

From: Paul Tritton, Hon. Press Officer

Email: paul.tritton@btinternet.com

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What's in a name? All will be revealed at Canterbury conference



Solly's Orchard, Greyfriars, Canterbury.



Miller's Field, Canterbury.

Kent place names, field names and surnames will be discussed at a conference at Canterbury Christ Church University on Saturday 12 November (2016).

Some of today's Canterbury place names remind us of orchards, fields and meadows that disappeared many years ago.

Solly's Orchard is now a garden at Greyfriars Chapel; Miller's Field, beside the River Stour, is now mostly covered by a car park; Beverley Meadow, St Stephen's, is now a public park.

Chapman's Meadow, on the Pilgrims' Way, is still unspoilt but is threatened by a vast 4,000-homes garden suburb, the biggest planning application in the city's history. It will cover an area of farmland larger than the city centre.

In Maidstone, Fairmeadow, where the town's fairs were held, is now a multi-lane highway to the M20.

Examples like these will be cited by Dr Paul Cullen, an authority on English place names. Originally from Pluckley and Canterbury, Paul is now a research associate at the University of the West of England in Bristol and is also known as folk-punk musician Paul Carbuncle.

'Some field names remain mysteries,' says Paul. 'I look forward to answering questions from the audience'.

Paul will also give a talk on relationship surnames. Next on the bill will be Mike Bintley, senior lecturer in medieval literature at Canterbury Christ Church University ('Wics and burhs' in Old English poetry); Harry Parkin, research associate on the Family Names of the United Kingdom Research Project at the University of the West of England, Bristol ('Changes in the bynames and surnames of the Cotswolds: 1381- c1600: a model for Kent'); and

Liz Finn, Manorial Documents Register Project Officer for Kent ('Court rolls, custumals and gavelkind: Kent manorial records and the Manorial Documents Register').

The 'Kent Places and People' conference is sponsored by the Kent Archaeological Society and the Centre for Kent History and Heritage, Canterbury Christ Church University, and is supported by Kent Libraries, Registration and Archives.

Tickets cost £12. For the full programme and a booking form visit <http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/kas-news/kentish-place-names-and-surnames-canterbury-sat-12-nov-2016>, email artsandculture@canterbury.ac.uk or telephone 01227 782994.

Note to editor: for JPEGs of these images email paul.tritton@btinternet.com



Beverley Meadow, Canterbury



Chapmans Meadow, Pilgrims' Way



Fairmeadow, Maidstone



Dr Paul Cullen, aka Paul Carbuncle