

Local History – the study of continuity and change within a specified locality; how its communities respond to the conditions of their time.

The Mary Rose and Tudor Emsworth

Sank 19 July 1545

Complement of 415 men [185 soldiers, 200 mariners, 30 gunners of whom less than 40 survived]

Background

1. Henry VIII, born Greenwich 28 June 1491, second son of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, died of septicaemia at Whitehall Palace, aged 55, on 28 January, 1547. He was buried in the vault of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, next to the grave of Jane Seymour.

His sixth wife was Katherine Parr. They had married on 12th July 1543; Henry was 51 and Katherine, aged 30, had already been twice widowed. Following the death of Henry she married Thomas Seymour, sister of Jane Seymour, and died with puerperal fever on 5 September 1548.

2. Mary Rose, named after Henry's younger sister, built in Portsmouth between 1509 and 1511. She was a 600 tons carrack class (a Portuguese design). She was refurbished and extended to 700 tons in 1536.
3. Late 1530s Henry installed a 'defensive moat' along the south coast, including Southsea Castle, built 1538 – 40 [See also *Hurst Castle (1541-4)*, *Calshot Castle (1542)* and *Netley Castle, (1542)* – in all 24 new fortresses were built from Deal in Kent to St Mawes in Cornwall] Note the Round Tower in Old Portsmouth is c. 1415 and the Square Tower dates from 1494.
4. 1540 – England was still in possession of Calais, England was allied to **Charles V** (24/02/1500 – 21/09/1558, Holy Roman Emperor and King of Spain and nephew of Catherine of Aragon. and together Henry and Charles were enemies of **Francis I** (12/09/1494 – 31/03/1547) King of France. Henry was fearful that the French would form alliances with the Scots, especially following the unexpected death, aged 30, of James V on 14th December 1542 and the passage of the Scottish crown to his daughter Mary – later Mary Queen of Scots – aged one week!
5. In 1544 Henry seized the town of Boulogne in an ambition to extend his territory around Calais. The Duke of Norfolk headed a separate army to seize Montreuil, 25 miles south of Boulogne. The funding for these ambitious but pointless tasks came from the proceeds collected from the dissolution of the monasteries in England in the late 1530s.
6. 1545 – Francis responded with an attack on England with a fleet of 128 ships and 30,000 men. Given that they could have landed anywhere on the south coast strong intelligence must have led Henry to station his defensive troops, about 12,000, on Southsea Common and his fleet of 80 vessels anchored just outside the entrance to Portsmouth Harbour. The French did effect a landing on the Isle of Wight, destroying Bembridge.

The British Fleet was commanded by John Dudley, Viscount Lisle, who flew his flag on Henry Grace à Dieu [*Great Harry*]. His deputy, and senior officer on board Mary Rose was Vice Admiral, Sir George Carew and its Master, Roger Grenville. The day before the sinking Henry VIII took a gold boatswain's whistle and chain from around his own neck and placed it over the head of Sir George – this has still to be found.

Possible explanation for the sinking of Mary Rose:

In a calm sea, the French galleys, arranged in a defensive square posed a threat to the English fleet. Mary Rose responded and turned to bring her stern guns onto the French galleys, as she did so a sudden gust of wind caused her to heel over allowing water to pour into the open gun ports. The Mary Rose sank on her starboard (right) side, the port side has been eroded over the four hundred years submerged in the Solent.

The netting covering the main deck, used to prevent hostile sailors leaping onto the ship, became the prison that prevented the survival of most occupants of the Mary Rose. It is thought that less than 40 escaped. Mary, wife of Sir George Carew saw the sinking of Mary Rose from Southsea Castle, as did Henry VIII.

The Museum throws new light on everyday life in Tudor England - Look for:

Two names associated with the ship:

- a) Sir George Carew – personal pewter – plates of fine metal (tin with copper) and drinking vessels with 'lay metal' – tin with lead. Some carry the maker's mark TC [Thomas Chamberlayn – at times Master of the London Pewterers' Company] with a crowned rose and also the owners mark G. C., stamped on 28 of the surviving examples.
- b) Ny Coep (perhaps Coper or Cooper) on a wooden bowl and also on the lid of a tankard is the inscription "Ny Coep Cook. The wood is alder (birch).

Netting – notice its thickness

Carpenters' Cabin

'Hatch' – a dog, DNA tests reveal to be a mongrel, 18 months old, mother a whippet and father a terrier. Note following his election as Pope Innocent VIII in 1484, he declared cats to be unholy and the companion of witches so owning one was considered to be unlucky

Barber Surgeon's Cabin

Combs – over 80 found, no two identical and each with a coarse side and a fine side, made of boxwood one made from ivory, likely that most men would have their own, the coarse side for disentangling hair and the finer side for the removal of fleas and lice

Syringes used for introducing irrigating lotions (wine or vinegar) into wounds to clear out foreign bodies and aid the fight against infection and for the treatment of gonorrhoea

Pilot's Cabin

Compasses – earliest to survive, iron nails in the construction of the box, made of poplar, suggests ignorance of the effect of the close proximity of iron on a magnetic needle

Log reel - knots

Daily life on board the Mary Rose

Board game – tabula which developed in the 17th C to what we know as Backgammon.

