

## Prosperity in the Middle Ages - an illustrated talk of Guildford's wool trade



**An illustrated talk followed by a guided walk**

**10 March 2020**

**10.30 - 12.30**

**Holy Trinity Centre, Guildford**

Join Honorary Remembrancer, Matthew Alexander, who will give an illustrated introduction to Guildford's wool trade and its merchants followed by a short guided walk to see the fascinating historical sites connected with the trade that formed the basis of Guildford's early prosperity.

Matthew Alexander first came to Guildford in July 1975 to become assistant curator of local history at Guildford Museum. He has spent most of his life since then exploring Guildford's fascinating past. He was elected the Borough's Honorary Remembrancer after retiring as the museum curator in 2010 and is widely regarded as one of Guildford's most knowledgeable historians.

The prosperity of medieval Guildford was largely based on the wool trade and for a relatively short time Surrey's County town was famous for the production of "Guildford blue" cloth, which was exported across the world. Matthew will tell us about how the wool trade flourished and why it eventually dwindled. His illustrated talk provides a fascinating account of Guildford in the middle ages and the factors that contributed to its prosperity.

After the talk Matthew will lead us on a guided walk that will take us to Racks Close, a hidden chalk quarry, which is often a surprise to many locals. Here Guildford Blue after dyeing with woad, was fixed on wooden racks to allow it to dry without shrinking. Our walk of about 45 minutes will go through the Town's historic quarter and we will pass through the grounds of Guildford's Norman Castle and hear about some of the other sites that were so important to the wool trade.

The walk will finish at Racks Close and there will then be the option to join us at the King's Head in Quarry Street. The Kings Head is Guildford's oldest and allegedly most haunted pub.

Constructed in the late 1500s it was built in the traditional manner using timber beams and is situated next to the Castle.

Alternatively, there are over 50 eating establishments in Guildford to enjoy if you prefer.

**Booking is essential.** If you would like to join us would you please book online using the button below or by returning the attached slip to arrive at Warren Farm Barns before 6th March 2020. Please include your e-mail address or a stamped addressed envelope so you may be sent full details, directions and locations for the visit.

For further details and enquiries, contact us at [info@surreyhillsociety.org](mailto:info@surreyhillsociety.org) or on mobile 07530-949302.

*Cancellation by Member*

*If you wish to cancel your booking please email our Coordinator at [info@surreyhillsociety.org](mailto:info@surreyhillsociety.org). Any fee paid will be non-refundable, although the Society may in its entire discretion authorise repayment of all or part of the fee if, in the opinion of the Society, there are reasonable circumstances justifying the cancellation. If there is a waiting list for the event and adequate notice of cancellation has been given, our Coordinator will try to find a replacement booking and the Society may in its discretion refund all or part of the booking fee if the Coordinator is successful.*

*Cancellation by the Society*

*The Society may in its absolute discretion cancel any event by giving notice to the person, who has made the relevant booking. In such circumstances the booking fee will be fully refunded. The Society rarely cancels events, but it is sometimes obliged to do so due to circumstances outside its control or if insufficient interest is shown in an event.*

*Responsibility Statement*

*Please note that the Surrey Hills Society and its Event partners accept no responsibility for any loss, damage or personal injury during events. Participants are requested to wear appropriate clothing and footwear and take due care and attention. The Society uses photographs for our social media and on our website. If you are not happy to have your photo taken during this event, please notify us in writing prior to the event and make the event organiser aware on the day.*



Warren Farm Barns  
 Headley Lane  
 Mickleham  
 Dorking  
 RH5 6DG  
 Contact telephone: 07530 949302  
 info@surreyhillssociety.org

X-----

Please detach and return this slip with your e-mail address or a stamped addressed envelope to:

SHS – Prosperity in the Middle Ages, Warren Farm Barns, Headley Lane, Mickleham, Dorking, RH5 6DG

**Prosperity in the Middle Ages talk – Tuesday 10 March 2020**

I wish to book \_\_\_\_\_ member places at £10 per person and/or \_\_\_\_\_ non-members at £15 per person.

I enclose my cheque for £ ..... payable to “Surrey Hills Society”.

**NAME(S)** (Please state names of ALL applicants):

First name .....Surname..... MEMBERSHIP NO.....

First name ..... Surname..... MEMBERSHIP NO.....

First name..... Surname..... MEMBERSHIP NO.....

If more than 3 people please continue below.

ADDRESS .....

.....

..... POSTCODE .....

Telephone ..... E-mail .....

Signed: ..... Date: .....