

# RURAL HISTORY TODAY

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and the Rural History Centre, University of Reading



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## HLF Funding Gives Green Light to New Rural History Centre Building

A new home for the Rural History Centre has been an ambition nurtured over more than a decade. As long ago as 1991 the Centre launched a public appeal which raised nearly £1m as a capital sum towards a new building. We are now delighted to be able to announce, following the award of £5.2 million by the Heritage Lottery Fund to the University of Reading, and the University's own commitment of matching funding, that financial arrangements are now in place for the redevelopment of St Andrew's Hall as a new home for the RHC. This will offer superb facilities for the Library, Museum and Archive and ideal conditions for the storage and conservation of the collections.

'This award marks a new beginning for the Rural History Centre', said the Director, Professor Richard Hoyle. 'It will enable us to safeguard these unique collections for future generations in a way which befits their international importance and to make them accessible to readers, students and everyone interested in the countryside. We are immensely grateful to the Lottery and to our other funding partners, but especially to all those who contributed so generously towards our Appeal, for making it possible for us to reach the point where work can begin'.

Founded as the Museum of English Rural Life in 1951, the Rural History Centre holds an internationally important and Designated collection of artefacts, books, illustrations, photographs and documentary archives related to the countryside. Unique in their conjunction of museum, library and archive, the collections have long since outgrown the present accommodation on the Whiteknights campus. The scheme will see the Centre move to St Andrew's Hall, a Grade 2 listed building with extensive grounds adjacent to the University's London Road site. A new wing will house the Museum's artefact collections, which will be explained and brought alive for different groups of visitor by means of web-based multimedia, interactives and more traditional forms of interpretation. 'The new RHC will present the collections from a different perspective', explained Dr Roy Brigden, Keeper of the Museum of English Rural Life. 'We are aiming to open up the Museum for people of all ages, including those who have no experience of working in the countryside, and demonstrate the collection's relevance to the present and future'.

The existing building at St Andrew's, formerly a hall of residence, will form a home for the Centre's staff and students, house the Centre's growing library and archives and contain a public reading



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St Andrew's Hall from the  
garden. The new Object Wing  
will occupy the site of the 1960s  
refectory building.



*'St Andrew's will enable us to further develop our service for all sections of the community, with talks, lectures and family events. We are aiming to make the new Rural History Centre a community focus for people in Reading and across the region'.*

room. 'It's not just students and academics who use our reference collections', said Dr Jonathan Brown, Business Records Officer. 'Study facilities and access to resources will be greatly enhanced in the new building, with more space for readers making it possible to offer a more streamlined, drop-in service'. Richard Statham, Audience Development Officer, also welcomes the opportunities the new Centre will provide. 'We already run a programme of events at the Centre, including a successful schools programme', he explains. 'St Andrew's will enable us to further develop our service for all sections of the community, with talks, lectures and family events. We are aiming to make the new Rural History Centre a community focus for people in Reading and across the region, reaching out in particular to the farming community and giving them a sense of ownership in what we do'.

In addition to HLF funding, the Rural History Centre benefits from the support of other funding partners including the Arts and Humanities Research Board, which makes a major contribution to running costs. Continued revenue support will enable the Centre to expand the service it offers to visitors even before the move to St Andrew's, scheduled for 2004. On-line resources are a particular area of development. Funded by the Designation Challenge Fund, the website is already the largest rural history site in the UK, offering much of the catalogue on-line. The existing site will be augmented within two years through a joint project with the Berkshire Record Office under the New Opportunities Fund's programme for digitising learning materials.

As it develops links with new audiences, the Rural History Centre will continue to place academic teaching and research at the heart of its overall mission, continuing to run a programme of conferences and offering a new MA course from September. Partnerships with the Museum of Reading and with other rural life museums will also be a priority, and a programme of temporary exhibitions is planned at venues throughout the country, highlighting issues of current concern, and looking towards the future of farming. The Rural History Centre will be playing a key part in this debate. 'Our aim is to further develop the Rural History Centre as an English national centre for all those interested in the past, present and future of the countryside', says Richard Hoyle. 'The excellent news from the HLF means that we are finally within reach of that goal'.

