanding of the farming and farm buildings of Dartmoor, in particular the contrast between the Teign valley, the higher moor and its fringe.

The recent Dartmoor Historic Farmsteads guidance produced jointly by the Dartmoor National Park Authority and Historic England will be utilised

to illustrate a new perspective on the farmsteads' character of this upland region. The event meetings will be based in Christow in the Teign vallaey. Lectures include one by David Stone 'Medieval agriculture on East Dartmoor and beyond', Richard Sandover 'Life on the edge-settlement on Dartmoor 1350BC–1350AD', and Phillip White 'Dartmoor farmsteads'. Accommodation arrangements will be self-sourced.

► For booking form go to Events on the HFBG website www.hfbg.org.uk but hurry as booking officially closes at the beginning of August.