

A year later and a replacement building arose like a phoenix. However, Shakespeare had stopped writing and in any case the mid-seventeenth century Civil War resulted in ultimate demolition.

It was in the late 1960s that the idea for a new Globe Theatre was one man's aspiration. Sam Wanamaker presented a model to Southwark Council whose members were sufficiently impressed to offer land some three hundred yards from where the blackened plaque marked the site of the earlier foundations.

Wanamaker set up the Shakespeare Globe Trust and threw himself into fund raising for the scheme. He eventually gained financial support from such patrons as Gordon Getty; important figures gave encouragement and big businesses were persuaded to make substantial donations. The early years, however, were very hard when Sam used much of his own money and even mortgaged his home in order to fund the project. There was also a four-year delay when Southwark Council reneged on its promise of the site and had to be fought in court.

Meanwhile the Friends of the Globe were founded to be a pressure group and give support by running various fund raising events including giving talks to local societies to raise awareness of the Globe and make contributions towards it.

Today the Globe is a significant part of the process by which the South Bank is coming alive. Those who walk in that part of London can take in Southwark Cathedral as well. Here they will discover the Shakespeare window, a fitting reminder of the area's past association with the bard. As for the Globe, it is still not completely finished. Lottery money has helped but there is great dependence on the efforts of volunteers.

To join The Friends of Shakespeare's Globe, contact F.O.S.G. Shakespeare's Globe, 21 New Globe Walk, London SE1 9DT, tel. 020 7902 5970, Fax 020 7902 5971, E-mail friends@fosg.org; Web-site www.shakespeares-globe.org/friends

Thursday 11th November 2004.

Medieval Villages in a Landscape (The Whittlewood Project) –

Dr. Richard Jones (University of Leicester).

This major landscape survey began in May 2000 and this phase is scheduled for completion in July next year. The team led by Dr. Richard Jones an archaeologist and Dr. Mark Page a historian has offered scope for historians and archaeologists alike to make a detailed study of an area from 500 to 1500 that is situated on the Northamptonshire/Buckinghamshire border and also historically contained a detached part of Oxfordshire. The twelve parishes surveyed are spread over an area of 35 square miles, much of which once comprised the ancient Royal Forest of Whittlewood.

Dr. Jones began by considering the techniques adopted. These included a survey of standing buildings with the help of English Heritage, field walking designed to trace settlement patterns (nucleated/dispersed), pollen analysis and geophysical procedures. At Stowe and Lillingstone Lovell the last of these enabled investigators to find a dovecot, a mill and a farmyard. No large-scale