**The Rural History Centre will be running a day of special events on Saturday, 20th April, 2002. Call the Centre for further details.**

## The Museum of Scottish Country Life, Kitchochside

*By Duncan Dornan*

**The Museum of Scottish Country Life, at Kitchochside, near East Kilbride, opened to the public in July 2001. The project is a unique partnership between the National Museums of Scotland (NMS) and the National Trust for Scotland (NTS). Both partners were actively involved in the development of the museum before its opening, with NMS acting as operators and tenants since July and NTS as landlord.**

The development at Kitchochside took 10 years, from the farm first being offered to the NTS until the public opening. However the development of a national museum of country life in Scotland has taken much longer. This work started with the establishment in the late 1950s of the Country Life Collection, initiated by Professor Sandy Fenton at the Scottish Museum of Antiquities. This work was a recognition of the rapid disappearance of a way of life in the Scottish countryside. Even at this time there was an aspiration to establish a dedicated museum of rural life. This had its first incarnation as the Scottish Agricultural Museum, which opened at Ingleston in 1978, a relatively small building on a restricted plot of land which allowed little flexibility or development. Just as the NTS were offered Wester Kitchochside farm, NMS were seeking a site to develop a new, more extensive, living museum. As a result the two organisations entered into a partnership to develop Kitchochside.

Though it was secured by chance, the farm of Wester Kitchochside was found to offer many advantages for an enterprise of this type. It is in itself an almost unique survival in Scotland - a unit of 110 acres, farmed by the same family since 1576. As a farm, it was a classic example of an agricultural holding improved in the eighteenth and nineteenth century, and which had been little touched by twentieth century developments. A site containing the most species-rich grassland owned by NTS in central Scotland, it was located in the green belt adjacent to Glasgow and East Kilbride, within one hour's drive of half of the population of Scotland.

Kitchochside provides an opportunity to show a landscape largely as it was during the first period



of the agricultural revolution, the few minor modifications reflecting only that which was common on other farms in the 1950s.

There will be a small dairy herd of 15 Ayrshire cows and a flock of 50 Blackface ewes. The land and steadings at Kittochside will be farmed to reflect the 1950s. This reflects a period in Scottish agriculture when horses finally gave way to tractor power.

The farmhouse, built in 1784, is a fine example

Exhibition Building shadows the way people used materials and spaces in the past, but in a way which makes for a totally modern building.

The recent MGC report, *Farming, Countryside and Museums*, highlighted the challenges facing rural life museums at the start of the twenty-first century. The timing of this report focused attention on the key issues that Kittochside seeks to address. These are to appear relevant to an increasingly urban public, to assist the public in



*'Kittochside has ... to appear relevant to an increasingly urban public, to assist the public in their understanding of current rural issues, to be a focus of activity for relevant local groups and to present a living museum'.*

*View of the main Exhibition Building at Kittochside*

of a comfortable dwelling. It retains the furnishings owned by the Reid family and has been displayed much as it would have been in the 1950s.

The new exhibition building contains three permanent galleries focusing on 'Tools', 'Land' and 'People'. There is also a temporary exhibition gallery, alongside high quality, efficient storage for the Country Life Collection. With a concrete frame, infill brickwork and rough-sawn timber, the

their understanding of current rural issues, to be a focus of activity for relevant local groups and to present a living museum.

The Scottish countryside is facing another period of uncertainty and possibly dramatic change. It is therefore appropriate that Professor Fenton's vision in the 1950s has been realised at this time. It is surely essential to explain the role of the countryside to an increasingly remote, but influential, urban population.

*Duncan Dornan is General Manager of the Museum of Scottish Country Life*

## THE RURAL LIFE MUSEUM AT GRESSENHALL, NORFOLK

*By Susanna Wade Martins*

No sooner had I read Catherine Wilson's piece in *Rural History Today* about the Rural Life Museums Steering Group than I visited the new 'Roots' display at the revamped Norfolk Rural Life Museum, the reshaping of which I had been involved in as a researcher and script writer.

It was opened with a flourish by the Prince of Wales at the end of July and was certainly drawing

the crowds when I was there. Catherine lists the aims of her group as encouraging museums to help in the preservation of 'local identity', sustaining the rural economy, and interpreting contemporary rural issues, - a far cry from the rows of ploughs and horse-drawn implements and 'byegones' which are typical of such museums. The Gressenhall Museum is doing something for the local rural economy if only by

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*'While there are no doubt visitors who wonder what place a clapped-out car has in a rural life museum, its message was not lost on the group I went round with'.*

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providing a considerable amount of (albeit seasonal) employment. It also provides a focus for the local community with an active support group of 'friends' and an enthusiastic band of volunteer interpreters led by a professional, who role-plays in the school, shop and workhouse.

