



The Easter Festival in Early England.

Start date 7 April 2018

Time 10am –
4.45pm

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Dr Sam Newton

Course 1718NDX039
code

Director of Programmes

Emma Jennings

**For further information on
this course, please contact**

Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Sam Newton was awarded his Ph.D at UEA in 1991. He published his first book, *The Origins of Beowulf and the pre-Viking Kingdom of East Anglia* in 1993, and his second, *The Reckoning of King Rædwald: the Story of the King linked to the Sutton Hoo Ship-Burial* followed in 2003. He has lectured widely around the country as an independent scholar and has contributed to many radio and television programmes over the years, especially *Time Team*. He is a tutor for Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education, an accredited NADFAS lecturer, and a Director of the Wuffing Education Study-Day Partnership at Sutton Hoo. For more information on him, see his website at www.wuffings.co.uk

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	The Old English Calendar
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	The Old English Eastertide
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	The Synod of Whitby
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	The Cult of the Cross: “The Dream of the Rood”
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Rediscover the magic of Easter with an exploration of the significance of this ancient festival. Beginning with a look at the Old English calendar, which reveals how the pre-Christian year was structured and how the month of the goddess *Éostre* become the great Easter festival. We shall also consider the 'Synod' of Whitby and some of the ways in which Easter was celebrated in England, with special attention to the Cult of the Cross, using examples from medieval art and literature, especially the sublime poem known as "The Dream of the Rood".

Aims:

This course aims to provide participants with the documentary, artistic, and archaeological sources that enable us to understand

1. the significance of the Eastertide festival;
2. some of the ways in which it was celebrated in early Anglo-Saxon England; and
3. some of the ways by which it was transformed into the great Christian festival of the Resurrection.

Content:

We begin with a look at the Old English calendar, which reveals how the pre-Christian year was structured. We shall then consider how this calendar was transformed into the Christian year – how, for example, did the month of the Old English goddess *Éostre* become the great Easter festival? We shall also consider the Council of Whitby and some of the ways in which Eastertide came to be celebrated in England, with special attention to the Cult of the Cross, using examples from medieval art and literature, especially *The Dream of the Rood*.

Presentation of the course:

The course will be illustrated with digital images and with my editions and translations of selected Old English texts for study.

Outcomes:

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- [a] become acquainted with the primary sources for the period, especially the Old English farming calendar;
- [b] recognise the importance of the Eastertide festival in English culture;
- [c] appreciate the usefulness of the comparative approach to the study of the culture of the early English-speaking peoples.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Alexander, M.,	<i>The First Poems in English</i>	(Penguin Classics 2008)
Alexander, M.,	<i>Old English Literature</i>	(Macmillan 1983)
Blair, J.,	<i>The Church in Anglo-Saxon Society</i>	(Oxford 2005)
Branston, B.,	<i>The Lost Gods of England</i>	(Thames & Hudson 1957, 1974)
Brooks, N.,	<i>Anglo-Saxon Myths of State and Church</i>	(Hambledon 2000).
Brown, Michelle P.,	<i>How Christianity came to Britain and Ireland</i>	(Lion Hudson 2006)
Chaney, W.A.,	<i>The Cult of Kingship in Anglo-Saxon England</i>	(Manchester 1970)
Dunn, M.,	<i>The Christianization of the Anglo-Saxons, c.597–c.700</i>	(London, 2009)
Ellis Davidson, H.,	<i>The Lost Beliefs of Northern Europe</i>	(Routledge 1993)
Farmer, D.H.,	<i>The Oxford Dictionary of Saints</i>	(Oxford University Press, 1978).
Gallyon, M.,	<i>The Early Church in Eastern England</i>	(Lavenham 1973)
Hoggett, R.,	<i>The Archaeology of the East Anglian Conversion</i>	(Woodbridge 2010)
Hutton, R.,	<i>The Stations of the Sun: A History of the Ritual Year in Britain</i>	(Oxford 1996)
Lee, C.,	<i>Feasting the Dead: Food and Drink in Anglo-Saxon Burial Rituals</i>	(Woodbridge, 2007)
Mayr-Harting, H.,	<i>The Coming of Christianity to Anglo-Saxon England</i>	(Oxford 1977)
McClure, J. & R.Collins, (eds.),	<i>Bede: the Ecclesiastical History of the English People</i>	(Oxford 1999)
Mitchell, B., & F.Robinson,	<i>A Guide to Old English</i>	(Blackwell 1986-2001)
North, R.,	<i>Heathen Gods in Old English Literature</i>	(Cambridge 1997)
Owen, G.,	<i>Rites and Religions of the Anglo-Saxons</i>	(London, 1981)
Turville-Petre, G.,	<i>Myth and Religion of the North: The Religion of Ancient Scandinavia</i>	(London 1964)
Webster, L., and J.Backhouse,	<i>The Making of England: Anglo-Saxon Art and Culture AD 600-900</i>	(British Museum 1991)
Wilson, R.,	<i>The Lost Literature of Medieval England</i>	(Methuen 1952, 1970)

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 03 April 2018