



Engagement

The newsletter of the London & South-East Region of the Battlefields Trust

Introduction

Welcome to the London and South-East Regional Newsletter for the winter of 2014. The very wet and windy weather we have been enduring in recent months hasn't been very suitable for walking on battlefields and we have been concentrating more on giving talks at local museums. This has a number of benefits; it explains to a wider audience about the work of the Battlefields Trust, it raises money to help our work, and hopefully it gives the members of the public who attend an interesting and informative afternoon. Certainly the series of talks run by the Mercia Region on local battles at the Banbury Museum have proved to be a great success with all the tickets being sold out well in advance of each talk. The proceeds from the talks have been split equally between the museum and the Trust, an arrangement which has helped both organisations. If you know of any local museums which would be interested in a similar arrangement please let me know.

Recent Events

Despite the adverse weather the Battlefields trust has been as busy as ever. The Battle of Edgcote (1469) has been registered as a battlefield by English Heritage following a Trust application back in 2011. A conservation management plan has been published by Northampton Borough Council for the battlefield there; and a campaign has been launched by the Tewkesbury Battlefield Society to purchase land on the battlefield at The Gaston field. The Trust has also been defending battlefields from inappropriate development. It has intervened at Sedgemoor (1685), Towton (1461) and Norton St Phillips (1685) in the past few months in order to protect the landscape and battle archaeology with largely successful outcomes.



A memorial service on Trafford Bridge, at Edgcote, near Banbury.

St Albans Project

The situation in St Albans is particularly dynamic at the moment. We are working with the District Council, the Museum and the Abbey on the Magna Carta 800 project. With the plaques at the Boot under our belts, we have moved on to a project with St Peter's Church to commemorate their Wars of the Roses burials. The research, and proposals arising from it, will be presented to the Friends of St Peter's on 25 February 2014. As a curtain-raiser, we have located and accounted for all the (currently uncommemorated) burials and located the nearby cottage in which Henry VI took shelter during the First Battle of St Albans (1455). On the second battlefield, the commemorations for the 900th anniversary of the building of St Leonard's Church in Sandridge will include a re-enactment event and a walk and talk on the actual battlefield in May (11th and 17-18th) culminating in a procession through the city. Sandridge is the parish in which the Second Battle was fought in 1461, and the battle is still the biggest event ever to have happened within the historic parish boundary. (n.b. the battlefield is now in the 20th century parish of St Saviour's). We have put

down a marker and had a sympathetic hearing from Hertfordshire County Council to include a sign board on any new build development on land they own (and are selling) on the second battlefield. The Trust now has a representative on the Museums Advisory Group, which will be planning for a new HLF funded museum designed to do more justice than the present one can to the city's medieval heritage and its role in the Wars of the Roses. Over the horizon, we want to open a dialogue with the Cathedral about better commemoration of their Wars of the Roses heritage, and have been told we will be well received there in due course. Lastly, the local WW1 projects and activities may be able to link up with the Trust's WW1 Blitz project because there was a Zeppelin raid over St Albans.

Newbury Project

Following the success of the installation of an information board about the first battle of Newbury (1643) at Wash Common in 2012, the London and South East Region has been working with the mayor of Newbury, Anthony Pick, to develop interpretation for the second battle of Newbury (1644). Simon Marsh ran a fund-raising walk of the second battle in October last year and has organised a series of Newbury battlefield related talks at Shaw House, itself part of the second battlefield, between March and May this year. The money raised from these will be split equally between the Trust and Shaw House and it is expected that sufficient will be raised to install a board at either Speen recreation ground or Shaw House for the second battle.

Barnet 1471

The Battlefields Trust has received alarming reports that there are plans to turn parts of a golf course located on the Battlefield of Barnet 1471 into industrial landfill. Old Fold Manor, in High Barnet, wants to use some of its grounds to dispose of waste for a private contractor. The Old Fold Lane Golf Club has applied for landlord consent from Barnet Council, but would also require planning permission from the authority should

that be granted. Members voted in favour of the move at the club's annual general meeting in October. The club's management has yet to divulge details of the plans, though one disgruntled member said the land in question is located around the 6th, 7th and 8th holes. It is thought that around 60 poplar trees would be felled to make way for the waste disposal.

Obviously we are deeply concerned about the possible desecration of part of an important historic site and also the possible destruction of important archaeological artefacts.

The Trust is planning to write to Barnet Council opposing the Landlord application that, if granted, would allow the Golf Club to move this onto the planning stage. We intend to keep a close eye on the situation and will keep all of our members informed of any future developments.

Facebook and Twitter

Please remember that if you want to keep up to date with our latest activities and projects the Battlefields Trust can be found on both Facebook and Twitter.



Author and historian Chris Scott telling the story of the 1st Battle of Newbury.

Urgently needed – a spare garden shed!

The Battlefields Trust urgently needs somewhere to store various books, leaflets, pamphlets, information panels etc. We have kindly been offered a site near Dunstable, but we need to erect a shed or outbuilding, (hopefully without

going to all the cost of purchasing a new one). If anyone has a shed or other outbuilding which they no longer require please get in touch with Harvey Watson on 01494 257847.

London & South-East Region Events

Please note that unless otherwise stated most LSE events are free to Battlefields Trust members, however, a charge of £5 per head will normally be levied on non-members. Forthcoming London & South East events for your diary include:

Sunday 16th February 2014, IInd Battle of St Albans.

A walk around the site of one of the most dramatic battles of the Wars of the Roses. Meet at 11.30am outside the St Albans Tourist Information Office. For further details contact Harvey Watson on 07818 853385.

