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North East & Borders Region

This will be a brief newsletter. It's primary purpose is to invite you to join a regional Skype call to hear about what we have been up to during 2017 and to talk about what we have planned for the next few months. Full details of the Skype call are at the end but, first, here is a brief review of recent & current activities :

The Battle of Carham

The Carham 1018 Society



Clive Hallam-Baker and the Carham 1018 Society have been working hard on this HLF-funded project. Much of the work to date has involved research and planning for the 1,000th anniversary next year which will include a major two-day event at Carham with a re-enactment of the battle itself. Although the battle is at the heart of the project, it is not the only matter to be considered. The battle of Carham marked an important stage in the tangled history of England and Scotland and the birth of the two nations. Beyond this, Carham has its part in the history of early Christianity as the site of a minster founded by St Cuthbert. Our project encompasses all of these aspects alongside the battle itself.

More information can be found here:

<http://www.carham1018.org.uk/> and <https://www.facebook.com/carham1018/>

Clive will speak more about this on our Skype call and will talk about ways in which local members can become involved as the project moves forward.

The Battle of Otterburn



The Revitalising Redesdale Landscape Partnership bid was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in July. The Battlefields Trust is a core partner in this bid and has worked for the past eighteen months alongside the other fifteen partners in the preparation of the bid document. Following a recent site visit by senior HLF staff, a decision will be made at the end of November.

Details of the full bid can be found here : <http://revitalisingredesdale.org.uk/>

The bid includes provision for a three-year research, archaeology and presentation project which will be lead by the Battlefields Trust. If successful there will be many opportunities for local members to be involved in all aspects.

Geoffrey Carter will speak about the project on our Skype call and about ways in which members can become involved.

Other Projects



An image of the battle of Stanhope from Froissart's Chronicles

We have range of other projects in hand which we will speak about and where members may wish to become involved :

The Battle of Stanhope

In 1327 the young Edward III came face-to-face with an invading Scots force at Stanhope in Weardale. The matter ended with James Douglas leading a raid into the English camp at Stanhope during which the ropes of the King's tent were cut, causing it to collapse on his head! The Scots then made off home leaving the English to recognise that they could not contain or control the Scots. The result was the Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton, which recognised Robert Bruce's claim to the throne of Scotland and dropped English claims of feudal superiority over the monarchs of Scotland.

Following an initiative by a local member, the Trust is working with a number of community groups to commemorate the 1327 Weardale Campaign which has largely been forgotten locally. Plans are still under discussion including those for a 'Stanhope Day' event in 2018 to mark this important involvement in English history

The Civil War on Teesside

The next step in our continuing involvement in this project will be an exhibition in early 2018 at the Preston Park Museum in Stockton. Details are still under discussion but more information may be found at:

<http://www.prestonparkmuseum.co.uk/events/single-event/?event=11348>

This exhibition will commemorate the 375th anniversary of the battle of Yarm. The Trust is working with Preston Park Museum, Teesside Archaeology and the River Tees Rediscovered Landscape Partnership.

Border Battlefields Trail

Clive Hallam-Baker and Geoffrey Carter have been in early discussions with Visit Northumberland, the tourist authority, about the creation of a battlefield trail marking the history of border conflict from Carham (1018) to Flodden (1513). This is a medium-term project which will require support from local members as it progresses.

Regional Skype Call

Our region is very large and it has proved impractical to arrange a time and place for members to meet. We have had Skype group calls in the past and these have proved very useful. The Trust has several committees that operate almost entirely in this way. The limit on the number of participants has recently been increased to 25 which poses a few logistical issues but nothing that cannot be managed.

The proposed date and time for our call is : Wednesday 22nd November starting at 20:15 and finishing no later than 21:30. By giving four weeks' notice we hope that this will enable many members to take part.

If you are able to join the call please let us know by replying to this email. Geoffrey Carter will then be in touch to confirm the joining instructions and to sort out any issues you may have with Skype. We look forward to talking to you.

The Battlefields Trust / North East & Borders Region

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