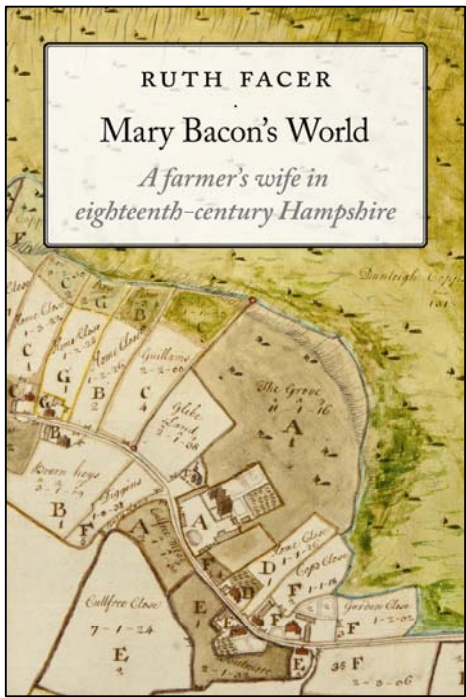


Chawton House Library

Chawton, GU34 1SJ

Mary Bacon, a farmer's wife in eighteenth-century Hampshire

Book Launch 26th October 2010



Ruth Facer will talk about her unexpected discovery in Hampshire Record Office of a farming ledger which had belonged to Mary Bacon, a farmer's wife living in the eighteenth century in the north of the county. The 300 page document had not been used for farming accounts alone; its pages were also filled with religious musings, recipes, cures for both humans and animals, weather reports, and almanac material, among other subjects. Bacon also copied long bible stories into her ledger including the unusual Oedipus tale of Judas Iscariot in which he killed his father and married his mother.

Ruth Facer will talk about the way in which she has organised this material into a book, *Mary Bacon. A farmer's wife in eighteenth-century Hampshire*. Bacon's writings form the foreground while information researched from newspapers, contemporary agricultural books, diaries, wills and leases give a rich and varied contemporary background, demonstrating both the pleasures and the worries of country people in southern England in the late eighteenth century, a period troubled by threats of war.

Did Mary Bacon and Jane Austen meet? It is a difficult question to answer but it does remain a possibility as there are some links and there were many aspects of their rural lives which were the same.

Tickets: £10 (£7.50 for students)
6.30pm Reception with wine & canapés
7.00pm Talk from Ruth Facer

To book, or for more info, call 01420 541010 or email info@chawton.net.

Chawton House Library, Chawton, Alton, Hampshire GU34 1SJ www.chawtonhouse.org

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