The Museum does not avoid contemporary issues. While there are no doubt visitors who wonder what place a clapped-out car has in a rural life museum, its message was not lost on the group I went round with: such a vehicle is a symbol of rural life for many in a countryside largely devoid of public transport, where local shops and services are in decline and not all families can afford a four-wheel drive monster.

The themes of the displays covered mechanisation and its effect on the countryside since the first threshing machines were installed in the county in the early 1880s, the opening up of national and then international markets and their effects on local craftsmen and produce, as well as the breakdown of the old hierarchical village communities. The visitor is guided round by an audio wand and one test of the success of such highly focused displays must be the reaction of the visitors. All those I saw were listening intently to the commentary and, I think, following the themes as presented.

If there was a weakness, it was in the 'local identity' area. There was some reference to the 'Norfolk four-course' and the great names on Norfolk agriculture, but much of what was said could have applied to any rural county. But then, of course, the majority of Norfolk country folk were little affected by the great landowners and their small band of capitalist tenant-farmers, so this grass-roots approach can certainly be justified. It must also be remembered that the museum is

about 'rural life' and not just 'agriculture', which although at the heart of the pre-motor car rural economy, could not be seen to dominate displays. Apparently, market research shows that not everyone is fascinated by turnips, manure and their relative affects on yields.

Looking at the finished displays, I now wonder whether they are a little too gloomy. Yes, farm work was hard, the Norfolk farm labourer was one of the worst paid in the country (as we are told many times), housing was a disgrace and security of employment and housing non-existent. The peace and quiet which some of us seek in the countryside today may be isolation and boredom for others; but there are achievements too in the history of farming which deserve to be celebrated, and there was little sense of celebration or achievement here. After all, Norfolk played a leading role in agricultural improvement which allowed an increasingly urbanised population to be fed through the years of population explosion of the agricultural and industrial revolutions and this deserves more emphasis.

Displays seem to have gone full-circle, from the days when museums were simply treasure-houses and a museum visit was a voyage of discovery, to the new carefully packaged and themed tour. At Gressenhall, we have perhaps the best of both worlds, because as well as the displays, much of the storage area will also be open to the public. Those who wish to see the full range of objects will still be able to browse through the large and varied collections of domestic and working tools which help make this museum one of the most important repositories of the material culture of our rural past.

## RuLMAG Makes Good Progress

*By David Viner*

In its first year as an advocacy and pressure group for the rural life museums sector, the Rural Life Museums Action Group (RuLMAG) has proved itself active all over the UK. Its support network continues to spread, and a new promotional leaflet and other start up costs have been generously covered with grants from the Scottish Country Life Museums Trust, the Museum of Welsh Life and by MAGNI, the Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland, itself a relatively new body.

RuLMAG evolved from the steering group formed by the old Museums & Galleries Commission to research *Farming, Countryside and Museums*, which appeared in March 2000. Since then, report author Rob Shorland-Ball has been working with MGC's successor body, Re:source, to further develop ideas for regeneration of the rural life museum sector advanced in the report. As a support group, RuLMAG's voice has been welcomed by Re:source and further progress on this initiative is anticipated



early in 2002. The first issue of *Rural History Today* summarised the background to the Group and to this report.

A mission statement guides the work; the Group 'promotes understanding of our rural heritage and how that has shaped life as it is in the countryside today, and promotes the revitalisation of rural life museums as a vehicle of that understanding'. As such it is well placed as a recognised 'themed network' to contribute to the major current initiative in English regional museums, focused around *Renaissance in the Regions: a new vision for England's museums*, a report published by Re:source in October promoting a new framework for regional museums. Smaller, independent and rural life collections all need help to ensure that they too benefit from such proposals.

Speakers from two leading regional museums contributed to a RuLMAG session at the annual Museums Association conference on the theme of 'Rural Life Museums - where next?' Andrew Mackay summarised new approaches to presentation and interpretation now unveiled at Gressenhall, the Norfolk Rural Life Museum, whilst Gavin Sprott gave a thoughtful paper on his view of the relevance of existing collections and threats to them from the standpoint of the smart

new Museum of Scottish Country Life which opened at Kitchside in July.

