



Spring 2014

The Reiver

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

Introduction

There is a lot to report already in 2014. We have made progress on several fronts, we have written a new plan for the region to cover the next three years and we now need to start planning to achieve our objectives. Read on to find out more. Apologies for the lack of pictures this time.

Geoffrey Carter

Activities

Tyne and Wear Archives & Museums

Geoffrey Carter has now completed the series of talks covering 'The English Civil War in the North East' at South Shields Museum. The three talks were very well attended and were followed by a visit to the battlefield at Newburn Ford. Four members, Jim & Gill Brown and Sean and Lorraine McCartney turned out in full Civil War gear to bring an extra level of authenticity to the proceedings. Thanks guys!

The next series covering the Wars of the Roses in the North and the Neville-Percy Feud will be held in South Shields in October. Discussions continue with other museums and we have been invited to talk to the Ponteland Local History Society about Newburn Ford in the autumn.

Homildon Hill Project

On 19 March we held a public meeting in Wooler to discuss the way forward. We

had a good turn-out from people in and around Wooler and we are moving on with our plans to produce a new leaflet and an interpretation panel. There will be an event on the date of the anniversary of the battle (14 September) under the Heritage Open Days scheme – details to follow.

Newburn Ford

Our project to address the concerns at Newburn Ford continues. We are currently working on an outline plan which will be put to the Heritage Lottery Fund in the summer to gauge their view of the funding required to carry out the required work.

Carham

We are holding a public launch meeting for our project at Carham on 26 April. Details are attached at the end of this newsletter and all are welcome. This is an opportunity for members (especially those in the north of Northumberland and the Scottish Borders) to engage with an important area of our local heritage.

Please come along and help us plan the next steps.

National Projects

Unfortunately the major project on the battles of the Wars of the Roses has had a bit of a setback. The Heritage Lottery Fund has asked that it be broken down into smaller sections with the first part acting as a 'proof of concept' before it will consider funding the wider plan. The

first part will probably cover the battle of Barnet. We remain hopeful that we will get the chance to look at Hexham and Hedgeley Moor in the future. On the bright side, this will free up resources to work on the other parts of our plan!

Education

Those of you who are teachers or have children at school will be aware of the forthcoming changes to some parts of the syllabus. The change to the History syllabus, especially at Key Stage 3, is a wonderful opportunity for the Trust to engage with a younger audience. If we want people to value their heritage it is important that they know something of their history. The new syllabus brings back the study of key periods in our history and battles are an important part of this when studied in their historic context. The syllabus also includes a requirement to carry out a local history project and this is another area where the Trust can help teachers. Geoffrey Carter is working on a plan at the national level and is keen to undertake some pilot work in this region. If you have experience in this field and would like to be involved in developing educational resource material please contact Geoffrey by email at the address below.

Regional Plan

As part of a national planning and budgeting exercise for the Trust we were asked to produce an outline of the activities that we would wish to undertake in the period 2014 – 2016. The resulting document is attached please take a moment to look at it.

The next step is to turn this into a series of Action Plans and to find members willing to take on specific roles and tasks. A number of you contacted me with offers of assistance after the last

newsletter and we need you to help us deliver our good intentions. If you did not get in touch previously please think about joining in now.

I am conscious that we missed our AGM last year and we are overdue a meeting. With a region as large as ours it is problematic to find a venue which is fair to everyone from Melrose to Middlesbrough. As an alternative we would like to try something that we have done successfully for the Trust's officers – an online meeting. The easiest way to do this is via Skype, Microsoft's free online calling system. Groups calls can accommodate up to 25 people and, if they are managed correctly, they work really well.

An online meeting has many advantages, principally that it's free and no-one has to travel. The software can be run on your computer or on a tablet or smartphone over your Wi-Fi connection. The whole thing is very easy to use but for anyone who might be nervous about these things Geoffrey Carter would be happy to assist in getting it up and running.

If you are interested in getting involved in our activities and would like to join an online meeting please email Geoffrey at the address below. If you have previously indicated that you would like to help Geoffrey will be emailing you separately in the near future.

Contact Details

Geoffrey Carter

geoffrey.carter@battlefieldstrust.com

The Battle of Carham

One Day Conference and Discussion

Arranged by The Battlefields Trust

Cornhill on Tweed Village Hall

10.00 for 10.30 until 4.00pm

Saturday 26th April

Outline

We plan to keep the proceedings fairly informal. This is an opportunity for discussion rather than a series of lectures. By the end of the day we hope to have a broad consensus of how we should plan to commemorate the 1,000th anniversary of the Battle of Carham and celebrate the history of the area both before and after that date.

