



November/December 2021

Welcome Back...This is the first newsletter since March 2020 as with lockdown and restrictions, meetings and events have not been possible. It is therefore so good to be able to send out details of future and past events again.

#### Medieval Women in London Society.

On Wednesday November 24 at 6.30 for 7pm in St Kenelm's Church, Church Enstone we will be privileged to hear a talk from the eminent historian Professor Caroline Barron OBE (right). She says she will be sharing "some reflections on the role played by women in the social life and economy of London in the period from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century." She will be bringing documents in handout format for us to look at and provide feedback. Caroline Barron's research focus is the government and people of London in the medieval period and includes the study of the poets and writers of medieval London such as Geoffrey Chaucer, William Langland and Thomas Usk. Her interest in London led her to the study of individual Londoners such as the bell founder, Johanna Hill, and better known Londoners such as Richard Whittington and Thomas More. But she attempts also to study the reality of life for the marginals in medieval London: prisoners, lepers, prostitutes, gypsies, vagrants, beggars and hermits, and her interest in medieval Londoners extends to the upbringing of their children and also to their religious concerns and priorities. Professor Barron read history at Somerville College Oxford and taught history first at Bedford College and then at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College. In 2004 she published a book with OUP; London in the Later Middle Ages: Government and People. Professor Barron is very interested in trying to map medieval London and has been involved in two maps, Medieval London and Tudor London both produced by the Historic Towns Trust.



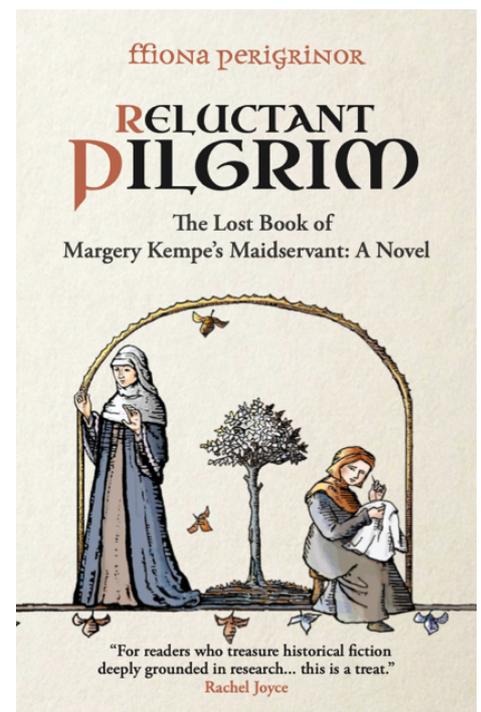
Please let the Chairman John Pritchard (see contacts below) know as soon as possible if you are going to attend this event .

## The Perils of Pilgrimage.



The first EHS meeting since lockdown was held on October 20th in St Kenelm's church. It was a suitable setting for the theme of the talk by ffiona Perigrinor: The Hazards of Medieval Pilgrimage - Margery Kempe and her fellowship 1413-17 and 1433. This was a stimulating and lively account of medieval pilgrimage,

about the diversity of those who went (clergy, the wealthy, gentry, adventurers, opportunists, women and peasants), the way they travelled (boat, cart, walking), the money they took (Venetian ducats) and the three major pilgrimage sites (Jerusalem, Rome and Santiago). Hazards included theft, local wars, piracy, shipwreck, falling ill and dying en route. ffiona then focussed on the pilgrimages of the indefatigable Margery Kempe and suggested that another hazard might be travelling with some-one like her who liked to preach to others and was often argumentative or in tears. Kempe sounded an eccentric and somewhat unpleasant rich lady with a bullying husband addicted to pilgrimages who spent much of her life travelling from her home in Norfolk around Europe and beyond on pilgrimages. Pilgrims usually travelled in fellowships or groups and few would have been overjoyed to find Margery Kempe among them, though she seemed to have mellowed later in life. ffiona had her novel for sale at a discounted price for members on the maidservant who travelled with Margery Kempe - see cover design above right. Members can still obtain copies of ffiona's book by contacting her on her email: [ffiona@perigrinor.co.uk](mailto:ffiona@perigrinor.co.uk)



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