Meanwhile detailed collections assessment by Group members acting as consultants continues at various museums, driven by the need to find new approaches and - inevitably - the demand to address the sheer bulk of collections already held in care. Rationalisation of collections was discussed in detail by David Viner in *Museums Journal* recently (Nov & Dec 2001), and the approaches advocated there have been applied to collections at Weald & Downland Museum in Sussex, Llanyrafon Farm Museum at Cwmbran, the nearby Usk Rural Life Museum in Monmouthshire and elsewhere.

Other project assessments continue on the Geler Jones collection at Llanerchaeron in west Wales, and at Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire, both for the National Trust. A detailed report on agricultural and rural life collections, displays and museums in Wales has been completed for the Council of Museums in Wales.

*RuLMAG has a growing number of contacts in its email groups, generously administered from the Rural History Centre. Further details from the Co-ordinating Secretary Rob Shorland-Ball on 01904 632751 (robsb@wfnymork.demon.co.uk) or the Group Chair Catherine Wilson (catherine@penates.demon.co.uk)*

## Food for War: Agriculture and Rearmament in Britain before the Second World War

By Alan F Wilt

Despite the excellent work done by historians on 1930s Britain, few of them have dealt with food and agriculture, and especially the relationship of food and agriculture to rearmament, during the so-called 'deceptive' decade. My *Food for War: Agriculture and Rearmament in Britain before the Second World War* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001) is an attempt to overcome this oversight by examining the relationship between food and defence between 1935 and 1939 and during the early months of World War II.

Four themes stand out. First of all, food and agriculture became clearly linked to rearmament (in the broad sense) in 1936, and this linkage dominated food and agricultural policy during the

rest of the pre-war years. Second, the government's preparations in this sector, as contrasted with other areas of the economy, were relatively well advanced when war broke out in September 1939. As a result of these preparatory steps, the government's transition to a wartime economy in the food area was relatively smooth between the war's outbreak and August 1940, by which time the formation and direction of the food and agricultural programmes had taken definite shape. Third, farm and rural interests well understood what war would mean to them and their way of life, and they had some say in making sure that their concerns were given due consideration. Finally, instead of concentrating on foreign, military, industrial, and political issues when one

*Alan F. Wilt is Professor Emeritus of History at Iowa State University*



*'Whether in wartime or peacetime, governments always need to be concerned about food and agriculture, since they are basic to a nation's existence'.*

*Wartime preparations down on the farm*

examines the 1930s, the role of food and agriculture also needs to be appreciated and taken into account. They also deserve to be part of the historical discourse.

Proof of these contentions can be derived from a variety of perspectives. Among other things, World War I, the vigorous interwar debate on how to stop the decline in agriculture, and parliamentary acts in the early 1930s laid the foundation for tying food and agriculture to rearmament in the period that followed. After 1935, the Agriculture ministry and the Food (Defence Plans) Department in the Board of Trade took the lead in the preparations for war. Assisting them were other governmental departments, such as the Ministry of Health and the Foreign Office, as well as representative bodies in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Moreover, a succession of Agriculture Ministers - Lord Addison, Sir John Gilmour, Walter Elliot, William Morrison, and Sir Reginald Dorman - Smith - along with the Food (Defence Plans) Director, Sir Henry French, were instrumental in formulating and readying the food-defence programmes for implementation.

But governmental policies tell only part of the food and agriculture and rearmament story. The agricultural lobbies, including the Central Landowners' Association, the National Union of Agricultural Workers, the Women's Institutes, and especially the National Farmers' Union influenced the government and kept their members informed about the latter's plans in case of war. Among the rural population as a whole, wireless broadcasts, national and local newspapers and farmers' weeklies played a dual role: informing the public and to an extent, through editorials and letters to

the editor, influencing what the government did. Media coverage in prime agricultural areas, such as around Norwich, Plymouth, Hereford and Aberdeen, was particularly impressive and indicate a vibrant local press. All of these sources of information lead one to conclude that the people were well aware of what was happening and what would be expected of them in wartime.

