



The Wyvern

The newsletter of the Wessex Region of the Battlefields Trust

Introduction

As Christmas approaches we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the year and to take stock on what has been achieved within our region over the past six months. Highlights of the summer and autumn period included successful fundraising events at Lansdown (where thanks are due to Oliver Stanley for hosting and Ian Chard for guiding), visits to Corfe led by Julian Humphrys and Basing organised by Alan and Nicola Turton, two walks around Nibley Green led by Adam Dolling and the annual Cheriton walk led by John Dixon. It was also good to see Sam Wilson appear on Time Team's recent Hastings programme and watch the continued success of Mike Arnold's Stryker series of novels set in the English Civil War.

Langport, 1645

We reported in the previous newsletter that we were hoping to work with the Langport and District Historical Society to raise the profile of the Battle of Langport. Excellent progress has been made over this. Work has started on a battlefield trail and three events have been organised for next year with a walk and talk on 2nd June and an anniversary walk on 10th July. However there is, potentially, a dark cloud on the horizon, for an application has been made to construct a large solar array on land overlooking the battlefield and on which part of the Parliamentarian forces almost certainly deployed. The Trust objected to this application which was rejected but we understand that it is likely to go to appeal in which case we will need to be ready to react.

Sedgemoor, 1685

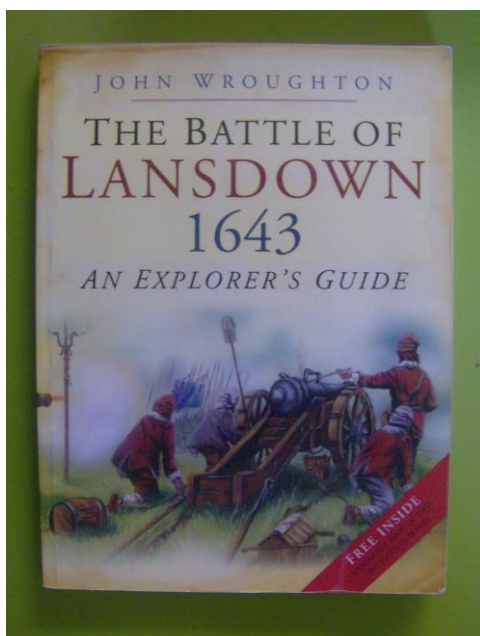
In October we were very concerned to learn that Sedgemoor District council had received a planning application to erect a 150ft wind turbine in a field immediately adjacent to the boundary of the registered battlefield of Sedgemoor. Such a development would have had a severely adverse impact on the character of this extremely evocative battlefield. We were able to alert English Heritage (who had not been consulted, as they should have been) to the application, marshal opposition through social media and the Trust website and secure an article in the Daily Telegraph. In the face of a storm of opposition the application has been withdrawn. Thanks are due to all those who took the trouble to let the Council know their views about what was a highly inappropriate proposal. We will continue to monitor the situation at Sedgemoor in case similar applications are made in the future.



Langmoor Drove, Sedgemoor

Lansdown, 1643

We are very pleased that John Wroughton has joined the Trust. John is a distinguished local historian and a leading authority on the Battle of Lansdown. He recently spoke about the battle on the 'Who do you think you are' TV programme (An ancestor of Nick Hewer of BBC's 'The Apprentice' fought on the Royalist side in the battle). John has very kindly supplied us with some copies of his excellent explorer's guide to the battle. If you would like a copy please send a cheque for £12.50 made payable to the Battlefields Trust to Julian Humphrys at the address below. This is a rare opportunity as the book is now quite hard to get hold of.



We have noticed that the monument to Sir Bevil Grenville on the battlefield is in quite a poor state of repair, as is its interpretation board and we will be contacting English Heritage about this.

Cheriton, 1644

A number of events have been arranged by the Battle of Cheriton Project for 2014, starting with the annual memorial march, wreath-laying and drumhead service on Sunday 30th March. The annual schools week will be held from 16th to 20th June and this will be followed on the weekend of

28th-29th June with a major 'History through the Ages' event, held in partnership with the Royal British Legion. We certainly think that the Trust should have a presence at this event so if you are able to help please get in touch. For further information about these events and other Battle of Cheriton Project activities please visit www.battleofcheriton.co.uk.

Visit to Winchester and regional AGM, Saturday 11th January 2014

On Saturday 11th January at 11.00am we'll be holding a brief regional AGM at the Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum, Peninsula Barracks, Winchester, SO23 8TS. This will be followed by a break for an early lunch and then the opportunity to visit the excellent military museums in the area. The Museum has offered to lay on a nice sandwich lunch at £5.00 a head so if you're planning to come and would like to have this, please let Julian Humphrys know. This will be an excellent opportunity to discuss next year's activities and how we can contribute to the Trust's new three-year plan as well as a chance to meet up with fellow members so please do come along if you possibly can.

Facebook and Twitter

Finally, a reminder about the Trust's Facebook page and Twitter account (@battletrust). These are well worth following as they are excellent sources of both Trust news and battlefield news in general.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year and thank you again for your support

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