



The Forlorn Hope

Newsletter of the East Anglian Branch of the Battlefields Trust

EDITION 16: SUMMER 2010

Dedicated to the memory of the D Day landings

Patron: Bernard Cornwell
Vice Patron: Simon Scarrow

The Forlorn Hope

Would anyone who wishes to receive this or any other forms, etc via email please contact me.

Telephone: 01603 664021 email: annmarie@talktalk.net

Annmarie

Publicity Officer

The committee has asked if there is anyone who would like to help the publicity officer. If you are interested please contact Annmarie on 01603 664021 or email annmarie@talktalk.net.

Minutes of the AGM of the East Anglian Branch of the Battlefields Trust

Held on Saturday 30th January 2010 at The Assembly House, Norwich
10 members attended.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Paul Gurbutt and Michael Rayner.

Minutes of the last AGM and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last AGM were read. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone and commented on his first year as Chairman which had been very busy.

Concern was expressed regarding finances.

The Chairman proposed Karen Austin help the Publicity Officer as advertising meetings etc was crucial to finances. This was agreed.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report had appeared in the last edition of The Forlorn Hope.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer submitted a balance sheet and discussed the breakdown of finances. The accounts were adopted, proposed by Derek Twigg and seconded by Margaret Twigg.

Programme for 2010

8th August 2010

*Lecture and afternoon tea
at Erpingham House, Erpingham
Nelson & the memory of Trafalgar
by Tom Sands
£5 starting at 14:00
pre booking essential
contact Annmarie*

23rd October 2010

*Joint meeting with Richard III Society
& The Battlefields Trust
Bosworth: a re-evaluation?
£15 starting at 13:30
contact Annmarie*

All meetings are held at The Assembly House Norwich starting at 14:30 and admission price is £2 unless otherwise stated.



Election of Officers

The officers were re elected en bloc.

Chairman	Tony Hawkins
Vice Chairman	Frances Sparrow
Secretary/Treasurer	Annmarie Hayek
Publicity Officer	Sarah Baker
Committee Members	Karen Austin and Dr Paul Gurbutt

It was agreed other venues would be investigated for meetings. The Chairman gave an update on the plaque dedication which will almost certainly be on a different date.

Any other business

Another Erpingham afternoon will be held on 8th August. It is noted Erpingham is currently seeking a twinning with Agincourt.

The Great Yarmouth jetty with its Nelson connections is currently in the newspaper as the council is seeking to preserve this. It was agreed to ask Richard Holmes to support this preservation.

Derek Twigg proposed a vote of thanks to Annmarie and the committee. There being no further business the meeting closed at 15:05.

Marlborough afternoon –March 2010

This event turned out to be a terrific afternoon, a sell out, with a donation to Help for Heroes.

Our Vice Chairman Frances Sparrow got the afternoon off to a cracking start with her talk on Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough. Sarah quarreled with everyone, did what she wanted and was generally a difficult woman. Her union with John was a love match and full of passion as her letters testify.

I had forgotten how much Sarah hated Blenheim Palace, referring to it as "that unnecessary and ridiculous thing" or "a heap of stones".

Sarah had lots of financial acumen and one wonders how much being a woman would have "held her back". I prefer the Sarah who wrote to her husband "wherever thou goes, my soul shall follow you ...".

The president of the Battlefields Trust, Prof. Richard Holmes gave a tremendous talk on Marlborough the Man. With the habit of putting personalities into the reigns of monarch i.e. Marlborough with Queen Anne, it is easy to forget that the young John Churchill was at the court of Charles II. There is a very famous encounter with Charles II who discovers him escaping from

the bedroom of Barbara Villiers. Charles shouts "I forgive you for I know you do it for your bread" witty but a bit cruel to poor Barbara.

John Churchill was charming (an inherited gene by the Spencer family) affable, brave and a great soldier. Blenheim Palace was very important to him, he was obsessed with being better than his father. He suffered from bad headaches and usual disturbances, a pre cursor to the stroke that eventually killed him.

Prof. Holmes left us with this thought by John Churchill "I know my soldiers are sleeping on wet straw and it goes to my heart".

James Falkner talked us through the Battle of Malplaquet, a battle quite difficult to his other three victories. Marlborough lost 20,000 men. The French lost Mons and failed to hold their position, their casualties were 12–13,000 men.

James thinks Marlborough succeeded but it was not a victory because the cost was so huge. After an interesting questions and answers session Tony thanked the speakers. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon and we were able to donate £100 to Help for Heroes.



The Changing Image of Lawrence of Arabia by Prof Mark Connelly – April 2010

Mark gave a superb talk on Lawrence, a brief history of his life and then concentrated on images, via portraits etc, and posed the question, how much of Lawrence's image was of his own making?

Modern historians have attempted to follow in Lawrence's footsteps and been disappointed at some of the claims he made.

However it is widely thought that Seven Pillars of Wisdom is regarded above all as a literary work. Perhaps not? It is all part of the myths surrounding Lawrence. At question time, Annmarie's husband, Ziad pointed out that when he was at school in Jordan, he was never taught the Arab Revolt was lead by a British serving Officer. Now Ziad was at school a long time ago and things have changed a lot, Jordan's tourism mentions Lawrence of Arabia Country, even when it quite patently is not!

Lawrence was portrayed as a sensitive but flawed genius, somewhere near the truth I would imagine, he was a canvas other people painted on.

After the lecture Annmarie cut the birthday cake made by her mum Norma, it was superb.

The Battlefields Trust Accounts Breakdown

Audit to 28th December 2009

	In	Out	£
Bank balance as at 7 th December 2008			811.62
Income: Door	156.00		967.62
Erpingham afternoon	95.00		1062.62
Profit Robert Hardy meeting	255.15		1317.77
Expenditure: Membership for speaker		20.00	1297.77
Speakers expenses		187.60	1110.17
Auditor		10.00	1100.17
Assembly House		315.50	784.67
Stationary		98.59	686.08
Advertising		47.89	638.19
P Harwood (Forlorn Hope)		87.00	551.19
Bank balance as at 28 th December 2009			551.19

Breakdown of Robert Hardy meeting:

	In	Out	£
Income: Sale of tickets	884.00		884.00
Raffle	50.00		934.00
Expenditure: Hotel		65.00	869.00
Advertising		126.50	742.50
Tony Hawkins (petrol to collect R Hardy, meals, etc)		134.85	607.65
Assembly House		302.50	305.15
Donation to The Mary Rose Trust		50.00	255.15
Profit			255.15

Elaine Furness

Articles, letters, quotes, opinions, praise, corrections, reviews of books, plays and films with a historical connection, we need them all. Pass any on to Annmarie Hayek and room permitting we'll publish them.