

West Wales has many spectacular ruined castles each with their own history to tell. Previous Day Schools and Society Field trips have concentrated on the development of the castle buildings themselves. In this Day School we plan to concentrate on what life was like, both in war and in the much longer periods of peacetime, in the 300 years and more when the medieval castles were important fortresses, seats of power, status symbols and often at the centre of designed landscapes encircling them. We will do this through a series of ‘snapshots’ of daily life and great events brought to life by a distinguished and expert team of speakers.

One thousand and ninety was the year of Christ when Rhys ap Tewdwr, King of Deheubarth was slain by the French .. And then fell the kingdom of the Britons . . . And then the French came to Dyfed and Ceredigion which they have held to this day and the y fortified them with castles...

(Brut y Twysogion/The Chronicle of the Princes. entry for 1093.

Programme

10.00-10.30: Registration & Coffee

10.30-11.15:

‘Castle warfare: the sieges of Nevern and Dryslwyn.

Dr Chris Caple.

11.15-12.00:

‘Lancaster and York – and the Carmarthenshire Castles in the 15th century.

Prof. Ralph Griffiths

12.00-12.45:

Carew Castle in the Tudor era: a social theatre.

Prof. David Austin

12.45-14.00: Lunch

14.00-14.45:

‘Palaces in castle walls?’

Will Davies.

14.45-15.15:

‘Reconstructing the past: Future developments’.

Chris Jones-Jenkins.

15.15-16.00: Tea, panel discussion & closing remarks.

REGISTRATION FORM, CAS DAY SCHOOL, SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2017

I/We wish to book places at the Day School, Sat. 18 Feb. 2017 at £12 per person (this includes coffee and afternoon tea)

I/We wish to book . . . lunch(es) (bowl of *cawl* and pudding) at £8. Own lunches can be eaten in the dining room

Payment can be made by cheque, payable to Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society

Please send by 11 February to: **Hazel Martell, 16 Aelybryn, Carmarthen, SA31 2HB 01267 231148**

I wish to reserve places for the Day School

Names(s) Phone

I enclose a cheque made out to CAS for £.....

Speakers

Chairman

Heather James

is a Vice-President of the Society and active in historical and archaeological work in west Wales.

Contactable for any queries on h.james443@gmail.com or (after 14.01.2017) on 01267 231793.

Professor David Austin:

Recently retired from The School of Archaeology and Anthropology at Lampeter University, he is now busier than ever involved in a variety of historic landscape and heritage projects in west Wales and beyond. He will speak about a spectacular event organised by Sir Rhys ap Thomas at Carew Castle (where David was involved in excavations over a number of years).

Dr Chris Caple

Senior Lecturer at Durham University, he is currently excavating Nevern Castle. His excavations at Dryslwyn Castle were published as a Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph in 2007. Both castles were subject to protracted sieges – his subject for the Day School.

Will Davies

is an Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Cadw with an especial passion for castles. He is championing the restoration of Ruthin Castle and has

recently been writing up work on Newport Mon. His work involves undertaking necessary repairs and conservation so he knows very well how these complex structures were built. He will explore the masonry castles of west Wales, their often complicated household arrangements, occasionally luxurious living standards and the flamboyant range of architectural features and motifs incorporated in their defences to demonstrate the wealth and status of their patrons to the outside world.

Professor Emeritus Ralph Griffiths, OBE

Retiring in 2002 after a long and distinguished career at Swansea University's History Department, he continues to research, edit and publish on the broad field of politics and society in later medieval Britain. Amongst his many books are studies on Owain Glyndŵr, the making of the Tudor dynasty and Sir Rhys ap Thomas and his family.

Chris Jones Jenkins's work will be familiar to all of us who have bought and used Cadw's excellent modern Guides to castles for his reconstruction drawings. They truly bring the castle to life and Chris is now working at the cutting edge of digital reconstructions. A recent project for Holt castle also provides an animated 'flythrough' of the reconstructed castle viewable on You Tube.

Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society
Cymdeithas Hynafiaethau Sir Gaerfyrddin

DAY SCHOOL

Saturday 18th February 2017

10 am – 4 pm

Cothi Suite

Halliwell Building , Carmarthen Campus
University of Trinity St Davids



'Life in the Medieval castles of west Wales in peace and war'



A warm welcome to all
Croeso Cynnes y Bawb