Clive Hallam-Baker will launch the proceedings at 10:30. This will include a brief video presentation of the area around Carham.

Next up will be Geoffrey Carter, Chairman of the North East & Borders Region of The Battlefields Trust. Geoffrey will outline the work of the Trust and will talk about community projects with reference to the sort of thing that has been done elsewhere.

Following this, we are delighted to have with us Dr Alex Woolf, Senior Lecturer in History at the University of St Andrews. Alex has lectured and written extensively in the field of Celtic and Early Scottish History. He will be talking about the Battle of Carham and its historic context.

Finally, we will have some material relating to the archaeology of the Carham area including some detailed aerial survey material (LIDAR) which Clive and Geoffrey will present. This will be followed by a break for lunch.

After lunch we wish to throw the meeting open to everyone for a general discussion. We want to hear from anyone who has any interesting material or local stories about the history of the area, including local place names and the stories attached to them – on both sides of the border. We would also like to hear what everyone thinks we should include in a local community project and what sort of event we should be looking to stage in 2018. All ideas and suggestions will be welcomed!

To close the day, we will jump in our cars and drive to Carham, stopping off at Wark, to look at some of the places we will have spoken about.



North East & Borders Region

Regional Plan 2013-16

REGION: North East & Borders

Regional Vision for 2016

The North East & Borders Region covers a huge, largely rural and sparsely populated area.

The region includes seven of the forty five Registered Battlefields in England plus one battlefield included in the Inventory maintained by Historic Scotland. Many of the battlefields are in remote locations which are difficult to reach by public transport and, in some cases, are without an obvious local community in the immediate vicinity. At the end of 2013 the Trust has 48 members within the region of which less than six can be considered as 'active'.

The principle aim for the next three years is to expand the membership generally but specifically to find more active members.

ACTION AND TARGETS TO REALISE THE VISION

Capacity Building

Membership and Active Membership

Fundraising

To promote the core message and to increase the membership of the Trust throughout the region by increasing our level of engagement with local history groups, educational establishments, museums, community groups, public authorities and the media.

To this end we will seek a regional member to take on the role of 'External Affairs Officer' during 2014.

These activities will continue as a priority in 2015 & 2016.

To develop our programme of talks and battlefield walks as a means of raising funds and increasing Trust membership.

Our target for 2014 will be to generate new regional funds of £250.00 and to increase net regional membership by 25%

We will continue to extend our programme in 2015 & 2016. Our target will be a year-on-year increase in funds raised of 50% and a year-on-year increase in net regional membership of 25%. This would lead to a doubling of regional membership by the end of 2016.

Battlefield Groups/Representatives

To create an active Battlefield Support Group for all Registered Battlefields within the region.

At present we have some degree of coverage at all battlefields (Newburn Ford, Neville's Cross, Homildon Hill, Flodden, Halidon Hill, Otterburn and Solway Moss) but only Homildon Hill and Flodden have active groups. A new initiative is already in hand at Newburn Ford. The remaining four battlefields require action. Our target for 2014 will be to establish a new group at (at least) one of the four remaining battlefields.

Our target for 2015 & 2016 will be to have established new groups at all four of the remaining battlefields and to have maintained the existing groups.

Charitable Activities

Battlefield Preservation

Battlefield Interpretation

Battlefield Presentation

To monitor threats to regional battlefields and to seek to counter these in line with the Trust's policies.

To create, develop and support community projects related to battlefields within the region, registered or unregistered.

In 2014 we will continue our active role in the Homildon Hill Project and we will be an active participant in the proposed new Newburn Ford Project. We have proposed a new project at Carham in advance of the 1,000th anniversary and we will play a leading role in this. In addition, we will take an active role in the national Wars of the Roses Project as it relates to Hedgeley Moor and Hexham. Similarly, if resources permit, we will support the national Magna Carta project to the extent that it relates to our region.

We will continue this aspect of our work in 2015 & 2016 as appropriate.

To support other national initiatives as far as resources permit.

In 2014 we will support the plans to review and update the Historic Environment Record for the local authorities within the region.

Beyond 2014 we will give such support as we are able to national initiatives.

To develop a 'Northumberland Border Conflict Trail' linking key sites of conflict from Carham to Flodden.

This is a medium-term objective to create something akin to an 'eco museum' (but not using that horrible title) which will provide a unified narrative of the cultural heritage of the Border territory of Northumberland. Border conflict will be at the heart of this but the project may expand to include other elements which will require other partners. This idea is in the earliest stages of discussion and will be a continuing theme for all three years of this plan.