Regarding the sources used for this study, in addition to pertinent secondary and contemporary literature, *Food for War* is based on archival materials from the following depositories: the Public Record Office, Scottish Record Office, National Library of Scotland, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, British Library, British Library Newspaper Library, U.S. National Archives, Rural History Centre, Reading University Library, Churchill Archives Centre and Bodleian Library. These archives contain a treasure trove of documents, personal papers, journals, and the like, and they can, of course, be used for numerous other food and agriculture-related projects besides the *Food for War* book. Although not an archive, the Headquarters of the National Federation of Women's Institutes in London kindly allowed me to go through its Executive Committee Minutes.

Above all, *Food for War* demonstrates that early on the British government recognized the importance of food and agriculture in time of war, and between 1936 and 1939 it undertook measures to prepare the country for that eventuality. One might add, that whether in wartime or peacetime, governments always need to be concerned about food and agriculture, since they are basic to a nation's existence.





# THE READING TOWN HALL LECTURES 2002

 The University of Reading  
Department of Continuing Education

## *A place apart? The English Countryside in the last one hundred years*

A series of five lectures exploring our changing relationship with and perceptions of the countryside over the last one hundred years.

January 22nd - March 19th 2002. Alternate Tuesdays at 7.30pm in The Town Hall, Reading

### **January 22nd** **The fall and rise of the British aristocracy**

Professor Peter Mandler, Gonville and Caius, Cambridge University

This lecture traces the decline of traditional landed society in the first half of the twentieth century. It also considers the impact on the countryside of soaring land prices since the 1950s and how this has in some ways revived the landed aristocracy without reviving landed society.

### **February 5th** **The achievement of agriculture in the twentieth century**

Sir John Marsh, Emeritus Professor, University of Reading and University of Aberdeen

Technology, economics and politics enabled farming to increase its contribution to the life of the nation in terms of both food and amenity during the twentieth century. This lecture explores how, in the public perception, concerns moved from production to the provision of service. It raises questions about who pays for the outputs society demands.

### **February 19th** **Must it be so? Alternatives for the past, present and future**

Jonathan Dimpleby, President of the Soil Association

The costs of cheap food to the environment and the quality of life of animals being bred for consumption are now all too familiar. Where did farming go wrong, and are there alternatives open to farmers which we, as consumers, should seek to encourage?

### **March 5th** **Did planning save the countryside?**

Professor Mike Breheny, University of Reading

Over the last half century many would argue that the needs of farming were placed over those of the countryside. At the same time planning sought to protect the countryside from uncontrolled building whilst permitting the construction of motorways and allowing suburban expansion. What were the planners trying to do, and how successful were they in achieving their vision of the countryside?

### **March 19th** **The future of the countryside?**

Fiona Reynolds, Director General of the National Trust

As food production becomes a minor part of Gross Domestic Product and farmers a politically diminished force, what is the countryside for? Is it to be simply a place for recreation, in which the priorities of tourism prevail? Should farmers place custodianship before production? Is the countryside to be protected and the forces of landscape change curtailed? The National Trust is amongst the nation's largest landholders and Fiona Reynolds is well placed to offer a view of how the competing needs of farming, tourism and housing might be mediated in the future.

**Location and Access** The Town Hall is situated in the heart of Reading at the eastern end of Friar Street, just a few minutes walk away from the railway station. Large 'pay and display' car parks are situated nearby in Queen's Road and at the Oracle Shopping Centre. The building has excellent access for visitors including ramps, lifts and specially adapted toilet facilities for patrons with disabilities.

The Department of Continuing Education on the London Road campus of the University of Reading runs part-time evening and daytime classes as well as dayschools in the following subject areas  
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History \* History of art \*  
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See our website - [www.reading.ac.uk/ContEd/](http://www.reading.ac.uk/ContEd/)

#### **Ticket Information**

Individual tickets: £7 Series tickets (5 lectures): £25 (£18 cons) (advance bookings only). Tickets for the series and for individual lectures are available in advance from the Hexagon Box Office, Queens Walk, Reading. Credit Card bookings may be made by calling the Hexagon Box Office on (0118) 960 6060, email: [boxoffice@readingarts.com](mailto:boxoffice@readingarts.com)  
Individual tickets may also be bought at the Town Hall on the night of each lecture.



# Conference News

*Rural History Today* is jointly published by the British Agricultural History Society and the Rural History Centre, University of Reading. The next issue will appear in July 2002.