Dice – generally made of bone, gambling was forbidden by Henry VIII, does the size of the dice suggest illicit activity

Two fiddles and a bow

Book – Verbum Domini manet in eternum “The word of the Lord endureth for ever” First Peter 1.25

Diet – note cauldron in which 350 litres of broth could be boiled

Sunday	1 lb biscuit	1 gallon beer	1 lb pork	1 pint peas	
Monday	1 lb biscuit	1 gallon beer	2 lb beef		
Tuesday	1 lb biscuit	1 gallon beer	2 lb beef		
Wednesday	1 lb biscuit	1 gallon beer	¼ fish	2 oz butter	4 oz. cheese
Thursday	1 lb biscuit	1 gallon beer	1 lb pork	1 pint peas	
Friday	1 lb biscuit	1 gallon beer	¼ fish	2 oz butter	4 oz. cheese
Saturday	1 lb biscuit	1 gallon beer	¼ fish	2 oz butter	4 oz. cheese

Once thought that square trenchers – hence ‘square meal’ – came before dishes and bowls, evidence from Mary Rose is that dishes and bowls were in extensive use

Gold Coins – angels as they had the figure of St Michael on one side – also carried as a ‘good luck’ charm:

- ⊖ ryal worth about 50p or roughly equivalent to £150 today
- ⊖ angels, worth 40p (eight shillings) or roughly the equivalent of £120 today
- ⊖ Half-angel

Silver coins – groat (worth about 4 pence or £8 today)

Meanwhile in Warblington

Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury

Born: 14 August 1473, Farleigh Hungerford Castle, Bath, built by Sir Thomas Hungerford of Heytesbury in the late Fourteenth Century,

Married: Richard Pole in 1487, she was 14, he was 28. Richard died October 1504, Margaret was 31.

Lived at Bockmer Castle, Medmenham, Marlow, and Stourton Castles, just west of Stourbridge

Five children:

- **Henry:** 1492, principal residence Bockmer, entered House of Lords on 1st December 1529 as Baron Montagu, arrested 4th November 1538 and **beheaded** for treason, 9 January 1539
- **Arthur: died** 1527/28 from ‘the sweating sickness’, buried at Bisham Abbey, was a ‘squire of the body’ to Henry VIII, competent at jousting, member of the privy chamber
- **Ursula:** married Henry Stafford (1501 – 1563) 4th Duke of Buckingham, 20 October 1518, died 12 August 1570 [Her father in law Edward Stafford, 3rd Duke of Buckingham, was **executed** on 17/05/1521 for treason]

- **Reginald**, afterwards Cardinal Pole, was presented to the rectory of Harting in 1526 by Henry Pole, Lord Montacute, who was patron of Harting church.
- **Geoffrey** principal residence, Lordington, **imprisoned** in the Tower, 29th August 1538, and pardoned by Henry VIII, went to live in Liege, returning to England on the accession of Mary I in 1553 died 1558, buried in Stoughton Church

Margeret Pole, Countess of Salisbury, acquired the manor of Warblington from Henry VIII in 1515 and rebuilt the house as a fortified castle

Messages went frequently to the continent, especially to Reginald, often using an agent called Hugh Holland of Warblington. Unfortunately, the registers for Warblington do not survive before 1631 but it is clear from surviving registers of neighbouring parishes that Holland was a local name. Interestingly, according to **Letters and Papers Henry VIII**, Hugh Holland had been convicted of piracy at one time.

Gervase Tyndall, allegedly a schoolmaster, more probably a spy in the service of Thomas. Cromwell, arrived in Warblington to stay with a surgeon Richard Ayer. Tyndall discovered that one of Geoffrey Pole's servants, Hugh Holland, had carried letters to France to John Helyar, Rector of Warblington and vicar of East Meon and to Cardinal Pole such that '*all the secrets of the realm of England are known to the Bishop of Rome*'. **L & P XIII 817 f.83b (p.325**

Margaret was interrogated by Sir William Fitzwilliam, Earl of Southampton, and Thomas Goodrich, Bishop Ely at Warblington, 12 November 1538

Imprisoned Cowdray Castle, 15th November 1538 – September 1539

Transferred to the Tower of London **Executed:** 27 May 1541 [aged 67]

Buried: Chapel Royal of St. Peter ad Vincula, Tower of London **Beatified:** by Pope Leo III, 1886

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