

Prince John of Eltham and the Local History Project

Since 1966, the society has invited local primary schools to participate in a local history project concerning Prince John of Eltham. The aim of the project is to illustrate the links between Prince John, who was born at Eltham Palace in 1316 and Westminster Abbey where he is buried.

The two day event has taken place in October with a visit to Eltham Palace and the following day a visit to Westminster Abbey for the laying of flowers, gathered from Eltham Palace, on Prince John's tomb.

This year, a newly formed group, headed by the Rev. Barbara Kingston, is considering and reviewing the arrangements with, perhaps, some modifications to come into line with the National Curriculum and the busy timetable of a primary school. Questionnaires have been circulated to schools that have previously taken part to investigate possible new ways so this event may continue.

A booklet, published by the society, titled 'Prince John of Eltham and Eltham Palace' tell us that*Prince John of Eltham was one of the few members of the Royal Family to be born at Eltham. His father was King Edward II and his mother a French Princess called, Isabella the Fair. She had been sent to England to marry King Edward when she was only 16 years old. Isabella travelled through Kent in the winter of 1308 and stayed at Eltham Palace to rest and get ready for the grand procession in which she was to enter London. She was very fond of Eltham for the rest of her life.*

The Eltham Society
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