



Rosemary Griggs

On **MONDAY 17th FEBRUARY** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall we are delighted to welcome Rosemary Griggs to give a talk. For those of you might have enjoyed the series 'Wolf Hall' on television and been struck by the sumptuousness of Tudor costume then this talk will be for you. I have visited Rosemary's website and an interview that she did for the Guardian newspaper to introduce Rosemary to you and to give you a flavour of what to expect from her talk.



Since retiring from the Civil Service Rosemary has finally found the time to devote herself to her real passion – which is the study of History. She started as a National Trust volunteer at Compton Castle and as part of her work there was invited to get involved with making a Tudor costume. Despite not having done any dressmaking since school she agreed. With her characteristic energy she went further than expected following an online course on the history of royal fashion and reading extensively around the subject. There was a huge amount to learn. The outfits of wealthy 16th century women were a complex assembly of elements; shift, full skirt and outer gown with separate elaborate sleeves, underpinnings and accessories.

As she got more into the history of the sixteenth century, she became fascinated by one woman in particular who was connected to Compton Castle. Lady Katherine Champenowne was the mother of the explorers, Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Humphrey Gilbert. In parallel with researching Katherine's life Rosemary started talking to visitors in period costume. Now her in-character performances as Lady Katherine take her all over the West Country performing regularly for local history societies, WI groups and children. In addition to these performances, she has written a novel dramatizing Lady Katherine's life. 'A Woman of Noble Wit' was published in 2021. She is now working on a second book, about a lesser-known woman in the same extended family.

John Marsh

