



THE 45th KEELE LATIN and PALAEOGRAPHY SUMMER SCHOOL

30 July–4 August 2022
Saturday to Thursday

**IN-SITU at KEELE UNIVERSITY and
ONLINE via MICROSOFT TEAMS**

DIRECTOR OF STUDIES
Dr Andrew Sargent

OVERVIEW

This summer school organised by Keele University (and now in its 45th year) is for those wishing to acquire or improve their skills in reading and transcribing medieval and early modern documents in both Latin and English. Taken mostly from English archives (both national and local), the documents are chiefly those which are used by historians rather than literary texts.

If you need an introduction to medieval Latin or palaeography (the study of medieval and early modern handwriting), or wish to enhance the knowledge that you already have and want to meet others with the same interests, then the Keele school is designed for you, and one of its main benefits is that students are able to build up their knowledge and confidence during the week.

Drawing on experience gained during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's school is hybrid in form, and you may choose to attend in person or online.

The school is taught in several small groups, but these are not in sessions at which students just listen to tutors and make notes. Rather, the emphasis is very much on learning the skills in reading and transcribing documents, and so involves a lot of *active participation*.

The approach is serious but friendly and attracts a wide range of people from both the UK and abroad: national, local, and family historians, along with archive students and postgraduate researchers. Many return year after year, taking the opportunity to seek advice from tutors and fellow students on their own research interests and problems.

The tutors all have considerable experience in teaching adult groups, and have their own expertise in a wide range of topics, beyond palaeography. They include senior archivists, university lecturers, and local history tutors.

Who comes to the Summer School?

Many students return on a regular basis – but not because they are slow learners; on the contrary, they have become rather skilled palaeographers but wish to experience the problems of reading and interpreting different kinds of documents. Several have published editions of documents, often as part of county record series.

Many people are actively involved in local history projects, sometimes on their own account or because they are involved with a *Victoria County History* project. Others need reading skills to undertake original research for university post-graduate degrees, or to enhance their career in an archive office (or prepare for an archive qualification course).

Financial assistance

Some financial assistance is available in the form of a limited number of 'Higden Scholarships' provided by the Ranulf Higden Society, which has long been a friend to the summer school. Those wishing to apply should contact Nigel Tringham: n.j.tringham@keele.ac.uk. In past years many university students and archivists have successfully applied to their institutions to cover the costs of the summer school, which offers valuable professional training, and we strongly encourage potential students in such situations to do so.

ORGANIZATION

The courses

The school is built around a series of small seminar groups of up to 10 or so students, each led by an expert tutor. *Students participate in ONE group only throughout the week.*

There are two **INTRODUCTORY COURSES**: one for those with no or very little knowledge of Latin as a language (1) and the other for those who want to learn how to read and transcribe a range of medieval Latin documents (2). For those already with a good knowledge of Latin grammar and a reasonable level of palaeographical expertise, there is a choice from three **SUBJECT COURSES**.

Teaching format

Each group will meet at regular intervals throughout the day (see **Daily Schedule**, below), interspersed with breaks for refreshment and lunch, or for time offline for those studying virtually.

The tutor – after suitable general advice – will usually ‘go round the group’ inviting each person to attempt a line or two and providing assistance as necessary. This approach is not meant to be intimidating, but is designed to give each person a *practical opportunity* to do some transcribing and translating; just listening to a tutor reading a text is no substitute for doing it oneself!

Digital images: The documents to be tackled are made available in digital form. They will be sent out to students electronically in advance (as email attachments) and will also be available on the school’s digital platform. Those attending the school in-situ are welcome to bring their lap-top computers to view their documents in the teaching rooms; the rooms have power sockets, but also being able to use lap-tops running from batteries is advisable if possible, in case there are not enough sockets for everyone at once. The teaching rooms also have facilities for projecting digital images on a large screen, and tutors may use this as a teaching method. Tutors will share their screens with all students attending the school virtually, using the mouse pointer to indicate elements of interest.

Paper copies: Students are welcome to print out their own copies of the document images. Copies can also be requested from Keele in advance, to be given on arrival (unfortunately we cannot normally send paper copies in the post). Some students find paper copies convenient for writing notes on.

Pre-school preparation: Students are encouraged to look over at least some of the documents they have been emailed beforehand, as doing so helps to ensure that one gets the best out of the course. Some may not have the time to do so, or have not yet learnt the necessary skills to make much progress on their own. This is fully appreciated by the tutors, and students will not be made to feel inadequate if they

struggle somewhat! After all, **not** being able to read through a manuscript quickly is the main reason for coming to the school.

Online arrangements

For those attending online the summer school will make use of the **Microsoft Teams** platform to facilitate live video tuition sessions and to transfer image files and other documents. Teams can be run through your web browser, and does not require any additional downloads. You will need **video camera** and **microphone** facilities, which are usually built into more recent computer hardware, but will need to be acquired separately if not.

