

Professor Alan Stewart

‘The First Coming of the Strangers: An Experiment in Elizabethan Immigration’

Tuesday 21 November at 5pm

The Michael Berry Lecture Theatre, Old Sessions House, Longport, CT1 1PL

Open Lecture, no booking required just come along

In 1561, the town of Sandwich in Kent petitioned the Privy Council to allow a significant influx of immigrants to settle in their town, and practice their skills working with ‘says, bay and other clothe’—a model that was to spread across the south-east of England. Within six years, immigrants in Sandwich outnumbered the previous inhabitants, provoking a predictable backlash. While this immigration is often claimed as a masterstroke of state policy to introduce artisanal skills lacking in England, this paper explores it as a multi-faceted experiment, of importance not only to trade, but also to social relations, religion, education, and the period’s literature.

Alan Stewart is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, and currently a Visiting Lecturer at Queen Mary, where he received his PhD, held a British Academy postdoc, and helped to found the Centre for Editing Lives and Letters with Lisa Jardine. He is the author of several books including, most recently, *The Oxford History of Life-Writing*, volume 2, *Early Modern* (2018). He is also Director of the Oxford Francis Bacon, for which he has edited volume 1, *Early Writings, 1584-1596*, and is now editing volume 2, *Late Elizabethan Writings, 1596-1602*.