

Conference: Power, Prayer and Public Archaeology

A conference in celebration of 750 years since the foundation of the Black Friary

Call for Papers

The conference aims to explore the archaeology and material culture of Religious Houses in late medieval Europe, through innovative approaches to new stories.

Venue: Trim, Co. Meath, Ireland (Knightsbrook Hotel) on July 2nd-3rd 2013

Through interdisciplinary approaches, we want to address how the introduction of continental monastic orders impacted locally on social order, material culture, economy, burial practice, and the role of men, women and children.

Themes will include European-wide research, Ireland-focused studies, architectural style and technologies and a focus on the Black Friary Dominican site in Trim Co. Meath as a case study. The latter will include papers on community and public archaeology, an integral part of the Black Friary Archaeology Project.

Papers are invited from established researchers, specialists and students on any subjects that may inform the themes of the conference. All sessions will include a short-paper section to allow students and recent graduates to showcase new or on-going research.

The conference will be held in the medieval town of Trim, Co. Meath, home to the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland, and situated on the banks of the River Boyne.

Abstracts of max. 300 words (FAO Bairbre) to info@iafs.ie by Friday, March 15th 2013

Confirmed Speakers include

Dr. Ann-Julie Lafaye – University College Dublin	Dr. Steve Mandal – IAFS
Dr. Rachel Scott - Arizona State University	Finola O’Carroll - Principal Investigator, Black Friary
Dr. Steinunn Kristjnsdttir - National Museum & University of Iceland Setberg	Archaeology Project

Session formats

- Four sessions
- 30 min. Speaker presentations
- 10/20 min. New Researcher or Student Speaker presentations
- Field Trip
- Conference function
- Community event

Important Dates

February 2013	Call for Papers	May 2013	Registration
Late April 2013	Papers Announced	July 2 nd -3 rd 2013	Conference

Costs

Costs will be confirmed later in the year, but it is the intention of the conference organisers to keep these to a minimum.

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About the Project

The Black Friary Community Archaeology Project has been developed by Meath Local Authorities and the Irish Archaeology Field School, in conjunction with the towns people of Trim, to address the decline in social memory and awareness of a site of historical and heritage importance, where economic factors have led to the site being, in practical terms, abandoned. The Project is challenged with investigating the archaeological remains of the site, now mostly buried, and working with the local community to create a space where community and visitors alike can explore heritage and use the site in a mutually beneficial and sustainable way.

About the Black Friary

The Black Friary was founded in 1267 in Trim, Co. Meath, Ireland by Geoffrey de Geneville. De Geneville, lord of Vaucouleurs in Champagne, was granted lands in Ireland through his marriage to Matilda, daughter of Hugh de Lacy. The Black Friary, or St. Mary's as it is also known, was the third religious house in the Anglo-Norman town of Trim, and arguably, the most significant. The friary is identified as significant in historical records of the time:

- It was the location for a meeting of Irish bishops which took place at the friary in 1291
- The Archbishop of Armagh held a visitation in the Guesthouse in 1367
- It was the location for Parliamentary meetings in 1446 & 1491 (Hennessey 2004, 10)

However, despite the size and significance of this site in the late medieval period, there are few records detailing the layout of the site, and little is known about how the friars interacted with the townspeople, and what role the friary might have played for the town. The [research aims](#) for the archaeological aspects of the project include the following:

- To identify the layout of the site, and the nature of the buildings beyond the church and cloister
- To investigate the burials identified in the church, and how the burial practice in this area differs from that of the formal cemetery in the SW area of the site
- To explore the relationship between the townspeople and the friary during the use of the site by the Dominicans, and following their departure between the 16th & 17th centuries

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