



STUDY DAY – Saturday 20 October 2018, 10.25 - 4.15 (10 coffee)

Heart of Oak

... Timber-Framed Houses in Wiltshire ...

The theme of this year's WBR study day is timber-framed houses; the venue Melksham Assembly Hall.

Gerald Steer – Why Oak? There are many examples of other species of timber used in timber frames and joinery, but why are they not in the same proportion as oak? Were they not used to the same extent or have they disappeared? Gerald is a RIBA chartered architect with a passion for historic buildings. His practice in Salisbury has specialist expertise in timber-frame conservation and choice of appropriate materials for energy conservation. Chair of Wiltshire Buildings Record, Gerald has served on the Committee as the RIBA representative for over 15 years.

James Ayres – The Preparation and Use of Timber in Building In many ways the architectural profession is focused on design, whereas the building trades are centred on making – the cerebral & the pragmatic. Consequently, a better understanding of the built environment can be achieved through an experience of the processes, tools and materials deployed in a given scheme. Such an approach will reveal relevant details – among them the importance of skeuomorphs.* WBR President, James Ayres is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, well-published author & archaeological consultant on historic buildings. Titles include *the British Domestic Interior 1500-1850*, *Building the Georgian City and Art, Artisans & Apprentices*. *An object made in an alien material that adopts the traditions of another time

Pam Slocombe – Hints on Decoding Timber-Framing Pam's talk will include illustrations of features which suggest buildings were once timber-framed, evidence of cruck construction, types of framing and infilling. Pam founded the Wiltshire Buildings Record in 1979, co-founded the Wiltshire Local History Forum in 1985, and is the author of a variety of books. A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, she has extensive experience in documentary research and recording historic buildings.

Dorothy Treasure – Every House has a Story: Two Case Studies It is rare to come across a complete timber-framed structure such as Bourton Green Cottages, Bishops Cannings. This cruck-framed house probably dates from C14 and was extended in the C16 using distinctive ogee framing. 66 St Ann's Street, Salisbury is an unusual c1500 false half-Wealden house with a fine, densely-framed colour-washed roof, and a former warehouse at the rear protected from fire by butterflies! Dorothy is WBR's principal buildings historian, with over 30 years' experience in the study and recording of vernacular buildings. She has worked on National Trust's Vernacular Building Survey for the Wessex Region, and cut her teeth on farmsteads, mills and breweries in the North Wilts area before that.

Duncan James – Decorating House Interiors in the 15th & 16th Centuries The status of the occupant of a timber-framed house was often marked by a display of decoration on the exterior. This was for the outside world. The interior decoration, which had a more private function, was just as important. This was done with moulded beams, carved timber and many forms of display including paint. Much was subtle and sophisticated; but some, particularly painted interiors, could be outrageously vivid. The talk will explore interiors in this lost world of smoke-filled halls of the C15 into the improving comfort of the C16 house. Duncan has been analysing buildings for over 20 years in Herefordshire and surrounding counties, specialising in timber-framed structures. 'Insight – Historic Buildings Research' was established in 2002 in partnership with his wife, Alison. Duncan is a member of the Society of Architectural Historians and the Vernacular Architecture Group, and is on the Committee of the Woolhope Club, Hereford. He is the author of a variety of publications.

Tickets £16.50, or £14 WBR Members, Senior Citizens & Students. Optional buffet lunch, booked in advance, £8.50 per head. To book contact Wiltshire Buildings Record on **01249 705508**

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