Each student, once booked, will be sent a guide to using Teams in advance of the summer school. If you have any queries or require reassurance about any aspect of the online arrangements, please contact the director, Andrew Sargent, at: a.sargent1@keele.ac.uk.

Changing group

Every effort is made to give students enough advice about which course to join, but because of the varied abilities of fellow students it does sometimes happen that a person finds the level in their group too difficult or too easy, and if there is space it can be arranged for a transfer to another group.

COURSES and TUTORS for 2022

PART I: INTRODUCTORY COURSES

1. Introduction to Latin Language (*tutor* Andy Fear)

This course is a practical introduction to Latin in its medieval form for absolute beginners or those with only very little knowledge of the language. The intention is that by the end of the week students will have a sound understanding of how the language works, and will be able to attempt their own translations. Throughout the course, use will be made of *Collins Latin Dictionary and Grammar* (which students are advised to purchase in advance), but the tutor will also explain Latin grammar and sentence structure by creating his own examples, with reference to a selection of medieval documents.

No palaeography is involved, and students do not look at examples of medieval script.

It is very much recommended that students acquire confidence in Latin before they attempt to decipher medieval handwriting, as knowing how a sentence is structured and what case endings to expect is an essential first step.

2. Introduction to Medieval Documents (*tutor* Philip Morgan)

This group concentrates on reading the kinds of Latin documents most frequently encountered by historians and others when they first explore medieval records, including land conveyances, manor court rolls, estate and financial accounts. Our documents will all be comparatively short but will contain a range of different handwriting forms, scribal abbreviations, and diplomatic conventions, so often considered a barrier to reading medieval texts.

As the emphasis will be on developing palaeographic skills, students **ought already to have some familiarity with Latin grammar**. Contact the tutor if you would like to discuss where you are in the learning process. Most students will experience a degree of difficulty with the documents if they have limited previous reading experience. But our sessions will be good humoured and supportive. Everybody gets a turn at the wheel, reading a line or two; everybody will make mistakes and discover that someone else's line is easier than the one in front of them. That is the point of participating in the summer school, and the tutor will go through the examples, highlighting the differences in letter forms over time and the standard forms of abbreviations.

A few weeks before the summer school you will receive digital images of the documents that are going to be used, and students are encouraged to prepare draft transcriptions of those parts that they feel they can interpret. If there are documents on which you are already working do feel free to share them in advance. They may be suitable for the group, or there may be the chance to discuss them one to one with the tutor.

Also recommended for this course – because it has illustrations of original documents – is Denis Stuart, *Manorial Records* (Phillimore, paperback 2004). For words and phrases that you are likely to come across, a copy of Eileen Gooder, *Latin for Local Historians* (2nd edition, 1978) is worth having – although the 2013 Routledge reprint seems very expensive, so perhaps trying to locate a second-hand copy would be best).

PART 2: SUBJECT COURSES

3. Records of the General Eyre in England (1194 – 1348)

(*tutor* Simon Harris)

This course will examine the records of the general eyre. The general eyre was a system adopted by the kings of England, probably in the twelfth century, to send justices from the central courts by commission around the country to hear both civil and crown pleas. The system developed so that groups of justices had circuits of counties, and the counties of England were visited semi-regularly throughout the thirteenth century and into the fourteenth century. The term general eyre refers to the scope of the pleas and other matters that the justices were commissioned to hear, so that a wide range of business passed before the justices. This makes the records that survive from them of particularly interesting with often colourful, but also rather unpleasant material appearing before the justices.

The documents that will be used can all be found on the Anglo-American Legal Tradition website (<http://aalt.law.uh.edu/IndexPri.html>), and the group will examine not only the pleas and other matters found on the rolls of these eyres, but will also look at their structure, and how they changed over time until the eyres ceased to be held in the mid-fourteenth century. The Latin in which the documents are composed is not always that complicated, though it will certainly prove a challenge. The hands encountered in the documents will vary considerable over the period of study and can be more difficult to decipher.

There are no specific rolls that we will look at at this stage, so if those attending the course have particular counties they would like to look at then they should make their interest know after registering (consult the AALT website to see what is available).

4. Registers of the Fourteenth-Century Archbishops of York (*tutor* Shelagh Sneddon)

The fourteenth century was an important period for the development of the kingdom of England, and particularly for the archdiocese of York. Starting with war with Scotland, it ended with the execution of Archbishop Richard Scrope for treason in 1405, following his participation in a northern rebellion against Henry IV. On the way it took in war with France as well as Scotland, poor harvests and the devastation of the Black Death, several rebellions and the deposition of two kings.

