

## Sarratt Local History Society

On 8 May, we enjoyed an interesting and erudite exposition on 'The Manor of the More' by Heather Falvey. Heather was talking of the early manor which was against or possibly just under the Moor Park to Rickmansworth railway line, roughly 1km northeast of the current Moor Park Mansion (c1670). Saxon settlers, during the 700's, made use of the site with its plentiful water; they and those who followed erected various timber buildings and eventually these were replaced in 1458 by a brick 'castle' by Richard Neville subsequently altered extensively by Wolsey and to a greater extent by Henry VIII who spent his honeymoon there with Catherine Parr. However, thereafter the manor declined and ten years into Elizabeth's reign in 1568, it was reported to be in severe decay due to poor foundations and in 1574 she had the More taken down and recycled.

The site, the buildings, the owners and various tenants went through many vicissitudes. St Albans Abbey was given the land in 793, post-conquest earlier Nevilles were Archbishop of York and Chancellor of England and by 1400's William Flint an influential local MP was the owner. He died in 1444 and the Manor was sold to Richard Neville.

In the 1460's Neville both promoted the cause of King Edward IV then subsequently turned on him to restore Henry VI but shortly after he was killed by Edward IV in 1471. Sometime later, after Elizabeth's demolition, the More returned to the Abbot of St Albans for £2,000.

In 1939 the 'castle' moat was filled during roadworks and a 1959 Archaeology report stated that nothing was left except the decorative moats to the garden next to Moor Lane – and we now learn they are also in danger of being filled.

*Dates for away outings are:*

**Sunday 15 June:** *A walk round Kings Langley (following our talk on 13 March). Meet in the Nap Community Centre at 2pm.*

**Saturday 21 June:** *Visits to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, etc. – cancelled due to lack of support.*

**Thursday 17 July:** *Moor Park Mansion (follow up to 8 May Meeting). Please book with Julia Luckhaus on 268449.*

**Friday 28 November:** *'A PARTY' – 2-2½ hours with a medieval touch – street musicians, juggler, flautist, fiddle dancing, etc. Light food will be served with mulled wine. (Cost to be appraised.)* **Derek Lambert**