*Rural History Today* would be pleased to receive short articles, press releases, notes and queries for publication. Articles for submission should be sent to Prof. R. W. Hoyle at the RHC.

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229, Reading, RG6 6AG,  
email:  
rhc@reading.ac.uk

Visit the RHC website  
[www.ruralhistory.org](http://www.ruralhistory.org)

*Membership of the BAHS is open to all who support its aim of promoting the study of agricultural history and the history of rural economy and society. Membership enquiries should be directed to the Treasurer, BAHS, c/o Dept. of History, University of Exeter, Amory Building, Rennes Drive, Exeter EX4 4RJ. Enquiries about other aspects of the Society's work should be directed to the Society's Secretary, c/o Dept. of History, Royal Holloway, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX, email [p.dewey@RHUL.ac.uk](mailto:p.dewey@RHUL.ac.uk). Articles for submission to Agricultural History Review should be sent to Prof. R. W. Hoyle at the Rural History Centre.*

## Rural Regeneration A Sustainable Future for Farm buildings

### The Royal Society of Arts April 30 2002

*Organised by the Historic Farm Buildings Group  
Sponsored by English Heritage, The Countryside Agency,  
Countryside and Community Research Unit, Cheltenham  
and Gloucester College of Higher Education*

The aim of the conference will be to bring together those involved in the regeneration of the countryside to encourage an holistic approach to the particular issues of farm buildings. The presentations and discussions will draw attention to the need for a full historic understanding of the building resource, if its economic, social, environmental and aesthetic potential is to be fully realised.

To obtain further details, contact Dr Peter Gaskell, Countryside and Community Research Unit, Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education, Francis Close Hall, Cheltenham GL5-0 4AZ, or email [pgaskell@chelt.ac.uk](mailto:pgaskell@chelt.ac.uk)

## British Agricultural History Society Spring Conference 2002

### Institute of Development Studies University of Sussex 8 - 10 April

The Programme includes;

#### Monday, 8th April

Prof. John Beckett (University of Nottingham); Prof. Michael Turner (University of Hull); Dr. Bethanie Afton (University of Nottingham); *Agricultural Sustainability*  
Prof. Brian Short (University of Sussex); *Landscape for a tired and smoke-dried citizen: Agrarian change and environmental conflict in Victorian Sussex*

#### Tuesday, 9th April

Dr. David Stead (University of York); *Crops and Contracts: Land Tenure in England, c.1700-1850*  
Prof. Robert Allen (Nuffield College, Oxford); *Innovation and Decision-making in the Open Fields*  
Dr. Margaret Yates (University of Reading); *Between Fact and Fiction: Brinklow's 'Complaynt' against rapacious landlords*

*Excursion to the Leconfield Estate, Petworth., guided by Mr. Richard Harris, Director of the Weald and Downland Open-Air Museum*  
*BAHS Annual General Meeting and Dinner*

### Wednesday, 10th April

Dr. Edward Bujak (Harlaxton College); *An Aristocracy in Decline, 1874-1914*  
Dr. Tony Phillips (University of Keele); *Changes in Agricultural Land Use and Cropping in Shropshire and Staffordshire, 1815-1850*  
Prof. David Hey (University of Sheffield); *Farming Dynasties: the Yeomen and Husbandmen of South-West Yorkshire*

For further details, please contact Prof. Alun Howkins, School of English and American Studies, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QN, by 31 March or visit the BAHS website at [www.bahs.org.uk](http://www.bahs.org.uk)

The BAHS offers bursaries to postgraduates who lack financial support to enable them to attend its conference. They are invited to apply to the Secretary, Dr. Peter Dewey, History Department, Royal Holloway, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX, enclosing a letter of support from their supervisor.

## Advance Notice Joan Thirsk at Eighty

A celebration of the continuing work and influence of Joan Thirsk on Friday, 20th September, including a lecture by Joan Thirsk.

## Call for Papers BAHS Spring Conference

### 7 - 9 April 2003 King Alfred's College, Winchester

Offers of papers for this conference will be welcomed. They can be on any aspect of rural or agrarian history. They should be sent to the BAHS Secretary, Dr Peter Dewey, History Department, Royal Holloway, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX ([p.dewey@RHUL.ac.uk](mailto:p.dewey@RHUL.ac.uk)), from whom further details may be obtained.

# A · H · R · B

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