Saturday 22nd February 2014, Talk on the Battle of Edgcote 1469.

The Battlefields Trust will be giving a talk on the Battle of Edgcote at 2.30 pm at Banbury Museum, Oxfordshire. Contact Simon Marsh on 01844-274112 or email: mercia@battlefieldstrust.com for further details and to book a place.

Saturday 8 March 2014, talk on the First Battle of Newbury 1643.

Jon Day, author of *Gloucester & Newbury 1643*, will give a talk at Shaw House on the decisive campaign and battle of Newbury in 1643 that marked the start of the decline in royalist fortunes during the first Civil War. He will explain why and how the battle was fought and its importance in determining the future outcome of the war. Jon has spoken about the campaign and battle at the National Army Museum, to a number of local groups and on local radio. Contact Simon Marsh on 01844-274112 or email: mercia@battlefieldstrust.com for further details and to book a place.

Sunday 9th March 2014, 1940 London Blitz walk.

Laurence Burrige will be telling the dramatic story of the December 1940 Blitz on London. Meet at 2pm at the firemen's memorial on the Thames side

of St Pauls. The walk will be some 2 miles long and last approx 2 hours. Contact Laurence on laurence.burrige@btinternet.com or lsburrige@hotmail.com

Thursday 13th March 2014 Meeting of the London & South-East Region.

The meeting is to be held at 7pm, in 'The Goat Inn', 37 Sopwell Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 1RN. All members are cordially invited.

Saturday 22nd March 2014, THE EAST ANGLIAN REGION OF THE BATTLEFIELDS TRUST presents details of the most dramatic archaeological discovery of the decade: The finding of Richard III.

At The Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich at 2 00 – 5 00 approx.

"The violent death of Richard III" by Robert Woosnam – Savage, Curator of European Edged Weapons at The Royal Armouries, Leeds.

"The Face of Richard III" by Professor Caroline Wilkinson, Dundee University. Cost : £22 to include tea & coffee.

Tickets on sale NOW! Book Early.

Annamarie Hayek

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Saturday, 29th March 2014, The Battle of Bosworth 1485.

With the dramatic discovery of the actual location of the Battlefield, and of Richard III's body under a car park in Leicester, we now know much more about what really happened in 1485 than even a few years ago. Join military historian Mike Ingram to investigate the facts. Meet outside the visitors centre at 11.00 am. The Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre and Country Park, is located at Sutton Cheney, Nr. Market Bosworth, Nuneaton, CV13 0AD. A reduced rate has been negotiated for the entrance fee. Limited places so pre-booking essential. For further details contact Mike on 07738908808, or email him on mikeingram2000@yahoo.co.uk.

Friday 4th – Sunday 6th April 2014, The Battlefields Trust AGM to be held at the Royal Armouries at Leeds.

A joint conference between the Battlefields Trust and the Royal

Armouries (Bury Theatre, Royal Armouries, Armouries Drive, Leeds, LS10 1LT) is to be held on Saturday 5th April 2014 on the best practice of battlefield conservation. To be followed by the Battlefields Trust's Annual General Meeting at 4pm. Entry to the Royal Armouries is from 10am and is free. Saturday Evening. Battlefields Trust Dinner and awards.

On Sunday 6 April there will a tour of local battlefields. Those interested should contact Frank Baldwin on frank.baldwin@battlefieldstrust.com for further details.

Saturday 12 April 2014, talk on the Second Battle of Newbury 1644.

Historian Chris Scott, author of a number of books on early modern warfare including *The Battles of Newbury*, will be giving a talk at Shaw House in Newbury about how King Charles I narrowly avoided losing his main army in the fields north of the river Kennet in late October 1644 and the profound impact parliament's failure to achieve a victory there had on its future conduct of the war. Chris has lectured extensively on the second battle of Newbury and, as a badged member of the Guild of Battlefield Guides, has led walks across the battlefield for the Battlefields Trust. Contact Simon Marsh on 01844-274112 or email: merciam@battlefieldstrust.com for further details and to book a place.

Sunday 13th April 2014, Battle of Barnet 1471.

Frank Baldwin will be leading a walk over the site of this decisive battle which witnessed the defeat and death of Warwick 'the kingmaker'. Meet at 11.00AM at the Old Monken Holt public house, High Street, Barnet, postcode EN5 5SU, nearest Tube station High Barnet, 0.7 miles.

Saturday 17 May 2014, talk on the Sieges of Donnington Castle and the Third Battle of Newbury 1644.

Simon Marsh, co-author of *Battle for London* and active member of the Battlefields Trust, will give a talk at Shaw House, Newbury about the background and conduct of the three sieges at

Donnington during the Civil War, bringing to life the experience of siege warfare during the 17th century. He will also talk about the often overlooked third battle of Newbury in November 1644. Simon has a strong research interest in the military aspects of the English Civil Wars and has lectured widely on the first Civil War and Kentish rising of 1648. Contact Simon Marsh on 01844-274112 or email: merciam@battlefieldstrust.com for further details and to book a place.

Saturday 17th – Sunday 18th May, Sandridge 900, IInd Battle of St Albans 1461 re-enactment.

The commemorations for the 900th anniversary of the building of St Leonard's Church in Sandridge will include a re-enactment event and a walk and talk on the actual battlefield in May (11th and 17-18th) culminating in a procession through the city. Sandridge is the parish in which the Second Battle was fought in 1461, and the battle is still the biggest event ever to have happened within in the historic parish boundary. Contact Peter Burley on 01727 831413 or email: nationalcordinator@battlefieldstrust.com for further details.