



Essex Historic Buildings Group



Day School Saturday 17th June 2023

THE ENGLISH FARMYARD TO 1700: housing people, animals and crops.



At Maldon Town Hall, Market Hill, Maldon, Essex CM9 4PZ

PROGRAMME

10.00 **Chairman's welcome**

10.10 **The layout of late medieval farmsteads in eastern England**

Mark Gardiner

Remarkably little attention has been paid to the operation of the late medieval farmstead. This paper looks at the evidence for the character of farmsteads in eastern England, both those of the lords and of the peasants, drawing largely from excavated sites.

Prof. Mark Gardiner - is Professor of Medieval Archaeology at the University of Lincoln and has worked on the archaeology of excavated and standing medieval rural buildings.

10.50 Tea/Coffee

11.20 **Agricultural change in Eastern England 1350-1500**

Mark Bailey

The Black Death arrived in 1348-9 and returned repeatedly, fundamentally changing the balance between land and labour, and shifting patterns of demand and supply for agricultural produce. In addition, global climate change caused highly variable and extreme weather generating considerable risk for farmers. Yet in the face of these challenges, agriculture was re-structured along new lines that prepared the way for agrarian capitalism and increased productivity in the early modern period.

Prof. Mark Bailey - is Professor of Later Medieval History at the University of East Anglia. In 2019 he delivered the prestigious Ford Lectures in British History at the University of Oxford, which have been published as a monograph: 'After the Black Death. Economy, society and the law in fourteenth century England' (2021).

12.00 **The Dartmoor Longhouse**

John Thorp

An explanation of the survival of the longhouse plan-form – that is buildings which house both people and animals under the same roof – and its historic economic success on Dartmoor due to the special relationship of the tenant-occupants of the longhouses, the Duchy of Cornwall ownership of the high moor, and ancient rights of transhumance enjoyed by lowland Devon farmers.

John Thorp - is a partner in Keystone Historic Buildings Consultants, a small independent practice committed to the conservation and revival of buildings based on the best possible understanding of historic places. Trained as an archaeologist he has, sometimes with partner Jo Cox, published on traditional building materials, aspects of historic building types, their finish and carpentry, along with accounts of significant historic buildings in Devon.

12.40 Lunch

