



STUDY DAY – Saturday 14 October 2023, 10:30 – 4:15 (10.00 coffee)

THE HOUSE TRANSFORMED – a time of change in Tudor & Stuart buildings

... The 16th and 17th centuries were a time of innovation, sophistication and new ideas. In architecture this was exemplified in the great houses, but also what did this mean for ordinary people? How were houses improved in prosperous economic conditions? The day will look at a range of evidence as it affected Wiltshire's buildings across the social scale ...

TIM MAYHEW – Upwardly Mobile. An introduction to the subject of the study day with illustrations from Wiltshire's wealth of vernacular buildings. Tim spent his working life as a researcher and adviser on agricultural crops. He has been a member of WBR for 25 years, latterly as a committee member.

ANDREW ZIMINSKI – Vernacular stone buildings around Bradford on Avon - how they were built and where the stone came from. Over the past 30 years, Andrew has worked as a stonemason-conservator and Churchwright. His craft skills & knowledge have been put to good use from repairs to a megalithic burial chamber & reconstruction of a Roman temple façade to an Anglo-Saxon shrine & Salisbury's medieval Cathedral. He is a SPAB William Morris Craft Fellow, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries & consultant to the Salisbury Diocesan Advisory Committee for the conservation of stonework & monuments. John Murrays published his book *The Stonemason* in March 2020. "Delicate as the threads that tie us to the past can seem, thanks to work like Ziminski's, both as mason and as author, we can hope they will remain unbroken." Robert Leigh-Pemberton, Sunday Telegraph.

GRAHAM BATHE – The Brick Revolution: Courtier Houses in Tudor Wiltshire. After the Romans departed, brick was rare in Britain for over a thousand years. In the Tudor period, the ability to build ostentatious brick palaces at breakneck speed, set a runaway new trend, which all courtiers wished to emulate. Brick became fashionable, the building material of choice, first seen in Wiltshire at showpiece stately homes, fit to entertain royalty. This talk will attempt to identify the first records of brick in the county, and assess its impact on the county. Graham has conducted an intensive 20-year study of the Royal Hunting Forest of Savernake, reconciling archaeological and documentary sources to reveal the natural and manmade landscape. This provides the context for research into the houses held by Savernake wardens, at Wolfhall, Tottenham House and The Brails in Wiltshire.

ROSALIND JOHNSON – Lost Buildings of South-East Wiltshire. Buildings history focuses on structures that are still standing, but this talk will look at some lost 16th and 17th century buildings in south-east Wiltshire, particularly in the village of Whiteparish and in the former royal estate of Clarendon Park. Rosalind is a contributing editor for the Wiltshire Victoria County History project, for which she is currently researching parishes in south-east Wiltshire.

PAUL JACK – Datestones and more: building a new world or just following fashion? Paul has been running a project for WBR on buildings with dated features in North Wiltshire. He now has data on over 800 examples and has compiled a significant photographic record. His talk will demonstrate the range and variety of these phenomena before attempting a discussion of their significance. Paul was Head of History at two Colleges in Swindon before moving into the field of architectural history via the Post-graduate course at Oxford.

DOROTHY TREASURE – Upstairs, downstairs - the massive changes in the standard of living for the middling classes after the Great Rebuilding. Dorothy is WBR's principal buildings historian, with over 30 years' experience in the study of vernacular buildings. She worked on National Trust's Survey of Wessex estates and cut her teeth on farmsteads, mills and breweries in North Wilts.

At Melksham Assembly Hall. Tickets £20, or £17.50 WBR Members, Senior Citizens & Students. Optional buffet lunch, booked in advance, £12 per head. Tel: 01249 705508

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