



April 2014

The Wyvern

The newsletter of the Wessex Region of the Battlefields Trust

Introduction

Welcome to the latest issue of the Wyvern. Thank you for your continued support and a warm welcome to those new members who have joined us since the last newsletter.

During the winter we continued working with the Langport and District History Society over the project to develop a trail around the battlefield of Langport and as you'll see below we're participating in a number of events there this summer. We have also started working with the Wiltshire Museum in Devizes with a view to setting up some talks and events related to the Battle of Roundway Down.

As you'll also see, we already have an interesting programme of events this season. More will follow. These of course are just the events within our region – all members are most welcome to attend any Trust events – please check our website or Battlefield Magazine for details.

Fundraising walk

This summer Rob Sleeman will be raising money for a number of charities by recreating Margaret of Anjou's 1471 journey from Weymouth to Tewkesbury by walking the route in medieval clothes/ armour. Rob, who lives in Lymington, Hampshire, will be covering the 215-mile route over a series of weekends, departing from Weymouth on the weekend of 24th May and arriving in Tewkesbury in time for the medieval festival there on 12th July. We are delighted to say that one of the charities Rob will be supporting is the Battlefields Trust. We'd like to give Rob as much support as we can, either by seeing him off, greeting him at the end of a

stage or even by walking part of the route with him. Please get in touch if you'd like to get involved.

Trust Magazine

Do you think you could raise a bit of money for the Trust by selling a few copies of our magazine? Please contact Julian Humphrys if you think you could help.

Facebook and Twitter

Don't forget that the Trust has a Facebook page and a Twitter account (@battletrust). These are well worth following as they are excellent sources of both Trust news and battlefield news in general.

Books needed

Anyone who has visited our stand at events like the English Heritage Festival of History will know we like to raise funds for the Trust by selling books. If you have some military books you no longer need the Trust would be delighted to have them!



Trust Stand at 2013 Festival of History

Regional event round up

Please tell your friends about our events. If you know somewhere that will take some leaflets or will display a poster or flyer please let us know.

Additional events will be arranged within the Region this year. We will let you know details when these are finalised. If anyone is interested in leading a walk or arranging an event would they please contact Julian Humphrys.



Hurst Castle

Sunday 18th May

Visit to Hurst Castle

Hurst castle enjoys an extremely scenic location, perched on the end of a spit jutting out into the Solent. Built by Henry VIII and extended in the 19th century, it served as Charles I's prison prior to his execution. The castle is reached by a short, interesting (and sheltered!) boat trip.

Meet: 11.00am, the Quay, Keyhaven, SO41 0TR. Return ferry fare: £5.50. Admission to castle: £4.50, EH members free.

Please contact Julian Humphrys
Heritagetours@hotmail.co.uk to confirm attendance.

Monday 2nd June

Battle of Langport 1645

Walk led by Julian Humphrys. Assemble 2.30pm at Rose & Crown (Eli's), Wincanton Road, Huish Episcopi, TA10 9QT. Parking available nearby opposite St Mary's Church. Cost: £8 per person; over 60s £6; members of Langport & District History Society £5.

Proceeds go towards the cost of installing information boards about the battle. The walk will last approx. 2 hours. Maximum size of group: 30 Booking essential. Contact Janet Seaton, Tel 01458 259310 or email janetseaton@fastmail.fm

Langport & District History Society: Talk by Julian Humphrys on the Battle of Langport. 7.30pm: Langport Library, Whatley, Langport, TA10 9PR. Visitors welcome, £2. Booking not necessary. Contact: LDHS Secretary, Sue Standen: Tel. 01458 273471 or email suzannestanden471@btinternet.com.

Tuesday 17th June

How to capture a castle: Illustrated talk on medieval siege warfare by Julian Humphrys. 7.30pm, Church Room, Church Street, Lostwithiel, Cornwall. Tickets: £5.00. Contact: Mary Jones
hettymaudcat5@talktalk.net

Friday 27th June

Battle of Norton St Philip 1685

At 2pm 'The Troop' re-enactment group and local residents will mark the 329th anniversary of the battle with presentations and a tour by author and battlefield guide Christopher Scott. A wreath-laying will take place adjacent to 'Bloody Lane' on land owned by Trust member Neil Pollard. Proposed developments in the village threaten to damage part of the site so we need as many people as possible know about its historic importance.



The George, Norton St Philip (Ronald Searle)

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th June

History through the ages at Cheriton
Re-enactments, talks, displays and rural activities on the site of the 1644 battle of Cheriton. The Region will be exhibiting at this enjoyable event and it should be a great opportunity to showcase the work of the Trust and recruit some new members. If you have some spare time and would like to help out on our stand please contact Julian Humphrys.

Thursday 10th July

Battle of Langport 1645 Anniversary walk led by Julian Humphrys. Assemble 6.30pm at Rose & Crown (Eli's), Wincanton Road, Huish Episcopi, TA10 9QT. Parking available nearby opposite St Mary's Church. Cost: £8 per person; over 60s £6; members of the Langport & District History Society £5. Battlefields Trust members free. Proceeds go towards the cost of installing information boards about the battle. The walk will last approx. 2 hours. Maximum size of group: 30. Booking essential. Contact: Janet Seaton, Tel. 01458 259310 or email janetseaton@fastmail.fm



If you shop online, you can raise funds for the Trust via www.easyfundraising.org.uk. It's really simple to join. Just select the Trust as your chosen charity and follow the link to whoever you want to shop from. The Trust will get a small percentage of whatever you spend – at no cost to you!



Basing House Gateway

Sunday 5th October

The sieges of Basing House
Our chairman Alan Turton will be a leading a visit to the remains of the Civil War stronghold of the Royalist Marquis of Winchester. There will also be the opportunity to watch displays by the Marquis of Winchester's Regiment of the English Civil War Society. Meet: 2.00pm, Basing House Visitor Centre, Old Basing, Basingstoke RG24 8AE. (admission charge to house applies) For further information please contact Alan Turton.

Thanks again for your support. We hope to see you at one of our events this year.

Alan Turton

Chairman,
and

Julian Humphrys

Secretary,

Wessex Region
Battlefields Trust
heritagetours@hotmail.co.uk.