The registers of the fourteenth-century archbishops have recently been digitized and catalogued, as part of The Northern Way, a project run by the University of York. We will use selections from these registers to examine the place of the archbishops in the wider politics of church and realm, their relationships with the clergy and laity under their jurisdiction, and their response to the many crises of this turbulent century – and there will also be room for the famous Joan of Leeds, the nun who faked her own death to escape the convent, and for many other tales from the registers.

TUTORIAL STAFF

Dr Andy Fear is a Lecturer in Ancient History at the University of Manchester, with particular research interests in the Western Roman Empire and the Dark Ages.

Dr Simon J. Harris is currently an independent researcher and records specialist. He has worked on a series of important national and international research projects at the universities of Durham, York, Liverpool, Oxford, Bordeaux and Keele, on material as diverse as charters, petitions, church court records and most recently the Gascon Rolls. He is currently completing work on the archive of the Legh of Adlington (Cheshire) Family, and for the Société Jersiaise translating charters, and producing an edition of the Assize of 1299. Dr Harris has run courses at the summer school since 2015.

Dr Shelagh Sneddon is an independent medieval Latinist and palaeographer. She was one of a team cataloguing the petitions in the SC 8 class in the National Archives for the Ancient Petitions project at the University of York (led by W. Mark Ormrod), and has also worked on the Parliament Rolls of Medieval England project for the University of St Andrews, editing and translating parliament rolls from 1290 to 1509. More recently, she has edited and translated heresy depositions, working in York with Peter Biller. She currently teaches Old French and Palaeography for the MA in Medieval Studies at the University of York.

Dr Philip Morgan was the second director of the summer school in the 1980s and 1990s. He was one of the academics who helped found the Ranulf Higden Society, providing a forum for independent scholars who read Latin documents. He has taught Latin and Palaeography on the Liverpool University archive course, edited the journal *The Local Historian*, but spent much of his career teaching medieval history and local history at Keele University.

FURTHER INFORMATION

DAILY SCHEDULE

If you are attending in person, teaching takes place in **KEELE HALL**, the historic mansion house that was the original core of the University.

All meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) are also in Keele Hall. Evening talks will be streamed via Teams for the benefit of those attending online.

SATURDAY <i>30 July</i>	registration in Chancellor's Building foyer 3.00–4.30pm two-course dinner at 6.30pm (followed by talk at 7.45pm) N.B. dinner and talk are in Keele Hall Ballroom on Saturday, and in the Salvin Room for the rest of the week.
SUNDAY <i>31 July</i>	breakfast at 8.00am teaching sessions at 9.15am to 12.50pm (with 20 minutes tea/coffee break at 10.45am) lunch at 1pm teaching session at 2.00 to 4.00pm (followed by tea/coffee) two-course dinner at 6.30pm (followed by talk at 7.45pm)
MONDAY <i>1 August</i>	<i>as Sunday</i>
TUESDAY <i>2 August</i>	<i>as Sunday</i>
WEDNESDAY <i>3 August</i>	<i>as Sunday</i>
THURSDAY <i>4 August</i>	<i>as Sunday</i> , with Summer School ending at 4pm (with tea/coffee)

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is available in single en-suite rooms (with tea and coffee making facilities) at Barnes hall of residence on Keele campus. You may also choose to make your own arrangements, such as the Courtyard by Marriott hotel on Keele's campus: <https://www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/manck-courtyard-keele-staffordshire/>.

Please note: Early booking is recommended in order to secure a Keele-based room, as they are in high demand at this time of the year.

Car parking permits will be issued and should be displayed in cars.

COSTS, VIABILITY AND BOOKING

The cost of the summer school varies according to whether you choose to study with us in person or online. If the former, you can choose to stay on campus or arrange other accommodation; in the latter case you may choose whether to enjoy your evening meal on campus or make other arrangements. The costs are as follows:

Resident (campus accommodation):	£850
Non-resident with dinner:	£550
Non-resident without dinner:	£450
Online:	£350

Please note that the school requires a **minimum** of **12** students, and of **3** students in each course, in order to ensure a rewarding educational experience. If these requirements are not met the university has the right to cancel the school, or one or more of its courses, but please be assured that in such situations full refunds will be given to those who have already booked. However, once these requirements are met refunds can only be given to those wishing to cancel on or before **Sunday 17 July**. Each course can hold a **maximum** of **10** students.

To book a place on the summer school please go to our online shop at <https://www.eventsforce.net/keelelps2022>. The closing date is **Sunday 17 July**.

If you have any questions about any elements of the summer school, please contact the director, Andrew Sargent, at: a.sargent1@keele.ac.uk.

REGISTRATION AND ARRIVAL

Registration instructions will be sent to you a couple of weeks before the summer school is due to begin.

If travelling via public transport, a direct bus service from Stoke-on-Trent railway station (the number 25 from opposite the station front) goes through the University campus. Alight in the centre of the campus near to the Darwin Building, and cross over carpark to the Chancellor's Building (behind the Tawney Building).