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Naming names at Canterbury conference

The origins of Kent’s names and nicknames will be discussed at a one-day conference at the University of Kent at Canterbury on Saturday 1st November 2014.

Five experts on the subject will speak at the event, organized by the Kent Archaeological Society and the university’s Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies.

Dr Paul Cullen’s subjects will be surnames derived from nicknames (citing ‘Waggehorn’, ‘Twyseaday’ and ‘Cutbussh’ as examples); and Canterbury’s street names and place names.

Paul is a research associate with the ‘Family Names of the UK’ project’ at the University of the West of England, editor of the ‘Survey of Kent Place-Names’ for the English Place-Names Society, and Academic Adviser to the KAS’s Place Names Committee.

Duncan Harrington will reveal what the Chartham Charters tell us about the parish’s people and places. Duncan is a genealogist and history research consultant, and president of the Kent Family History Society.

Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh (pictured below), an associate lecturer in medieval and early modern studies at the University of Kent and author of ‘The Hospital in Medieval England’ will delve into an ‘altercation’ that occurred on August 10 1436 at or near St Lawrence’s Hospital in Canterbury, following which the hospital’s authorities appear to have created three new registers.

‘Among the items found in all three are copies of charters relating to the hospital’s holdings’, said Sheila. ‘Taking this as the starting point, this talk will consider how the copied charters are arranged in the three registers taking particular note of the place names recorded and what their arrangement may reveal about how, why and for whom the registers were produced’.
Ciaran Arthur, a PhD student, will talk about the liturgical nature of Anglo-Saxon charms. Dr Shaun Tyas’s subjects will be football club nicknames and how King Egbert of Wessex’s conquest of Kent is challenging the study of the county’s names.

Shaun is a publisher, author and medievalist and author of a new book ‘The Dictionary of Football Club Nicknames in Britain and Ireland’.

Tickets for the conference cost £12 each. To download the full programme and a booking form visit http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/kas-news/day-conference-on-kent-place-names or contact Val Barrand Davies at 275 Lonsdale Drive, Rainham, Kent, ME8 9JT (phone 07947 583327, email placenames@kentarchaeology.org.uk)

For KAS membership details visit http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk