



Summer 2011

The Reiver

The newsletter of the North East & Borders Region of the Battlefields Trust

Introduction

It has been a while since the last newsletter but much has been happening.

We held our inaugural meeting of members in January and elected the officers and committee, thereby completing the formalities of establishing the North East & Borders Region. Thanks to so many of you for coming out on a Sunday afternoon and thanks to Gill Brown for hosting the meeting. This first year will be short one as we have set the term to run until 30th September to match that of the Trust. We will thus be holding our AGM in October – details to follow in due course.

The Homildon Hill Battlefield Project is now well under way with a number of groups actively working on various aspects of the project.

Finally, many of you will know that the Trust's President, Prof. Richard Holmes, died at the end of April. I only knew him from his television and written work but he had contributed hugely to the development of the Trust and will be much missed.



Over the coming months we have several things planned as detailed below. I look forward to seeing some of you at one or more of these.

Geoffrey Carter

Events

Dunbar

On Sunday 31st July Derek Read will lead a battlefield tour taking in some of the key sites of the Battle of Dunbar (1650). This important battle saw Cromwell's New Model Army defeat a numerically superior Royalist force under David Leslie. Meet at 13:00 in the ASDA car park just off the A1 near Dunbar. The address is Spott Road, Dunbar, EH42 1LE. Lifts can be arranged from Dunbar Station for anyone travelling by train. Contact Geoffrey Carter (details below) if you need collecting.

Philiphaugh

Over the weekend of 13/14th August The Sealed Knot are staging a re-enactment of the Battle of Philiphaugh (1645) on the battlefield site where David Leslie (at this point fighting against the Royalists) defeated the Marquis of Montrose. Philiphaugh is close to Selkirk in the Scottish Borders. This event is a part of a major new community project to investigate, preserve and promote this site. In addition to the re-enactment there will be a living history camp, traders' stalls and much more. For more information email info@philiphaugh.com

We will be manning a Battlefields Trust stall at both Philiphaugh and Newburn Ford. Assistance during these weekends would be appreciated. If you can help please contact Geoffrey Carter.

Newburn Ford



The Sealed Knot are staging a re-enactment of the Battle of Newburn Ford (1640) close to the battlefield site which is on the River Tyne, west of Newcastle over the weekend of 24/25th September. This was the only battle of the Second Bishops' War in which the Scots resisted attempts by Charles I to reform the Scottish church. There will be plenty to see including drill displays and skirmishes involving the use of cannon, muskets, pike and cavalry. For further information please phone (0191) 2648501

Further Ahead

Looking ahead we are planning an event at Otterburn for spring 2012. This will centre on the WW1 practice trenches at Otterburn Ranges but will also include something related to the battle of 1388. Discussions are at an initial stage. In 2013 it is likely that the Trust will hold its AGM / Conference in our region. Work has not yet begun but will be a major task for next year's committee.

Scotland

Our regional secretary, Justin Sikora, has relocated to Edinburgh. With him in the lead we plan to devote renewed effort to

the development of our membership and activities in Scotland. Our presence at Philiphaugh and the event at Dunbar are the first signs of this. Beyond that we are building up our contacts in Scotland and this will be a major theme for us over the next year.

"Siege and Storm"

Until October 30th The Discovery Museum in Newcastle is presenting an exhibition which tells the story of the capture of Newcastle by the forces of Parliament in 1644. Highly recommended.

Latest News

Do not forget that you can follow the latest Trust news at

<http://www.battlefieldstrust.com>

Flodden

Remembering Flodden has produced a set of two cycle route maps covering the routes of the English and Scottish armies to the battlefield at Flodden. In full colour with a host of detail the set is available by post for £2.00 from Clive Hallam-Baker at Branxton Villa, Branxton, Cornhill On Tweed, TD12 4SW.

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